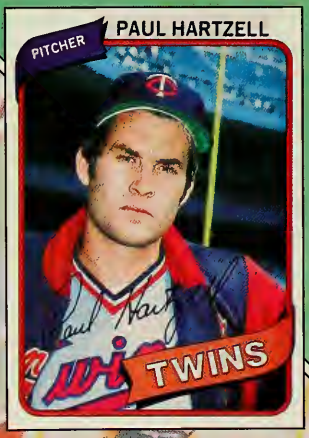
Spring - Summer 1992 Vol. 6, No. 1 $1.95

Spectrum

The magazine for Columbia and Montour counties

TV weather wizards: Fair skies and bright futures

Paul Hartzell and Mike Mussina: Pitching their way to the majors



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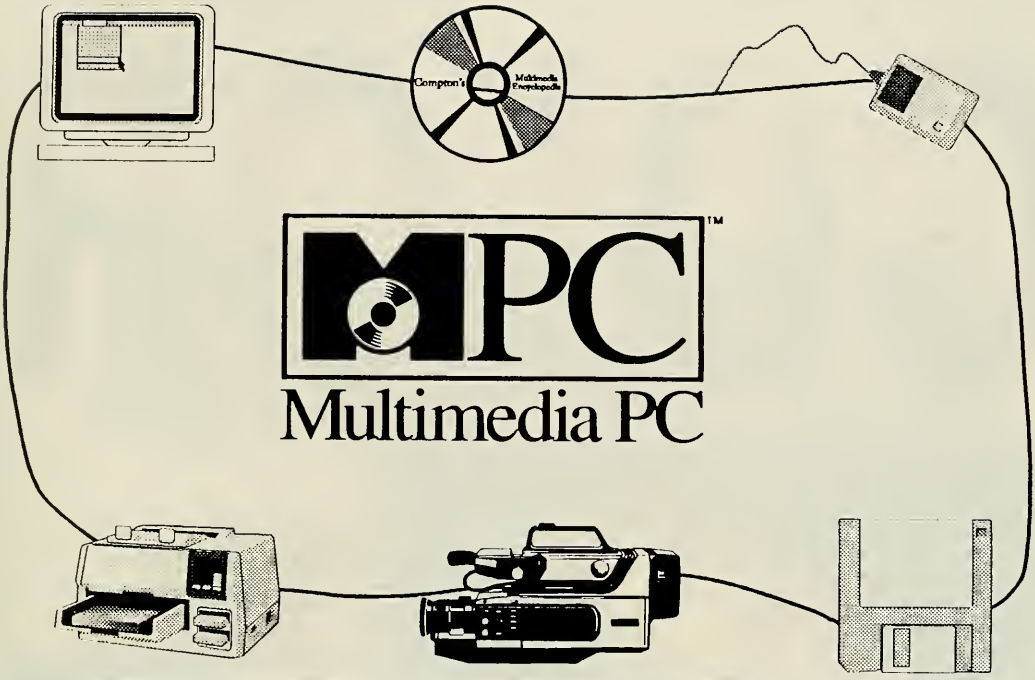

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Spectrum

The Magazine for Columbia and Montour Counties

Spring-Summer 1992
Vol. 6, No. 1

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BEHIND THE LINES

What gives Columbia and Montour counties the unique charm that so many visitors seek? And what continues to interest the long-time residents of the area? The staff of *Spectrum* poses these questions every issue. But, this issue the answer walked right past our office window—people. People want to learn about people, and we believe we're the people to tell you about them.

John Michaels and Brian Rippey go all the way to the major leagues to trace two of the area's top baseball heroes. Michaels interviews former Milwaukee Brewer, Paul Hartzell, while Rippey speaks with current Baltimore Oriole pitcher, Mike Mussina. Together they prove area athletes are "Armed and Dangerous."

Judy Kosman looks at a different breed of hero in "Until their Health Runs Out." Kosman talks with two women who live with the fear of Crohn's disease every day of their lives and with the knowledge that no cure exists at this time. To one woman this uncertainty is the most difficult aspect of the disease; to the other Crohn's means discrimination from employers and peers.

Whether or not you're a weather buff, you probably can identify the forecasters on the three area network affiliates: WNEP, WYOU and WBRE. Maybe you even have their phone numbers handy to let them know when they give a faulty forecast. Pat Trosky delves into the unique personalities of these local celebrities who are "Taking Northeastern Pennsylvania by Storm."

Next, John Michaels examines Bill May, "Flipping his Way to Success." May has been around since the beginning of fast food, but he still manages to compete with the national fast food chains. With hard work and a family to support him every step of the way, he has managed to put May's Drive-in on the map.

Donna Grajewski focuses on disabled people who have trouble traveling to the local library. Luckily, Columbia County has "Books on the Move." The traveling librarians Grajewski interviews serve as a vital link between shut-ins and the outside world.

Margaret Gustus has circled the counties looking for "Cheap Thrills." The result is a guide to help people have fun while tightening their budgets in recessionary times.

Brian Rippey highlights the children in the counties, realizing that competition is "Not All Fun and Games" for them. Rippey points out the good and the bad sides of competition among children.

Jane Mehlbaum once again interviews an area artist. This issue she profiles Todd Jeffreys, owner of Stoneware. Mehlbaum points out that, whether far-fetched or functional, this area craftsman keeps "Dishing Out Art."

And Patricia Peron, our French correspondant, gives us "An Eiffel of America" and shows us that people everywhere are really pretty much the same. Peron makes a few comparisons between American culture, as seen in Bloomsburg, and life in her hometown, Paris.

Also included in this issue are our regular features. In the Cutting Edge, Pat Trosky asks "How Environmentally Safe is Safe Sex?" The answer may surprise you. Back of the book articles highlight a new school at the Geisinger Medical Center and list the top selling magazines in this area.

So, if you're from Columbia or Montour County, this issue of *Spectrum* magazine is devoted to you. Enjoy!

—The Editors

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THE CUTTING EDGE

ENVIRONMENT

How Environmentally Safe is Safe Sex?

Spring break is often the time students abandon the three "R's" for the three "S's": sun, surf and sex. Following the tides of these young people, major condom companies send representatives to the beach to spread the message of safe sex. By the company's own admission, Schmid Laboratories, a division of London International U.S. Holdings, Inc., annually sets up exhibits and offers samples of their products to encourage the next generation to act responsibly while still having fun. But, during break many of those latex lifesavers have ended up in all of the wrong places.

It would be safe to guess that many a flushed condom was left sailing in the ocean long after break ended. So with the push for the use of condoms, what, if any, environmental impact do condoms potentially have, and is there anything that should be done now to prevent potential problems?

Ironically, the issue of disposing of condoms and their biodegradability came up about two years ago, not at Daytona Beach, but when an environmental group in a neighboring county joined together to prevent the establishment of a county-wide landfill in their pristine, rural community.

Some members of the environmental group walked along a large fishing creek they felt would be adversely affected by the proposed landfill and pointed out that even with the construction of a multi-million dollar secondary sanitary treatment facility in the area, condoms could still be found entering the stream from the treated water which was being released by the plant.

Commenting on the environmental group's discovery along the stream, the former executive director of the treatment facility said at the time, "From what we see coming into this plant, I can say with certainty, this community practices safe sex."

Speaking on the large number of condoms that were appearing in the waste water, he added, "We have tried to scoop them up with our screens and filters, but occasionally they escape. Sometimes they will fill with water and float to the top and our workers can get them. Sometimes they just sink to the bottom and we'll miss them."

Dr. Dale Bruns, chairman of the Earth and Environmental Science department at Wilkes University, says considering how much solid waste man generates on any given day, the disposal of condoms would probably equate to no more than 5 percent of that waste.

"Looking at the big picture, I don't see the disposal of condoms as a real environmental issue at this time. However, no one ever thought that fluorocarbons would affect the ozone layer or global warming twenty years ago either," Bruns says.

When the question about condom disposal and the effects on the environment were raised to Dan Spadoni, spokesperson for the state Department of Environmental Resources in Williamsport, his response was one of disbelief.

"We respond to hundreds of problems a year and I can say this is not one of them. There are so many other more serious environmental issues to be concerned with, the disposal of condoms just isn't one of our priorities," Spadoni says.

Wendy Burke, company spokesperson for Carter-Wallace, Inc., the company that makes Trojan condoms, can offer no answers to the dilemma of condom disposal and biodegradability.

On the other hand, Richard Levy, of Schmid Laboratories, the company that makes Ramses, Sheik, Fourex and Safe Play, says latex condoms are definitely biodegradable and of little threat to the environment considering the other things that are flushed down a toilet such as plastic tampon applicators, sanitary napkins and even toothbrushes.

Levy points out how specific the directions on the condom packages are for proper storage and notes that is the key to their biodegradability.

"When exposed to water, light, or heat, the latex will break down. Of course, everything depends on the exposure time but we have been real clear on how the latex condoms should be stored and handled. These instructions are an important component to the condom's effectiveness," Levy says.

The Schmid spokesperson did not find the question of biodegradability far-fetched and noted there were no directions on the condom packages for proper disposal.

The FDA, the agency that monitors, regulates and does spot checks on condoms, does say how to properly dispose of the used prophylactics. In a report in the September 1990 issue of the FDA Consumer, it states, "the FDA recommends wrapping a used condom in a tissue and throwing it away." The FDA continues, "Do not flush a condom because it may cause problems for sewers or septic systems."

Levy says it is all a matter of numbers when you look at condom disposal as a potential pollutant of the environment.

"What are the numbers here? Is it 100 condoms entering a million gallon capacity treatment facility? Are we landfilling 1,000 condoms into a site that also includes household trash of much larger proportions?" Levy asks.

The Schmid spokesperson says he isn't making light of the issue and agrees it might be something that will need to be addressed in the future, but the more important issue at the moment is the prevention and spread of AIDS.

"We are concerned about educating everyone on this deadly disease. We at Schmid are dealing with a double sword here. We preach abstinence but when that is not possible then a condom should be used," Levy says.

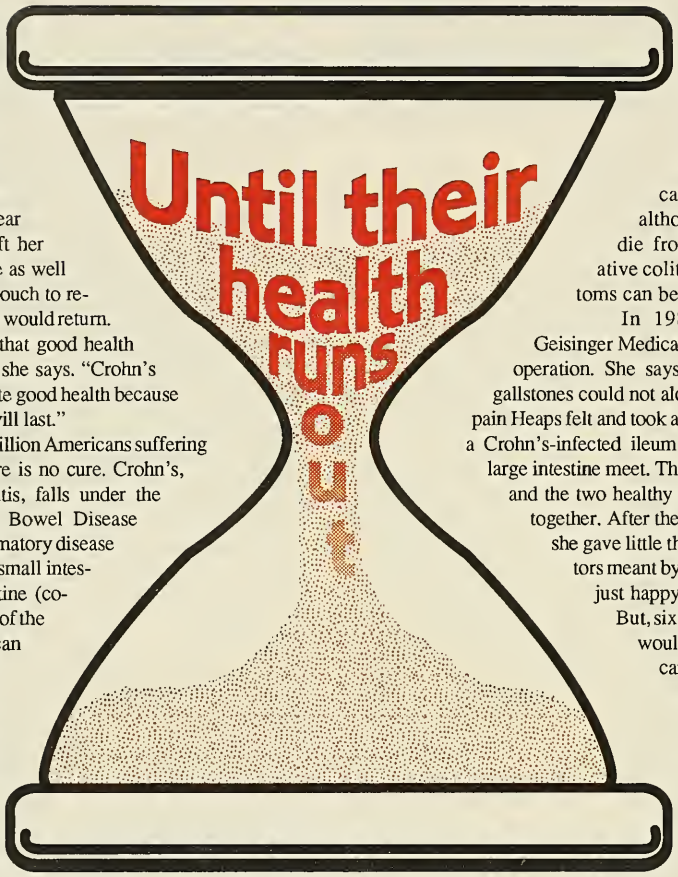
For now, the issue of the proper disposal of condoms and the potential biodegradability of them as well as their effect on the environment is just a thought but one that should be tucked away in the minds of a generation that will be affected by the use or non-use of the product.

-PAT TROSKY

During a University of Arizona study on Chicago landfills in 1977, the following items were discovered buried within a dry landfill.

Hot Dog.....still recognizable after 20 years
Yard Waste.....undecayed after 15 years
1952 Newspaper.....still readable after 25 years

If these items have not biodegraded by this time, how many years will a condom remain intact in a landfill?



Crohn's victims play a waiting game, hoping a cure will be found before the disease strikes again

by Judy Kosman

Sandra Broadt thought a college degree would ensure her future. But, four years after graduation, a pain ripped through her that would eventually destroy her visions of a successful career. Now, the 29-year-old lives in constant fear—a fear that the disease, which left her with residual brain damage as well as an external abdominal pouch to replace her colon and rectum, would return.

"People don't realize that good health can be gone in a second," she says. "Crohn's disease makes me appreciate good health because I don't know how long it will last."

For an estimated two million Americans suffering from Crohn's disease, there is no cure. Crohn's, along with ulcerative colitis, falls under the heading of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). This chronic inflammatory disease usually involves either the small intestine (ileum) or large intestine (colon), but can affect any part of the digestive tract. Symptoms can include fever, lack of appetite, hemorrhoid-like sores, and fistulas which are abnormal tunnels between the inflamed intestine and adjoining tissue.

According to Mike Kennedy of the National Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis (NFIC), 80,000 new cases of Crohn's appear in the U.S. each year. Most of these cases are people 20-40 years old; 10 percent of the cases occur in children under 18. Still, researchers have not yet found the cause for Crohn's disease let alone finding a cure.

"This was the hardest part for me," says Marlyse Heaps, a Crohn's victim from Stillwater who suffered a relapse six years after doctors removed the diseased section of her bowels. "It didn't really hit me until the disease came back. It was then that I realized I was going to have to live with it every day of my life."

Three months before being diagnosed with Crohn's, Heaps says she experienced intense pain "as if someone was squeezing my intestines. I was scared at first because I didn't know what was causing the pain.

"My first doctor knew absolutely nothing about Crohn's," she says. "He looked at me and asked me what was wrong."

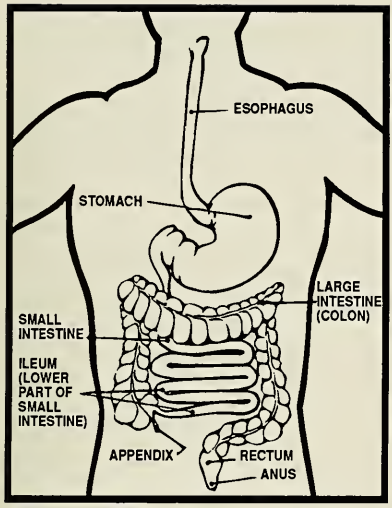
"Misdiagnosing is often a problem if the patient isn't seeing A gastroenterologist familiar with Crohn's," says Kennedy. "This can cause problems because although it is unusual to die from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis, some of the symptoms can be life-threatening."

In 1982, Heaps went to Geisinger Medical Center for a gallstone operation. She says the surgeon decided gallstones could not alone explain the intense pain Heaps felt and took a deeper look. He found a Crohn's-infected ileum where the small and large intestine meet. The section was removed and the two healthy ends were then joined together. After the operation, Heaps says she gave little thought to what the doctors meant by "remission." She was just happy the pain had stopped. But, six years later "remission" would gain a new significance to her.

Broadt's initial battle with Crohn's was longer and more complicated than Heaps'. She first started to notice symptoms in 1987. A recent Bloomsburg University graduate with a major in computer science, Broadt says she just wanted to find a job. She was living on her own when the pain started. "The pain can be bad. It is a really sharp pain that occurs around the stomach," she says. "It was worse after I ate. When the fistulas appeared, they were very sore which made walking, sitting and standing very difficult." Because of her condition, she eventually moved back home where she still resides today.

Doctors were unable to diagnose Broadt with Crohn's until 1989; for two years she was diagnosed with gastritis, colitis and ulcerative colitis. Finally, she says, "it became too painful to eat, so I stopped eating." When she was admitted to Bloomsburg Hospital on Jan. 26, 1990, the 4-foot -9-inch woman was down to 65 pounds.

Malnourished, Broadt suffered a minor stroke three days after being admitted to the hospital. She says the stroke caused residual



brain damage which she did not discover until 1991 when she had trouble at her first job after leaving the hospital. "It took me too long to do things, and I would make wrong calculations which I never did before," she says. A neurologist then confirmed the damage which changed Broadt's life. "College students think a diploma is a guarantee of success. But, they could have a stroke, and a degree means nothing when you can't add two numbers together," she says.

After she was stabilized, Broadt was diagnosed with Crohn's and taken to Geisinger. Here the doctors decided that her diseased colon and rectum had to be removed and an ileostomy performed.

An ileostomy is the surgical creation of an opening (stoma) from the ileum to the surface of the abdomen. A pouch is then fitted on the stoma to collect waste products. Broadt's initial response to the ileostomy was positive. "I was just relieved that someone was finally going to do something," she says.

Treatment of Crohn's initially takes the form of drugs, including Sulfasalazine and Prednisone (a steroid-based medication). Side effects of these drugs may include weight gain, headaches, nausea, hypertension, anemia, and personality changes. However, in proper dosages, they can safely control the symptoms of the disease.

When drugs can no longer control Crohn's, surgery in the form of the bowel resection and the ileostomy becomes necessary. However, according to Dr. John McCormick, a gastroenterologist at Geisinger, in 80 percent of patients who have bowel surgery, Crohn's will return. McCormick says researchers don't know why this occurs since they haven't yet isolated the cause of the disease. New evidence suggests that something comes downstream through the body to affect the bowels even after the diseased sections are removed.

Six years after her surgery, Heaps started to show symptoms again. Crohn's had reappeared at the site of her bowel resection. "I still go through bouts with the disease," she says. "I have a stressful job, and stress can aggravate the symptoms."

Kennedy explains that although stress can exacerbate existing symptoms, the disease itself is not psychosomatic. "The old myth is that the disease is all in someone's head and if they would just learn to calm down, their stomachs would stop hurting."

Heaps controls her current symptoms with Asacol, a drug she must obtain in Canada until the FDA approves it in the United States. "The drug is similar to Dipenton which was approved within the last year," she says. "But, Dipenton dissolves in the body before it reaches the part of my intestine that is affected." Consequently, she spends approximately $120 per month on a drug which might sell for less in this country. Having worked for 16 years at Bloomsburg University, currently as staff assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs, Heaps has an insurance policy which covers this part of her medical expenses. "Without a health plan like the one offered here, I'd be broke," Heaps says.

Broadt is not as fortunate. She is on medical assistance from the state. She receives $205 per month, but this will only cover certain types of ileostomy appliances and medications. "The newer more comfortable and durable models are said to be 'disposable' or just 'not necessary' and are therefore not covered," she explains. This puts Broadt in the middle of what she calls the "vicious cycle" of insurance benefits.

"When you're working at all, you cannot receive assistance," she says. "So, if I get a part-time job, I won't get assistance or work benefits. But, companies don't want to hire me full-time because their insurance premiums might go up."

Broadt is currently looking for a job. But, she believes that companies label her as disabled before they know anything about Crohn's disease. "People don't know what Crohn's disease is. But it doesn't matter because all they hear is the word disease."

Marlyse Heaps, a Crohn's victim for ten years, still enjoys bicycling, hiking, skiing, and photography.

photo by Joan Helfer

Crohn's does not have to be debilitating, according to Kennedy. "When the disease is inactive, an individual can lead a normal, healthy life," he says. "A person may have to be careful with what he eats and with certain activities, but other than that he is not restricted."

McCormick agrees, "Crohn's is a disease you can live with if it doesn't psychologically knock you out."

"Moreover, our research shows that these diseases are not

communicable, and we have not found a definite genetic link, although 20 percent of the cases have another family member with Crohn's," says Kennedy.

McCormick says because researchers don't yet know what causes the disease, they "can't say that Crohn's is not communicable. We recognize that there is a familial pattern which suggests that some people will be genetically predisposed to the disease and

> "I realized I was going to have to live with it every day of my life."

may acquire it when they come in contact with some environmental factor."

But, he says, the disease is probably not transferred from person to person. "I don't know any doctor who's ever gotten Crohn's, and we're in contact with Crohn's patients every day."

In some ways, Broadt believes her battle with Crohn's has strengthened her. "With the ostomy, I had to adjust to the appliance or die," she says. "Along with accepting the appliance, I accepted myself. Before, I worried a lot about what other people thought; now I finally reached a point where I liked myself."

Broadt also says she is healthier now than she has ever been. "The whole experience has made me much more health conscious," she says. "I exercise a great deal more than I used to." In fact Broadt believes that most of her limits come from the people around her. "Just mention the word disease and people back away," she says. She uses a former boyfriend as an example. "He didn't even ask what Crohn's was before he walked out of my life."

Recently, Broadt filed a complaint with the Human Relations Commission against the Bloomsburg IGA which had fired her. "My ostomy appliance began to leak at work," she explains. On her lunch break, Broadt changed it and ended up coming back from her lunch 10 minutes late. "They told me that these things should be taken care of on my own time," she says. Dean Bigelow, manager of the Bloomsburg IGA, refused to comment on the complaint or on the store's policy involving individuals who have nondebilitating illnesses.

Heaps agrees that a Crohn's patient can lead an active life. In addition to her work at the university, she enjoys hiking and photography. "You just need the mind set that the disease isn't going to get me, I'm going to get it."

Heaps believes that people have been supportive of her throughout her battle with Crohn's. "I missed a lot of work when the disease first started," she says. "But, every boss I've had has had some knowledge about the disease. They have given me off when I need it and have supported me in the workplace."

If nothing else, Heaps says she limits herself. "I try not to let it affect my life," she says, "but it definitely does. The disease is more embarrassing than anything else and to avoid embarrassment there

are certain things I wouldn't do now." For example, Heaps says she would not stay at a party for a long time because she never knows when a bout of Crohn's will hit.

Broadt says she feels a lot more comfortable at home. "It's hard to be a grown adult who is always rushing to the bathroom," she says. "People make jokes about it. It can be bad when I'm at home, but at least I'm alone."

Kennedy agrees that embarrassment is a major problem for Crohn's patients. "Because of the nature of the disease, we've found that people who have the disease are embarrassed and people who don't have the disease don't want to know anything about it," he says.

Kennedy asserts that the NFIC works not only on research, but also on educating "not only patients and their families, but also doctors as well as the general public.

"Most of the people we deal with are just happy to find that there are more people who know what they are going through," he says.

NFIC maintains a headquarters in New York but holds seminars throughout the country. To learn more about NFIC programs, call the national hotline, 1-800-932-2423.

According to Kennedy, NFIC devotes $2 million to research alone. Most of this money comes in the form of an increasing number of federal grants. "We have set the '90s as the decade for a cure to be found," Kennedy says. "Over the past few years, we've tremendously advanced our understanding of the disease."

"The whole thing is very frustrating," says McCormick. "I've been in practice for 25 years. I used to tell my patients, we'd most likely find a cure in five years, but that has not happened."

Heaps says that reading the NFIC literature helps her deal with

"Just mention the word disease and people back away."

that knowledge. "I've read everything I can get my hands on about the disease," she says. "I'm still dealing with the disease and praying for a cure. But, a big part of coping is knowing that someone's doing something to help."

Meanwhile, Broadt is setting new goals for herself in order to cope with the uncertainty in her life. She believes she has more goals now than ever before. She hopes to become a certified animal trainer and work with dogs, who she believes can be more sensitive than many people. She also looks forward to publishing a book about her experiences with Crohn's to help others in the future. "Attitude is everything," she says. "I truly do treasure my good health and I want to do my best to make as many goals as I can a reality."

But, life remains a waiting game for the victims of Crohn's who never know when their good health might run out.

(Note: Sandra Broadt is a ficticious name, changed at the request of the individual interviewed.) S

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Where quality service comes FIRST

Books on the Move

For disabled residents of Columbia and Montour counties, the library is only a phone call away

by Donna Grajewski

A traditional library is a building people visit when they need information or entertainment, but even people isolated by distance and physical disability can use the libraries in Columbia County. The Berwick Public Library's "Books on Wheels" and The Columbia County Traveling Library carry out a tradition of providing people access to library services.

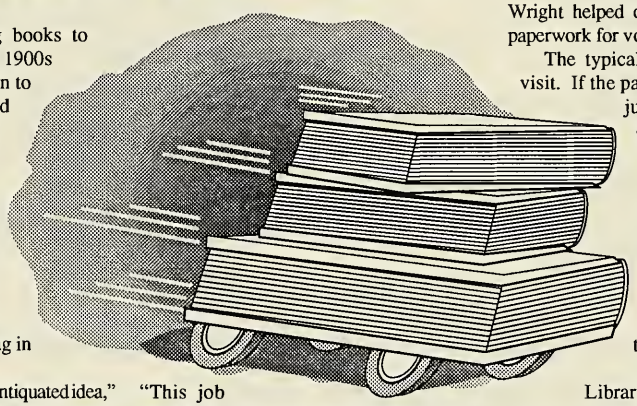
The concept of taking books to people is not new. In the 1900s library books were first taken to rural areas by horse and wagon. With the invention of the automobile, "bookmobiles" or scaled down libraries on wheels became popular. The number of bookmobiles has declined over the years due to the increase of public libraries, but the Traveling Library is one of 26 still running in Pennsylvania.

"Bookmobiles are not an antiquated idea," says Dorothy Coady, the Columbia County Traveling Librarian. "When you make libraries truly convenient, people will use them."

The Traveling Library has been serving the residents of Columbia County since 1941 when the county superintendent of schools and the county commissioners, along with the Bloomsburg Public Library, decided that the county with its high rural population needed the service.

The Traveling Library is separate from the Bloomsburg Public Library. It receives its own funding and has its own collection of 16,000 books. Its service area includes all areas of Columbia County not claimed by the Berwick or Bloomsburg Public libraries.

More than a decade ago, the Berwick Public Library started "Books on Wheels" to provide elderly and home-bound people access to library materials. The program serves people isolated by disabilities which make traveling difficult. The service area of this program includes Beach Haven, Berwick, and Nescopeck.



"This job takes skills beyond the simple desk work of a librarian. You almost have to be a social worker who has to listen to problems." says Ann Diseroad, Berwick's head librarian. "We fully expect the books on wheels person to visit 20-30 minutes with each patron and make sure the patron is all right."

"The people I see are mainly shut-ins. Other than seeing the doctor they just don't get out," says Susan Wright, the librarian in charge of the "Books on Wheels" program.

"I don't drive and this is wonderful. They are wonderful," says Gloria Schrader, a regular patron of the Berwick program who enjoys reading fiction.

Although she recently took over the route, Wright already knows the people and they look forward to seeing her. The friendly visit is often more important than the books.

"If I'm a little late they get upset," says Wright. "It's a good service, for avid readers who are unable to get out; it gives them some attention and the opportunity to lose themselves in a good story."

Although not part of the job description, Wright helped one of her patrons get the paperwork for voter registration completed.

The typical stop includes a friendly visit. If the patron is feeling poorly, it is just to drop off the books. At one of her regular stops, Wright learned that one of her patrons had a stroke and was in Geisinger Medical Center. She took some time to comfort his mother, and offered to help her find a way to send things to him.

Although the Traveling Library helps some individuals who do not get out often, and also visits several senior centers, it cannot provide the personalized door-to-door service of "Books on Wheels" because of the sheer size of the vehicle. The capacity rate of the Traveling Library is 3,000 books.

At the senior centers and nursing homes the Traveling Library generally leaves a collection of books with the activities director. The Traveling Library focuses on community stops where a wide variety of people use the service, but most are young mothers and their children.

Most of the "Books on Wheels" patrons are elderly. They learn about the pro-

gram through referrals from someone who thinks they would enjoy the service. Occasionally a regular patron becomes temporarily incapacitated and requests the service.

The librarians first find out the interest and special needs of the individual and select books to fit the requirements.

"People can request certain titles. For most of the patrons it is not an easy task to select books, because most of the people need the large print books," says Wright.

A large print book is essentially the same size as a regular hard cover book, but the amount of white space is reduced and the type is larger. The cost of a large print book is not that dissimilar from the price of a regular print book. With the library's discount, the price is about $12 a book. The library has been fortunate to receive a number of donations from people who read large print books and donate them when they are finished reading them.

Despite these donations, the one complaint heard most often is the lack of new books and best sellers.

"There are over 30,000 items in the collection and 4,000 large print books, possibly the largest in the area," according to Diseroad.

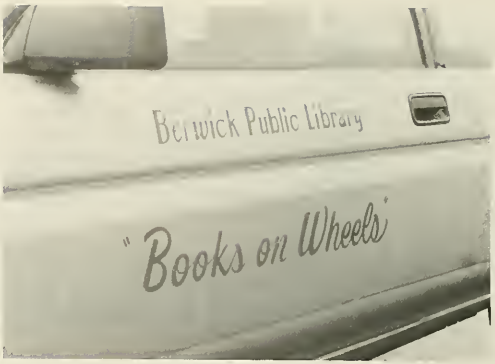
"We do have the largest collection of large print books in the area. But if you read four books a week within four years you've read everything," says Wright.

"The library has a small video collection that they are working on improving and books on tape, but the majority of the people prefer a book," Wright adds.

The library receives its funding from several agencies and foundations. About 30 percent of the budget comes from the United Way. The "Books on Wheels" car is new and was purchased with federal money distributed through the state. The program serves on average about twenty people a week, but it can vary. Any expansion would depend upon the demand; if more people wanted the service it would expand. The program also serves four daycare centers in the Berwick area. Wright chooses books based upon what pre-school children like and takes them to the teachers. It is a convenience that saves the teachers some time. A teacher can request a special title.

The Traveling Library goes out seven days a month to service fifty stops. The other days are spent doing office work. The bookmobile staff would like to go out more often, but lack of funding prohibits this.

"With the new emphasis on whole language reading, using regular books in place of or as a supplement to a textbook, teachers are using their own collections of books in the classroom," says Coady. "There has also been a substantial increase in the number of pre-schools and daycare centers and they usually do not have a library so there is still a demand for bookmobiles."



The Berwick "Books on Wheels" car links disabled residents with the outside world.

photo by Brandy Mankiewicz

Libraries have various standards to meet, including population, in order to receive funding. Approximately 40 percent of Columbia County's population is not claimed by any library under the terms of the State Library Code.

Problems residents of the unclaimed areas face include having to pay user fees and being unable to take part in special programs such as the Statewide Library Access Program, which would make it possible to return a book to any library in the state on its due date and that library will return it to the original lender.

Libraries need the support of people to work. If you would like to donate books or money and would like more information about these programs, call the Berwick Public Library at 752-2241 and the Bloomsburg Public Library at 784-0883. Maybe the bookmobile will stop in your area. S

An Eiffel of America

by Patricia Peron

Would you agree that the typical American character sleeps with his Stetson hat, eats hamburgers at breakfast, drives his pick-up to pick up his mail, and rules the world but hardly knows where the next state is? A person from France might recognize this myth. But, Americans have their own beliefs; many believe that all French people drink wine, eat gourmet food, are romantic all the time, and even kiss strangers.

For 25 years I lived in France; for a year, I have become an American, even if honorary. As a journalism student, I am curious about many things. I feel like a new kind of Gulliver, even if sometimes I have the strange feeling of being the object of a course which could be titled "Let's Unveil Mysteries About France."

My country is often depicted by its fragrances—the smell of French bread, the scent of flowers. French people are very proud of it, and many consider that American products, from perfumes to California wines, are nothing more than bad substitutes. Yet, recurrent sanitation workers' strikes are a vivid challenger to famous French perfumes, reviving the good old days when Paris had no sewage system. Paris is the city of love and love is blind, people say. Well, it might just as well be deprived of smell! Parisians have always been concerned by this problem. Eighteenth century wealthy citizens used to sprinkle themselves from head to toe with costly oils; in the late 1940s, the Metropolitan Transportation System spread attars of roses in subway cars. Had they carried on with that costly act, Iran could afford to live entirely on its rose industry today.

France is, of course, associated with tasty and expensive food. Judging by the salary my brother earns as a chef, I would not deny the fact. Nevertheless, he often treats himself to a Big Mac and, without having ever been in Bloomsburg, developed his own hoagie recipes. Tuitions for cooking schools are expensive and I have never seen my parents more angry than the day my brother decided to be a trainee at McDonald's! *I* am not a fantastic cook, which first baffled my roommates who had to teach me over-the-stove tips. Surprisingly enough, I have acquired a cooking reputation on the upper campus; anytime I try to cook, the fire alarm sends the apartment into a real panic.

People here assume that I miss French food. Not at all! The only things I long for are wine, cheese, and bread. Whoever has already tasted this sensual combination knows what I am talking about. Charles de Gaulle, our most famous statesman abroad, once declared that he could not govern a country which has more than three hundred different types of cheese. I agree with him and so should French politicians. Foreign people are always astonished by this figure. Nevertheless, making cheese in France is like brewing bourbon in Tennessee. Almost every farm has its own product, which is sold at market places and generally at a very high price!

Just as Americans meet in bars, and the English meet in pubs, the former talking about baseball teams and the latter betting on horses, French people gather behind the counter of a "cafe" to comment upon politicians' briberies. In France, politics interferes with any conversation. In family gatherings, it is generally a topic which members agree not to talk about, but finally end up with anyway. Here, I have the impression that religion holds people's preferences and that college students are far more involved in church activities than in politics.

This is one of the major differences between Americans and French. Of course, religion in France is often discussed, yet it is always related to politics. Our clergymen express their ideas about social reforms as easily as your televangelists spread God's words on cable TV.

French students' need to gather and share opinions finds its expression in political debates or during mass protests. It seems about every other year, they invade the streets of any big city to shout out their anger. In 1988, France was at the center of

Patricia's dilemma: how to choose between 300 kinds of cheese and more than 500 varieties of wine. Next stop: bread!

photo by Myriam Zaoui

For 500 years, Parisians have met at the Pont Neuf Bridge overlooking the Seine.

a student riot, which finally made the Education Deputy Secretary of State resign.

Today, higher education students are resuming their claims. A group of bolder ones even locked a high school principal in his office for two days. Here in Bloomsburg, students are very peaceful, most of them politically uncommitted. Of course, I may be wrong, but even my roommates are unwilling to disclose their political preferences.

I believe that we French are far more rebellious than American students. But this is not the major difference. In France, universities, which are equivalent to colleges and graduate schools, are free, except for a very low annual fee, one-tenth the tuition Bloomsburg students have to pay. In the United States, parents had better save money when their children are still in their cradles. The dark side of this in France is that universities are taken by storm by thousands of eager candidates who, each year, have to line up from 11 the night before Admission Day, and rush in a gigantic marathon—not unlike New York's—through the labyrinth of lobbies, towards the office doors once they have been opened. Can you imagine their panic if they have applied to two different universities? Most of the times, courageous parents are forced into the rat race to guarantee their children a much coveted place in education.

The French and American education systems are quite different. In France, junior and senior high schools base their teaching on theoretical and cultural approaches while their American equivalents insist on a balance between sports and studies with much shorter school days. Few sequences allow French students to enter college thanks to their physical abilities; in the United States, a fantastic football player might be able to enter Yale if his talents are required!

French college students have an average of twenty-five hours of courses per week, which might frighten the American students who generally schedule for fifteen or eighteen hours. Nevertheless, the discrepancy between the two systems is mostly noticeable in the lower grades. French high school students spend 270 days a year studying various subjects such as mathematics and foreign languages—two at least— while their American counterparts are "on duty" only 180 days a year. Moreover, the latter are not compelled to study a foreign language or to take many mathematics courses. But it seems that neither system is able to provide a satisfactory balance between studies and leisure as the French are considering reducing the amount of time spent at school and the Americans would like their students to have longer school days and longer school years.

French prestigious universities and business schools impose hard selection; not only must you be able to provide them with excellent grades, you must also go through one or two years of intensive studies based on forty hours a week of mathematics, economics, philosophy, French, and foreign languages. These preparatory classes are meant to prepare the best students, selected from their senior high school results and called by their instructors "la creme de la creme," for the exhausting selective competitions that take place each year between late March and early July. Unless you are a genius, the amount of work required does not allow you to sleep more than six hours per night during the school year, and you are told to forget anything related to the notions of leisure, weekends, and holidays. Students during the most competitive period get only six hours of sleep a week.

I was in a preparatory class for one year, to get ready for a business school I never could enter because of my low mathematics level. It was the hardest time in my student life but I learned to be flexible, to resist stress, and to rely mainly on short naps! Another thing I gained is some twenty extra pounds I am still trying, five years and an English degree later, to chase far away from my hips!

Once you have succeeded in being admitted to a college, the worst is behind, and you may start to relax and enjoy a real student's life. On the contrary, American students seem to be rather "cool" with their studies until their senior year, when they realize it is time for them to think about graduate school!

Of course, not all the students have the opportunity—not to mention the physical resistance—to enter such classes. They may choose between other universities or vocational short studies, but it is generally taken for granted that the better your results and the harder the selection, the greater your chances to finally end up with a "golden boy" career.

In every French school, the emphasis is put on foreign languages, with English as the most favored one. Many teenagers speak what it is called "Franglais," a mixture of French and English terms such as "c'est too much"—

French and American cultures meet at Trocadero Avenue.

Photos by Fabienne Girard

"it's too much"—or "sois cool"—"be cool." I speak French, English, Spanish, and have some basics of Italian.

Bloomsburg's Foreign Languages Department is located at the far end of the campus and the French sequence laboriously gathers twelve candidates. In Paris, there are thousands who choose English as their major. Twelve is perhaps the figure for Serbo-Croatian studies.

Should you try to picture college life in France, the first step would be to forget everything about campuses. Living in their own apartments or with their parents, university students have to commute. I am always astonished when a student here tells me that she took a room on the campus because she would not consider driving a car thirty minutes one way. In Paris, most students commute, spending sometimes more than three hours in buses or trains. As a result, college social life hardly develops; a Sorority-Fraternity system does not exist. On the whole, that makes for fairly individualistic students.

Nevertheless, as far as silliness is concerned, students are the same everywhere. Let's take the example of fraternity pledges. Many have complained in the United States about the silly rules candidates have to abide by and the violence they might involve. Back in France, many sophomores in grade schools undergo humiliating treatments, such as strolling into the streets with a plastic garbage bag as their only garment, begging for money and simulating the glamorous daily routine of a prostitute, until the seniors decide they have had enough.

Many people have asked me why I am here. A pragmatic answer is that an American experience is highly valued in my country, as part of the mythical "American way of life". For Americans, Paris is an exotic way to spend their time which few devote to effective studies! My fellow citizens are fond of the Southern Culture, partly because of the French presence in Louisiana. We regard America as a land of opportunities, where Amish, Mormons, and Yuppies alike can lead their own lives. Our American heroes are Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Davy Crockett, James Dean, Elvis Presley, and James Brown. These are heroes of Golden Age America! Few people have ever heard of Ralph Nader, Nathaniel Hawthorne, or Sinclair Lewis. French are crazy about fast-food restaurants and American bars. Most children watch westerns on TV and play Cowboys and Indians instead of Royalists and Revolutionaries. American symbols guide our daily lives as much as soap operas our evening choices.

On the contrary, French programs are very rare on American networks. France's presence is mostly seen through glamorous commercials or would-be romantic movie productions. Another striking thing about American TV is that I can have it on for hours and hours in Bloomsburg without catching the glimpse of a breast. On the contrary, European channels display a lot of provocative shows. Yet, they would not bother to cover a rapist's trial while so many more important issues are at stake. Moreover, they are reluctant to display too much violence, as more and more TV viewers complain about it. So, between sex and violence, who is right? Who is wrong?

Sex in public affairs is a very hilarious subject which gives depressing political life its true colors. I am amazed by the power sex possesses to destroy political contenders here. It seems that

in France any extramarital love affair is considered to be proof of energy, not as a symbol of deep perversity. A turn-of-the-century French president even acquired his posthumous prestige by dying in his lover's arms.

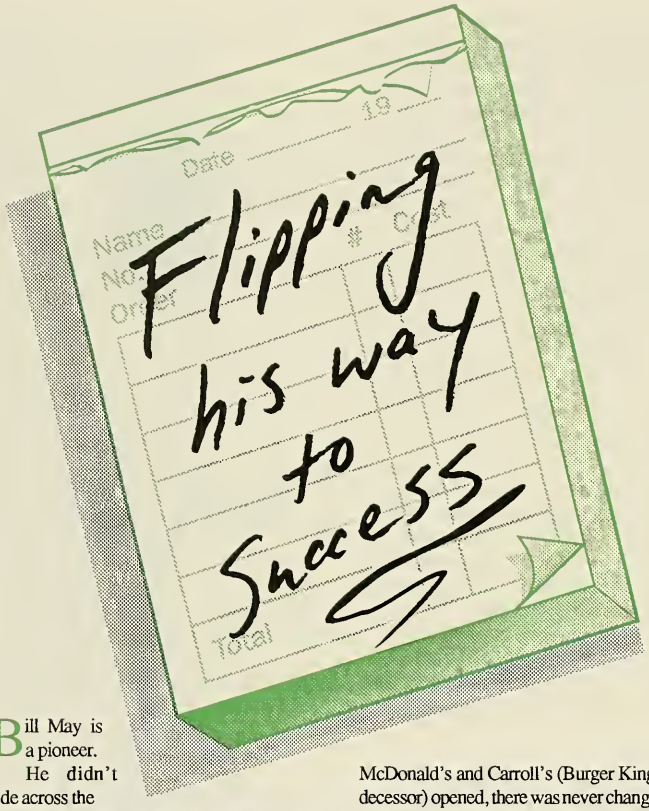
The days I spend in Bloomsburg are planets away from my hectic life in Paris. Bloomsburg is a quiet and friendly place where I enjoy staying although I sometimes miss the highly cultural Parisian atmosphere. Moreover, I had never tasted rural life before coming to Pennsylvania and this is a real shock to me; no traffic jams, no subway strikes, not even a subway! Life in Bloomsburg is so peaceful!

For being born and living in a big city, I know how anonymous and unfriendly it can be to a foreigner. I can particularly remember the words of a Montana-born American professor who used to tell me that you could be more lonely in a big city than in the very center of vast uninhabited lands. Urban people are so busy, so self-centered. Coming here, I had to adapt my vision and learn to react naturally whenever a stranger would come across and say "hello!"

With its Victorian houses and its tiny gardens, Bloomsburg makes me think of the small English towns where I used to spend my summer holidays. What impresses me is the fact that a university could develop in a small community, invaded by thousands of students who gather in bars at night. Another shock was to learn about the drinking age—there is no such thing in France and I find hard to imagine any kind of similar measure there. This does not mean that French students are alcoholics and go out to paint the town red every night; on the contrary, because alcohol is not prohibited, we drink less.

On Bloomsburg's campus, you can separate students into two groups: those who are under 21, doomed to attend cheap beer-sorority parties, and the lucky ones, the "adults" who enjoy "shots" and other specialities in bars.

As days go by, I learn more about the "American way of life"—or to be more accurate—about <u>one</u> American way of life. I have found that Paris and New York are like sisters. They offer the same opportunities to people, a rich cultural life and a lot of stress! Bloomsburg is unique and so much different from a big city. It is a formidable place to meet people, to meet American people. No French restaurant, no designer shop . . . only true, real Big Macs. S



Bill May keeps the family business thriving in a decade of fast-food giants

by John Michaels

Bill May is a pioneer.

He didn't ride across the Plains in a Conestoga wagon to set up a new frontier post. Nor did he invent a gadget to make life easier in today's fast-paced lifestyle.

Instead, he turned flipping hamburgers into a profitable business for himself and his family.

May is founder of the area's May's Drive-In restaurants, the white-washed, red-shingled buildings you see on Route 11 north and south of Bloomsburg, and in Ashland, Berwick, Hughesville, and Lewisburg.

His original restaurant opened in Montour Township in 1955, one year after Chicago businessman Ray Kroc bought the first of thousands of McDonald's restaurants. It was also more than two decades before the golden arches would light up the night sky in Bloomsburg.

It took a while for this type of dining out to catch on. May and his staff had to wait many times for customers to come into the restaurant after it opened.

"When we first opened up here, we had to stand and wait for customers," May says. "Business was very slow, but picked up on weekends. We'd stand here many times just looking out the front window.

"And as Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's and Carroll's (Burger King's predecessor) opened, there was never change in our business. But, at the time, I did think I'd have to lay some of the help off or cut them down in hours. That never occurred because whenever those other places opened up we were never affected at all. I always thought they would, but they never did."

May's was celebrating its fifteenth year in business by the time the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain brought Col. Harland Sanders' recipe to Bloomsburg. The chicken restaurant has since moved to Buckhorn, near the Columbia Mall.

Bill May got an early start in the people-serving business, thanks to his father, Eugene "Cobble" May, who used his two-year-old son to help sell tickets at country fairs.

"Dad and I would always travel the fairs and that's what I was always in since I was two years old," May says. "He'd dress me up as a clown and set me up on a ticket box in order to get people to come over. He ran the Mickey Mouse Circus, which were little trained white mice."

"Any time I wasn't on the ticket box, he knew where to find me. I'd always be with Mr. Reithoffer on the rides. All the other kids would want to get on since I was dressed as a clown."

Working the fairs and carnivals, Bill May learned the value of a buck, and put that knowledge to work in his first fast-food place.

Using $1,500 to buy used equipment and build the restaurant, May followed in his father's footsteps after spending two years working in a garment factory upon his return to the area following a two-year stint in the military.

"Dad sold hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream at the fairs and I wanted to maintain a family-oriented business," May says. "We kept prices where the everyday person could afford to come to our place. We gave good food, fast service and a nice, clean place to eat. There was no reason why they shouldn't come back."

In fact, May says his customers remained loyal as the major fast-food franchises opened their restaurants in the area.

"We had our regular customers and that's who we'd see day in and day out," the businessman adds. "We still have customers who come in every day or every week, so I spend very little on advertising because we just haven't had to do it."

It's a far cry from the millions of dollars the major franchises spend on trying to bring in customers. McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, and Kentucky Fried Chicken, all competitors on the local market, spend the bulk of their advertising budgets on television and other national venues to sell their food.

The only thing May has changed at the original restaurant is the addition of a dining room.

"Most of our business had come from out front, where people came up to the window to order," May says. "Now, 90 percent of the business comes from the dining room."

Although he was busy with the restaurant, May also turned to selling Electrolux vacuum cleaners to offset any financial burdens his growing family might face. He used to spend fourteen to fifteen hours per day working. Now, May says, he's "cut down a little" on the hours.

"With ten children, you had to keep moving," he says. "Not everything I did was successful. I had restaurants that we closed up and lost a lot of money on.

"A lot of people will drive by and see a lot of cars out front and they'll say you're making a killing."

"Looks are deceiving," Bill May notes.

"You may be doing real well at one place and not quite so good at another," he says. "Or, you might have one fail that you're paying on for a couple of years afterward. It all comes down to the same thing: a lot of hard work."

May and his wife, Sara, weren't the only family members working to keep the business afloat. The children helped — free of charge for a while.

"They all helped with the business. None of them got paid until they were 16," May says. "And, they didn't look for pay. When one doesn't get paid, the others don't think about it. Now those same children have places of their own that they built up and are living comfortably."

With her husband out trying to make extra money with his other business ventures, the responsibility of running the restaurant and caring for the children fell on the shoulders of Sara, now 60. She also had some help.

"Sometimes it was difficult, but mostly my mother, Rebecca James, and my husband's aunt and uncle, Dot and Claude May, were there to watch the children," Sara says. "They more or less watched the kids for us. They took them to kindergarten and would pick them up.

"I would go down to the restaurant early in the morning and stay until closing and then would go home and put a load of clothes in the washer and fold them and throw another load in. In the mornings, I had to prepare meals. This went on for seven days a week."

photos by John Michaels

Bill and Sara May are as adept making pizza as they are making burgers.

The job didn't get much easier once the children started working at the restaurant, adds Sara, who recently celebrated her 41st wedding anniversary with Bill.

"It was easy sometimes, but there would be battles because they'd have to come to work and they didn't really appreciate having to work with each other all the time. At least we knew where they were and it kept them out of trouble a lot."

The long hours his parents put in at the restaurant gave Rick May, owner of Romeo's Eatery & Ice Creamery, Route 11, north of Bloomsburg, second thoughts about going into the business.

"I didn't think I'd have my own restaurant; I didn't think I'd want to do it," says Rick, who bought his restaurant from Mike Romeo in 1981.

"Mom and Dad were always working and weren't home a lot. I missed my parents not being there," adds Rick. "When I played football, my parents couldn't come because they had to work. I'm not trying to do that with my family.

"My oldest daughter is nine and playing soccer or swimming. So, my wife, Susanne, or I try to be at every one of her meets or whatever. I also try to spend more time with my family."

The original May's Drive-In in Montour Twp.

Life with his father wasn't completely filled with absences. Rick learned a lot about making—and saving—a dollar. Also, he and his siblings had to work out financial deals to gain ownership of their businesses.

"He taught me a lesson about how to save. Dad bought the restaurant and came to me and said, 'In 10 years you can buy it for this price,' " Rick says. "Then, we set up a plan where I put so much out of my salary each week into this plan and at the end of ten years I can take that money for my down payment.

"I don't have any regrets paying it. Nothing is actually given to you in life. I feel better paying for it than having it handed to me," the younger May adds.

Rick's brothers and sisters are also involved in the business. Brother Jeff manages the Berwick restaurant while working on buying the franchise rights at the leased building and Bill Jr. manages the Lewisburg restaurant. Sister Kathy Schreck is owner of the restaurant in Ashland and Debbie Rabb owns the one in Hughesville. In addition, sister Sandy Gordner is assistant manager at the original restaurant in Montour Township.

At first, Bill May didn't concern himself with getting his children set up in business. He gradually changed.

"All you think about is the success of your children. You tell them, 'If you work hard, this will be yours,' but they had to do it," the elder May says. "They had to save a certain amount of money before they could buy (their restaurants). And they couldn't borrow it. I would check on them to see what they had.

"It was all for their own good. I set up rules for them and they had to follow them. I felt if they would get into a set pattern, they would be successful."

Yet, success hasn't spoiled the founder of it all. Bill May knows he's flipped a lot of burgers, but unlike the people at the golden arches, who advertise "billions sold," he can't put a number on just how many his restaurants have sold.

"I couldn't give you a figure. I have no idea, but I do know our quarter-pounders outsell the smaller hamburgers by about twenty to one," he says. "I don't know why, but they do." (Quarter-pounders are priced $1.50 on the menu; hamburgers sell for $1).

As long as his customers are happy, Bill May will continue to sell burgers. The 63-year-old has no plans to slow down.

He had hoped to build another restaurant in Mount Carmel, but couldn't get state approval because underground gas tanks leaked at the site of a former service station.

"I'm happy when I'm working. I've said if I die working, I'll die happy," May says. S

Winning doesn't mean just scoring. Life is a game and the winner is the one who lives to tell about it. AIDS is real. You can lose. Safe sex is in vogue. Use a latex condom.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Fourth District American Advertising Federation, Inc

Taking Northeastern Pe

by Pat Tro

It was your typical outdoor weather forecast for January. WNEP meteorologist Tom Clark was explaining to the viewers what they could expect from the weather in the next 24 hours, when a man walked into camera range, looked directly at the camera and then continued out of the picture.

Unless you were watching closely at Clark's profile to see his eyes widen and re-direct their sights momentarily, the meteorologist didn't miss a beat with his voice. He continued with the forecast as if no one had passed by him at all.

Was he surprised?

You bet he was.

"What could I do. I was on the air and everything happened so fast that I just kept going," Clark says. "Afterwards I found out that the police were chasing this guy who was spotted driving in the wrong direction on Interstate 81.

"The guy apparently abandoned his car when the police began to pursue him and he tried to escape on foot. That resulted in him running across our backyard," he adds.

Not all meteorologists have such a story to relate, but most can tell you about live remote telecasts where rabbit ears were held up behind their heads while they made an effort to look and sound somewhat professional, or when children anxious to be on television froze up when a microphone was placed in front of them.

In television, you never know what to expect and weather forecasters seem to get their fair share of the unexpected—not only from Mother Nature, but also from their viewers and fans.

Whether or not you're a weather buff, what goes on outdoors is important in almost every aspect of your life. Weather affects what we wear, what activities we perform and who we will watch on TV for that information.

Maybe that is why when surveys are done by television stations, the number one thing people are interested in knowing every day is the weather forecast.

"It's the most important three and one-half minutes of a newscast," says Vince Sweeney, WBRE-TV 28's weatherman for the past seven years.

nsylvania by Storm

This is why stations are willing to invest in equipment and credentials when packaging that part of their half-hour newscast.

WBRE bought into the Snow Bird, the muppet part of a promotion package that focuses on the station's winter cancellations, while WNEP equipped itself with Doplar radar, a program that highlights the movement of storms and color codes maps to indicate the intensity of the systems.

WYOU acquired RadarPLUS and instituted Storm Search, which essentially does the same thing as Doplar radar. Channel 22 jumped on the meteorological bandwagon, by labeling its forecast the Weather Journal and by changing meteorologists in mid-contract in order to perk up the ratings.

Why is the weather given so much time in the Northeastern Pennsylvania television market—the 46th ranked market in the country—while Philadelphia drops it to the end of the news and gives it only one or two minutes?

"We cover 24 counties in an area that is a blend of mountains and valleys," says Clark, the chief meteorologist at WNEP. "There are rivers, lakes and streams that can all have an effect on the weather, too.

"The weather in Wilkes-Barre may not be the same as the weather in Bloomsburg. That is why we have the extra time. The forecast may vary from region to region," he says.

Sweeney, 41, is the only prime-time weatherman in the Northeastern Pennsylvania market who is not a meteorologist.

WNEP-TV had as many as three meteorologists on the air at one time until Brian Orzel left the station with most of his weather graphics in December. Tom and his wife, Noreen Clark, possibly the only husband and wife weather team in the country, had to alternate duties seven days a week until the station found a replacement for Orzel.

At WYOU, Mark Strehl from Iowa, was selected to replace veteran meteorologist Paul Heppner who failed to have his contract renewed late last year—a move about which station management has been very tight-lipped.

The main reason given was a desire by new general manager Bill Christian to change the direction of the newscast.

Rumors among insiders at all three stations are that Heppner was

photo by Pat Trosky

It can get pretty cold in the backyard for WNEP meteorologist Tom Clark.

"too sophisticated" in his weather presentations and that WYOU was searching for more of the "Vince Sweeney type" to liven up the segment. Sweeney's presence at WBRE has been one success story after another for the Wilkes-Barre-based station.

It's too soon to tell whether Strehl will have what it takes to boost WYOU's ratings. But Strehl says he and Bill Christian see "eye to eye" on the direction in which television should be headed in the future.

One way is to make Strehl accessible to the public through visits to schools, shopping centers and anywhere else he can find a hand to shake or a baby to hold.

"You have to get out there and meet your viewers and Bill and I are really committed to that concept," Strehl says. "That's why when I'm not here preparing or doing the weather, I'm out in Chopper 22 going from one place to another meeting the people."

As if that weren't enough, WYOU has entered into an agreement with WKRZ-FM and WILK-AM radio stations to have Strehl give the weather forecasts and promote himself and the station up to four times an hour.

"I think my enthusiasm for weather has been evident to the viewers," Tom Clark says about his popularity and recognition with the audience. "This is my hobby as well as my career. I like what I'm doing and it shows. I guess that along with the way we try to be professional as well as easy to understand has had an appeal to the public."

Strehl, who lives in Clarks Summit, is a Chicago-area native and has had television meteorology jobs in Iowa and Minnesota. He also had extensive air time on the radio during high school and college.

While in Iowa, Strehl had his own soybean and corn farm, which also housed a few horses and pygmy goats.

"I loved the farm but I was willing to give it up to come to a bigger market and especially to come to the Northeast," Strehl says.

The challenge now is for Strehl to break into a market of viewers who are either used to a very detailed and well-presented backyard forecast or one that is offered by a fun-loving, albeit cuddly, guy-next-door.

Ratings-wise, WNEP continues with its reign at the top, although third-place WYOU made a 24-hour a day, news-every-hour commitment to its viewers in an effort to promote itself as the only true news station. WBRE is sitting in second place with ratings closer to WYOU than first-place WNEP.

The Clarks feel their station's efforts to pay special attention to what the audience wants to know at any given time has pushed WNEP to the top. Channel 16 was the first to computerize winter cancellations and put them in alphabetical order.

Sweeney says he believes those who choose to watch him do so because they like his on-air personality, his presentation of the weather and the station's presentation of the news.

"I love what I do and I make it clear that I am not a meteorologist," Sweeney says. "All of my forecasts come from Accu-Weather and I really don't think it matters to the viewers where I get the information as long as it's right. And even though I take no credit for the forecast, I still get blamed for it if its wrong."

Tom Clark can also get a chuckle out of critics, who are quick to point out how an inch of rain can fall on a day that was supposed to be sunny and dry.

"There is an 80-85 percent accuracy in a 24-hour forecast and most people only remember when you are wrong," Clark says. "Most of the time, people just misinterpret what the forecast was and then blame us for being inaccurate."

Noreen Clark is not as understanding as her husband. She is sensitive to the criticism of the viewers and sometimes takes the remarks personally.

"It's usually someone who doesn't know what they are talking about that will be the first to pick up the telephone and complain," she says. "Meteorology is not an exact science. Anyone who has observed atmospheric conditions closely will admit that they can change quickly."

The Clarks and Strehl take raw data supplied to them from maps and radar and make their own forecasts. Strehl is not interested in what the Clarks or Sweeney have to say in their forecasts, but the Clarks and Sweeney do admit to checking the competition out on more tricky forecasts.

"When we're talking about snowfall, I like to hear what the other guys are calling for or if it's an intricate forecast, I'm curious as to what they have to say sometimes," Sweeney says.

Sweeney, Strehl and the Clarks all have a love of communications. However, only Strehl graduated with a double major in journalism and meteorology from Northern Illinois University.

"I loved working on the radio and I knew if I ever wanted to go anywhere in my life I'd have to be able to write," Strehl says. "So I took all of the print journalism courses because I felt that was the most important base I could give myself for a future in radio and television."

Strehl ad libs all of his material for the weather shots and enjoys teasing the news anchors about reading their dialogue from a teleprompter.

"I tell them that anyone could come in here and read that stuff," Strehl says.

Both the Clarks have degrees in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University. Sweeney had three years at University of Scranton under his belt before dropping out to get into radio.

Meteorology was a hobby for Tom Clark as a boy, while Strehl admits to wanting to be a meteorologist since he was in the fourth grade. Noreen Clark loved the sciences all of her life, but Sweeney had no particular interest in weather other than to report it on the radio, which is probably his first love.

"Things happen for a reason and I had a lot of friends working at WBRE who constantly pushed me to try out for openings at the station." Sweeney says. "One day I took them up on it and sure enough, they liked me and I was hired as a weekend weatherman. One thing led to another and here I am today."

Prior to Sweeney's television career, he spent about 12 years at WARM and did other radio stints. He credits that time for his on-the-air casualness and that "down-to-earth, guy-next-door feeling" he seems to project to the viewers.

Of course, WBRE's acquisition of the Snow Bird and the "Vince said it would be like this" slogan have also given Sweeney some additional recognition that has resulted in nothing but positive comments for the station.

Sweeney says the Snow Bird was the conception of two aspiring puppeteers from Tennessee who came up with the "muppet" design and idea of its use in weather forecasts. The Snow Bird now makes guest appearances with Sweeney, who says he doesn't mind sharing the spotlight with the bigger-than-life character.

At WNEP, the Clarks have been a team both on and off the air for almost 10 years and have established a strong audience appeal.

She and Tom met in a Natural Disasters class at Penn State; for a time, Noreen worked as a meteorologist for the satellite branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, D.C.

WYOU Meteorologist Mark Strehl checks data prior to his newcast.

photo by Pat Trosky

> "Most of the time, people just misinterpret what the forecast was and then blame us for being inaccurate."

Tom began his career in the Bloomsburg area where he and a friend started a weather service for radio stations.

As Noreen recalls, "Tom wined and dined me long distance. He had just begun working at WNEP and I guess he made enough trips to Washington, D.C. to convince me to marry him. I figured if he was that persistent over such a long period of time and he was willing to put up with my very independent nature, I might as well marry him."

It was through Tom's coaxing that Noreen took her first shot at broadcast journalism. There was a part-time opening at the station and since Noreen had experience as a science teacher prior to becoming a meteorologist, she figured standing in front of a camera would be no different than standing before a room full of students.

It took Tom longer than Noreen to find his niche in life and he ended up an older student when it finally dawned on him that he wanted to be a meteorologist at 24.

"Like most kids out of high school, I went on to college but I didn't take it too seriously," he says. "When my parents saw this, they suggested I work for awhile and then maybe try college again and that's what I did," adds Clark, who says he tried his hand at a few different jobs including a stint in a rock band.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania television market is a big one that spans almost one-fourth of the state. Competition between the three stations, especially in the weather segment, is stiff. Forecasts are sometimes detailed and complicated and with remote control in hand, a viewer's loyalty can change with the press of a button.

Strehl, who has the most pressure on him since he is the new kid on the block, says he is up for the challenge of the ratings game.

"Not only do I have to do my job as a meteorologist but I think I also have to get out there and let people get to know me, Mark Strehl the person. That is something both the station and I feel strongly about," he says.

He has admitted to only seeing the "other guys" about five times and claims, "I don't have the time to sit and watch what they do."

He knows the ratings numbers and how important they are to a station. He also has enough confidence in himself to ignore the past numbers and work toward doing his best to improve future ratings. Assisting Strehl with the weather is veteran newsman Derry Bird, who does the forecasting on the morning and noon news shows. Bird also does environmental reporting for the station.

Sweeney is recognizable and finds it difficult to go even to the local Kmart without being stopped by someone who has a comment on his forecast.

"Gee, just the other day an elderly man started on me about a forecast while I was shopping," Sweeney says. "I tried to explain to him that it was he who didn't understand what I said, but this guy just kept on me that I gave a bad forecast. But that comes with the territory. When you're in this business, you have to expect it."

Sweeney also gets telephone calls from people who are traveling and want to know what the weather is going to be like where they are going.

"I'm always nice to them but I often wonder if the other guys have this problem," he adds. "I'll even get people who will push me for a forecast in New York when my data doesn't extend that far. They just don't understand or accept this."

Noreen Clark says people will stop her in the grocery store to say hello and she really enjoys the friendliness of people.

"Sometimes they don't realize you also have another life outside of television. You get used to it. It comes with the job," she says.

And as Sweeney sums it up, "We all work very hard to give the viewers an accurate and concise forecast. Why they select one station over another is anyone's guess. All we can do is our job the best that we can. If we're wrong, they know where to find us." S

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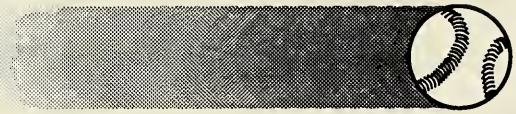

For Paul Hartzell, memories are a letter away

by John Michaels

This is the time of year Bloomsburg native Paul Hartzell feels his six-year major league baseball career is rejuvenated. It's when the former right-handed relief pitcher receives letters from fans across the country asking him to autograph old baseball cards of himself.

"It really picks up in the spring when people go through copies of team media guides looking for club old-timers," Hartzell says. "That's when I get another surge of mail from people asking me to sign their card."

Hartzell hasn't been in a major league game since his career ended after pitching for the Milwaukee Brewers in 1984. The journeyman, who also played for the Baltimore Orioles, California Angels and Minnesota Twins, says he would not have had the chance to reach the big leagues if he relied solely on his statistics at Central Columbia High School or Lehigh University.

The weather in the northeastern United States isn't conducive to furthering one's baseball career, he says. Neither is the way baseball has set up its scouting system.

"There aren't as many people working for baseball today as there were twenty years ago and much less than forty years ago," says Hartzell, who graduated from Central Columbia in 1971 and Lehigh in 1974.

"These days, the scouts flood the areas where baseball is played year round. They seldom get into the northeast, where teams usually play only 30 games or so a year.

Hartzell claims he could have been the best college pitcher in Pennsylvania during his playing days and still might not have gotten a shot at the big time.

"Once I started playing in a summer league in Boulder (Colo.) against people from Arizona State, Texas, USC, Pepperdine and other 'baseball' schools, I showed I was as good as they were. I was better than a lot of them, but couldn't prove that at Lehigh," the former pitcher says. "I needed a great team behind me to be a great pitcher. That's what I got and was able to excel. I still hold the record at Boulder, where I went 13-2 one season."

Paul Hartzell in his playing days.

Overall, he was 32-2 in the summer of 1973, including 19-0 for a college team out of Baltimore, playing against some of the best players in the United States. Hartzell estimates 30 of them eventually made it to the major leagues.

His success caught the interest of the California Angels, who picked him in the eleventh round, the 140th selection overall, of the 1974 player draft. Hartzell went to the Arizona Instructional League that fall and played with the Angels' Class A Davenport, Iowa, entry in the Midwest League in 1975. One year later, he pitched well enough in spring training to make it to the big time.

Hartzell was with the Angels for three seasons, winning 21 games and losing 26, while posting his 12 career saves. Overall, he was 27-39 with a 3.90 earned run average, striking out 237 and walking 181.

His name became part of baseball trivia following the 1978 season. It's one-fourth of the answer to the question: Who did the Angels trade to Minnesota for seven-time batting champion Rod Carew? The reply: Hartzell, catcher Dave Engle, pitcher Brad Havens, and outfielder Ken Landreaux.

"I'm also the answer to another trivia question," Hartzell says proudly. He's one of a few pitchers to win two games in one day. With the Angels in 1977, he won both ends of a doubleheader against Texas.

Regardless, Hartzell's name is still mentioned in the same breath of a Hall of Famer's.

"I was but a small part of the trade. At the time, I was thought of as being a major part,"

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AND DANGEROUS

Mike Mussina's road to big leagues leads through Stanford University

by Brian Rippey

Mike Mussina's childhood dream was much like one shared by thousands of boys throughout the Susquehanna Valley. Ever since his days in the Montoursville Little League, Mussina wanted to be a major league baseball player.

But even when that dream was close to becoming a reality, Mussina brushed aside the amount of money that would tempt most 18-year-olds and decided to pursue a college education. Now that he is pitching in the big leagues, even the people who tried to lure him away from the classroom to the baseball diamond can't argue with the decision.

After finishing an outstanding career at Montoursville Area High School, Mussina was selected in the 11th round of the 1987 draft by the Baltimore Orioles, who offered the right-handed pitcher nearly $200,000 to sign a contract, but he decided to accept a full scholarship to attend Stanford University.

"I had always been geared to go to college," says Mussina, who also starred in football and basketball during his high school days. "The money was great and all that, but I was realistic in the fact that I could sign for that amount of money, but it's going to go away eventually."

So Mussina turned aside the Orioles' offer to accept a full scholarship to Stanford, a school that has gained a reputation as the Ivy League of the West.

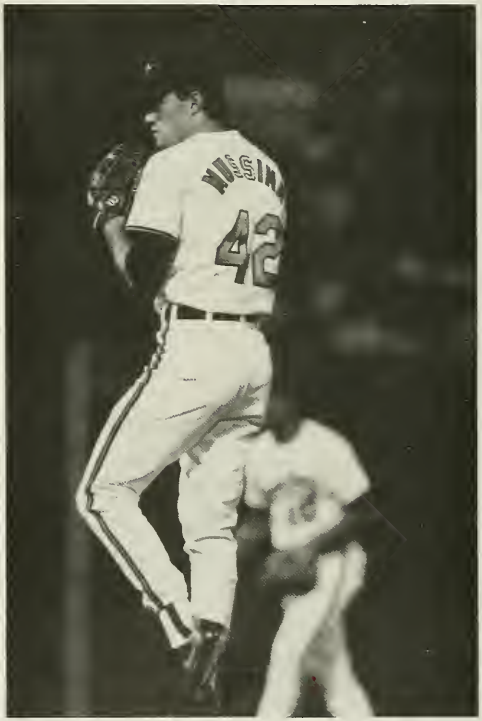
"At 18 years old, I thought it was in my best interest to go to college and mature a little more," Mussina said. "I was still going to be playing. I had good coaches and great talent to play with, so it wasn't like I was going out there to waste my time."

By turning down the large sum of money for college and making his parents happy, Mussina took the opposite route of Tom O'Malley, another Montoursville High graduate who made it to the big leagues. The San Francisco Giants picked O'Malley late in the 1979 draft out of high school. By the middle of the 1982 season, O'Malley, who now is playing baseball in Japan, was the starting third baseman for the Giants.

But Mussina followed the advice of his parents and his heart by deciding to attend college. Carter Giles, who coached O'Malley and Mussina during high school, says it was a family decision.

"Mike got a lot more attention than O'Malley got and they were offering him an awful lot of money at the end," says Giles, who has coached at Montoursville for 21 years. "I think Mike always had in the back of his mind to go to college. That was one of his priorities. He was a top of the line student."

The Orioles liked Mussina because they felt he was a top of the line athlete after leading Montoursville to a state championship in 1985 and a second-place finish in 1986. He also gained the attention of major league scouts by pitching a victory over Cuba in the Junior Olympics.



Baltimore Orioles pitcher Mike Mussina in action.

At Stanford, Mussina worked toward a degree in economics while continuing to refine his baseball skills. He helped Stanford win the 1988 College World Series championship by pitching the semifinal victory to complete a 9-4 freshman season.

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says the 38-year-old. Yet, the trade might not have come about without the help of another Hall of Famer, Don Drydale, a member of the Angels' broadcast team and good friend of Minnesota manager Gene Mauch.

Trade talk had begun before the end of the 1978 season, Hartzell says, but the deal wasn't cemented until after he turned in a good outing against the Twins.

"Toward the tail end of the season, I pitched in relief in Minnesota and threw five or six shutout innings and impressed Mauch," the former Bloomsburg resident says. "He and Drysdale went out after the game and the conversation got around to the trade and my name was mentioned.

"Drysdale told Mauch I had the makeup and personality for his team. He also said right-handed pitcher Chris Knapp, whom the Angels were offering, had walked from the team at the 1978 All-Star break, saying he wasn't being used right. The Twins then asked for me — that's how I wound up in the trade.'

He also ended up in the middle of the hunt for collectibles that people hope will be worth money some day.

"It was surprising when Carew was elected to the Hall of Fame I received a fair amount of mail," Hartzell says. "So much was attributed to collectibles, especially for guys who played a decade or two ago.

"The younger kids today don't know who we were, but they know Hartzell, Landreaux, Engle, and Havens were traded for a Hall of Famer and are looking for our autographs."

Unlike many current and former major leaguers, Hartzell says he never charges to sign his name for fans. But, he knows signing fees are a part of today's society.

"That's the overall aspect of the collectibles business," he says. "Autographs and memorabilia. have become expensive because there are people willing to pay to have them authentically provided.

> "Baseball has got to get itself in order. A salary cap and revenue sharing similar to the NBA have to be discussed."

"That's the big difference today. When I was with the Angels, we didn't sign any autographs. The batboys signed them. Now when you pay big dollars, you get authenticity."

Hartzell sees problems with the fledgling industry.

"What I see happening in the business end of things, dollars are being spent with the thoughts of things being worth something," says Hartzell, who works in the San-Francisco-based financial division for R.R. Donnelley, the world's largest printer. "Collectibles has become a barter business, but barter doesn't pay the electric bill. There has to be an exchange of money.

"If you're trying to run a business, whether it be baseball cards, widgets, or whatever, you have to find a marketplace for goods or services. I see a real depression if the value of cards of a lot of mediocre players goes down; eventually, you're going to run out of people willing to pay a lot of money for them."

Hartzell becomes a little nostalgic when talking about collecting trading cards.

"It's not the fun it used to be," he says. "When's the last time you saw a kid with a card in his bicycle spokes? I can remember

doing that an awful lot of times at my mom's house in Bloomsburg.

"Today, kids are hanging onto the cards, hoping that someday they have one worth $5 or so."

Money isn't everything as far as Hartzell is concerned, although he is worried about having funds available when he's able to start collecting his baseball pension in about seven years.

And, he doesn't complain about today's players earning multi-million dollar salaries.

"It doesn't bother me at all for a couple of reasons," he says, pointing out he made "about ten times as much as guys who played fifteen years before me."

The most he made was $118,000 in 1980 with Baltimore when he was 26. In 1960, the average minimum salary was $7,000 and the average was $16,000 per year.

"It's the same type of situation today with players making from $800,000 to $2 million. That's the way it is. Guys looked at me the way I look at players today," adds the son of Regina Hartzell, Lightstreet Road, Bloomsburg, and the late Paul Hartzell, a former automobile dealer.

The ex-pitcher talks another tune when it comes time to discus the game's overall financial situation.

"My biggest concern is related to my pension in baseball. I'm seven years away and I hope they get their financial situation resolved," he says. "The television contract is up for renewal next year and a lot of teams are going to be surprised at what that brings. The new contract will be about one-half of what the current contract is ($1 billion with CBS and ESPN).

"Baseball has got to get itself in order. A salary cap and revenue sharing similar to the NBA have to be discussed," the former player adds.

Ex-major-leaguer Paul Hartzell with his family, wife Andrei and daughters Brook, 14 and Blair, 8.

Hartzell, who lives in San Rafael, Calif., with his wife, Andrei, and daughters, Brook, 14, and Blair, 8, had been out of baseball until this spring.

No, he's not trying to make a professional comeback — he laughed at the suggestion years ago when the now-defunct Seniors League was started in Florida. He's the pitching coach for the Branson School, a private institution near his home. It's there where he will try to instill in the youngsters the finer points necessary to become better players — even major leaguers — while at the same time waiting for his next batch of mail to arrive. S

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The Orioles monito.ed Mussina's development through college. Team scout Ed Sprague, whose son played third base for Stanford and is now in the Toronto Blue Jays' organization, turned in glowing reports about the 6-foot-2-inch pitcher. When Mussina was eligible for the draft again in 1990, the Orioles selected him in the first round with the 20th pick overall.

"We were pleased that we had the opportunity to draft him again," Orioles General Manager Roland Hemond says. "In his case I would have to say it was a wise choice to go to college. He was a youngster who was suited for college and very capable academically."

Mussina concluded three years at Stanford with a career record of 25-12. He tied the school mark for victories in a season with 14 during his junior year in 1989.

The emergence of Mussina has helped Montoursville and Lycoming County gain credibility among scouts. Ed Ott, the starting catcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates 1979 World Championship team, attended nearby Muncy Area High School. Geoff Edsell, a recent Montoursville grad, turned down a professional offer to attend Old Dominion University.

"If we tell someone we have a decent kid playing, the scouts don't hesitate to come any more," Giles says.

Mussina began his professional career at Hagerstown, the Orioles Class AA affiliate, in July of 1990. Ironically, he made his professional debut at Williamsport's Bowman Field, the site of many of his high school triumphs less than 10 miles from his home.

"It was nerve-wracking my first game and having to pitch at home," Mussina recalls. "But I guess it worked out good because I got to pitch two innings and it got rained out."

By the end of the 1990 season, Mussina was pitching for the Orioles' Class AAA farm club in Rochester, N.Y., after compiling a 3-0 record in seven starts for Hagerstown. He pitched well enough in spring training last year to be named the opening-day starter for the Red Wings.

In between, Mussina, who like most other college players was a junior when he was drafted, went back to Stanford to obtain his degree. Because he took summer classes during his first three years at Stanford so he could be ready to sign a professional contract if one was offered, Mussina needed to complete just four courses during the fall of 1990 to graduate with his class in 1991.

Returning to school didn't slow Mussina's fast track to the major leagues. After getting off to a 10-4 start with the Red Wings, Mussina was promoted to the major league team and made his debut on Aug. 4 at the New Comiskey Park in Chicago. Although he lost 1-0 to the White Sox on a home run by Frank Thomas, Mussina impressed a lot of people with his 90-plus mph fastball that helped him limit the White Sox to one run and four hits in 7-2/3 innings.

Mussina is an Oriole on the way up.

"It was faster than I expected," Mussina says about his promotion to the major leagues. "I got started in Double-A. They wanted to start me in A ball or even lower than that because they were afraid I was jumping in over my head."

Among those who are not surprised to see Mussina progress to the big leagues so fast is Harold Albertson, longtime Danville Area High School and American Legion baseball coach. He says Mussina is the hardest-throwing pitcher he has seen in 23 years as a coach. In addition to throwing hard, Albertson noticed other traits that separated Mussina from the rest of the best high school hurlers.

"You knew he had a major-league arm the first time you ever laid eyes on him," Albertson says. "He has such fluid motion that he could throw hard so easily. Some of the others in the area had to work hard to throw hard. He just went out there and did it effortlessly."

With little effort, Mussina throws a fastball that has been clocked at 92 mph and mixes that with a sinker, slider, cut fastball, curve, and changeup.

"I try to use everything," Mussina says. "It's more difficult to hit when they have to think about more stuff to swing at."

That philosophy and menu of pitches seemed to work for Mussina during his first year with the Orioles. He compiled a 4-5 record with a 2.87 earned-run average in 12 starts, striking out 52 batters in 87-2/3 innings. More important than the statistics, Mussina proved he belongs in the big leagues.

"I think I showed the guys in Baltimore I could pitch there," Mussina says. "I think they were worried about asking too much from me too soon."

If any doubters remained, Mussina put those to rest this spring. Mussina opened the exhibition with 18 consecutive shutout innings before allowing his first two runs of spring training to the World Champion Minnesota Twins.

Hemond also likes more than just the numbers Mussina has posted during his short stint in the majors.

"Mussina has a lot of poise, mental toughness and he's a very intelligent young man," Hemond says. "He was consistent. We're looking forward to this coming season for him."

Mussina also is looking forward to the 1992 season, when the Orioles begin play in a new stadium, Oriole Park at Camden Yards. He has set goals of starting at least 30 games and winning about 15.

No matter if Mussina ever strikes out another big league hitter, he will always have his degree in economics. And with his bright future, coupled with the fact that 269 major leaguers will be paid at least $1 million this season, the knowledge he gained at Stanford could come in handy.

When his career is over, Mussina says he would like to settle down in Montoursville or a similar community and help other young athletes. He continues to monitor the success of his high school alma mater, particularly when his brother, Mark, was the quarterback for the Montoursville football squad that finished second in the state among Class AA teams in 1989.

"I want to coach, whether it's high school, college or whatever," Mussina says. "It doesn't necessarily have to be baseball. I like basketball a lot and I like football."

Montoursville continues to monitor the success of its major league pitcher. When Mussina pitches in Baltimore, he regularly issues 15 or more free passes to family and friends.

"It's kind of fun to look in the paper every night to see how he did," Giles says. S

> "You knew he had a major league arm the first time you ever laid eyes on him."

It's Not All Fun and Games

With proper guidance, sports can prepare youngsters for life's lessons

by Brian Rippey

The difference between winning and losing an athletic contest is often only a matter of inches. Youth sports coaches must walk an even finer line when they expose children to the rules of the games and prepare them to function in the highly competitive American society.

Competition also has its drawbacks and can lead to disorders, according to Dr. Martin A. Satz, a retired Bloomsburg University psychology professor. But he sees no other way for people to function in a free country.

"This is the mode of life, competition," says Dr. Satz. "Competition which causes individuals to work harder to maintain a reasonable position or come out ahead has its advantages."

Competition takes on all forms at an early age. Children play board games against each other, begin to participate in sports and take on each other in spelling bees. While competition is usually one-on-one, teamwork also can be instilled in children.

Athletically oriented children join sports programs, including Little League or the American Youth Soccer Organization as early as age 5. Others join the Cub Scouts or Brownies and work on projects together to compete against other dens.

"Cooperation in any society makes for survival," says Dr. Satz. "In the classroom, it has been found that if children can be part of teams where they work together toward solutions, they come out ahead."

That philosophy also is tested on the athletic field.

"In education, most schools include team sports as part of the children's experience," says Dr. Creighton J. Hale, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball . "It teaches discipline, respect, sportsmanship and team effort. Those are things that have been in education for years."

More than 2.5 million children in fifty-four countries will play in Little League this year. And while most youngsters will try to win league championships and dream of reaching the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, the primary goal of the coaches is to let the players have fun and learn to excel.

"All children need to have that experience, not necessarily in sports," says Hale. "But the idea that you have to work hard to succeed is very basic to the American way of life. I think more children should be exposed to that."

But Hale admits that some of the criticism aimed at Little League and other youth sports organizations may be warranted. Not every Little League manager and sports coach will teach the principles trying to be promoted by the organizations.

"It's beneficial if it's under the right kind of leadership," Hale says. "If there's too much emphasis on winning, of course, it may not be the proper thing at the age of 12 and under.

Berwick football coach George Curry gives instructions to one of his players.

We advocate that the younger kids have less intensity placed on winning and more on fun."

Coaches such as Myron Eckroth of Bloomsburg try to carry out that philosophy. Eckroth has coached Little League Baseball and Midget Football in Columbia County for nearly 30 years.

"I think most of the emphasis should be placed on learning," Eckroth says, pointing out, "I don't think we should ever forget that as a team we should be out there trying to win. But by the same token, I don't think we should go off the deep end."

Although Eckroth admits that he likes to win as much as anybody else, he focuses his attention on teaching fundamentals that will help the players improve in football and baseball. He also thinks young athletes learn more than how to hit home runs or score touchdowns.

"I think it can help them in the growing-up process, getting along with other kids and adults," Eckroth says. "If they develop an open mind here, they might have one in school for learning other things."

The learning process never stops, but the emphasis shifts more toward winning in high school. Berwick Area High School football coach George Curry, whose team won the PIAA Class AAA title in 1988 and was voted No. 1 in the nation by USA Today in 1983, says the media is primarily responsible for placing a heavy emphasis on winning at the high school level.

"The media hype it," says Curry, who points to newspaper and television polls along with live radio and TV coverage. "Everybody blames the high school athletes and the high school athletic programs for emphasis on sports. The TV and newspapers probably do the most. They hype it big time."

> "I think it can help them in the growing-up process, getting along with other kids and adults."

Curry and other coaches have found a way to turn the hype into something positive for their players. Because of the media exposure that comes with a high-profile winning sports program, many Berwick players have been able to obtain athletic scholarships, helping them achieve other goals in life.

"Our kids have handled it well because we talk about it," Curry says. "I don't only work with our kids on the field, but I work with them on a lot of these other aspects of athletics. When you're playing for a visible school, you're under the microscope."

The close scrutiny of the media and 5,000 or more fans can place a heavy burden on 16- to 18-year-old students. And when earning a college scholarship also is tied to performance, the pressure can become too much to handle.

"Coaches have to do more than just teach X's and O's," Curry says. "Coaches have to work with the person to deal with these pressures, the stresses and the strains."

A high school football player who learns to perform well under pressure takes a major step toward winning in the biggest game of all, life, Curry says. He proudly points out that graduates of his football program include engineers, teachers, entrepenuers, dentists, and even one millionaire.

"The work ethic I believe they learned in our program and the ability to deal with all those outside pressures have helped them become what they've become," Curry says.

But the pressure of striving to become a sports star has its negative sides. When children do not learn under the proper leadership,

they can become turned off by sports and perceive themselves as failures.

Dr. Satz, the first varsity golf coach at Bloomsburg University, says he has witnessed misguided advice not only from coaches, but from parents. He recalls a story in which an unnamed neighbor spent hours trying to turn his son into a pitcher, hollering at the boy each time when he failed to do things properly.

"I'm sure the son had certain limitations. Not everybody can do that," Dr. Satz says. "But I'm sure the father wanted to bask in the reflected glory of his son being a great pitcher. He may have thought he was doing the right thing by taking an attitude like 'I'm going to make something out of you."

Dr. Satz says parents should involve themselves in the competitive development of their children. But Dr. Satz, a 79-year-old father of four, says parents should give their children a chance to discover their strengths and encourage them to do their best. Unrealistic expectations, on the part of parents or the individual, can lead to problems, he says.

"Some can't take this and they fall by the wayside," Dr. Satz says. "They go to alcohol and take drugs, they [can] develop mental disorders. One thing we can do as parents is help our children realize they may not be able to make the football team or the basketball team, but they can shine in something else."

Even if people are unable to reach the top in the profession which best fits them, they don't need to feel ashamed.

> "Coaches have to work with the person to deal with the pressures, the stresses and the strains."

"We need to teach individuals that those who don't get to the top are not failures, they are successful to the point that they've reached. They are successful to a degree."

Although people have different ways of measuring success, whether it is keeping up with the Joneses or living a better life than their parents, it's usually a matter of competition, judging one standard against another. And although there are drawbacks, Dr. Satz says it is the best way.

"Whether we like it or not, competition is very much a way of life," Dr. Satz says. "But what we need is the right kind of attitude. A lot depends on one's own expectations." S


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Danville's Todd Jeffreys is Dishing It Out

by Jane Mehlbaum

Bowls, pitchers, and vases are typical household items we use without much consideration. But, at Todd Jeffreys' studio and gallery, Stoneware, in Danville, these everyday items are transformed from simple, ordinary objects, into unique works of art.

In business since 1984, Jeffreys, 37, first became interested in ceramics in high school. "I enjoyed it, but I never planned on doing it for a living," he says. It wasn't until he enrolled at Penn State that he began to take this craft and his talent seriously.

"I heard they had a great ceramics department, so I took beginning ceramics courses just for the heck of it," says Jeffreys, adding, "They had a nice facility and you could do anything you wanted."

Jeffreys says he never considered studying anything besides art in college, although he did have other interests, especially history. "I think people that create end up doing art whether they want to or not," he says.

Feeling burned out after college and in need of a job, Jeffreys began selling plastic pipe for a company his brother worked for. He drove a truck for about six months, then went into inside sales. "It was a good job, but I could tell I had to get back into ceramics," he says, adding, "I guess it gets into your blood and you have to do what you have to do."

Jeffreys eventually enrolled in a nondegree course at Bloomsburg University, and began studying ceramics with Karl Beamer who encouraged him to start his own studio.

After studying with Beamer, Jeffreys was unsure of exactly what he wanted to do. In an attempt to clear his mind he and a friend hiked the Appalachian Trail for six months. He then came back to Danville and, with the help and encouragement of his parents, opened Stoneware.

His parents bought a building, and with their help, Jeffreys fixed it up and moved some walls. With a huge, cement back porch, suitable for a kiln— the oven where the pieces are baked—the building was the perfect setting for a studio and gallery. His mother continues to help out in the gallery, doing paperwork, cleaning, and even selling. "She's a natural. She gets people in here, talks, and sells things. So I just leave her alone," says Jeffreys. "She does all the stuff I don't want to do, but I've been trying to do more of it."

With the support of his parents, breaking into a new business was not a great struggle, but Jeffreys admits he didn't make much money at first. "I've made money every year, but for the first few I didn't make very much."

Jeffreys also says that "yuppies" are his best customers, and he loves to see them come into the gallery. "They have the money, and maybe they just bought a house and they need pieces," he says. People from 25-50 years old are most of his customers, he says.

The prices of Jeffreys' works range from $9 for a mug to pieces that cost as much as $450. He also says the time involved in the production of the piece plays an important part in determining the price.

According to Jeffreys, functional pieces, such as mugs, pitchers, bowls, and lamps sell best. "I've never taken anything home because it didn't sell," he says, pointing out, "there are a lot of people looking for different things, it's amazing what sells."

Although most of his work consists primarily of functional pottery, Jeffreys likes to work in sculpture and admits that he is shocked by some of the things that people take out of the gallery.

During his time at Penn State, Jeffreys was influenced by Warren McKenzie, a potter who got ceramics booming in the United States. McKenzie visited the State College campus, giving Jeffreys the opportunity to study his technique first hand. "He's strictly functional pottery that's not very fancy," he says. Jeffreys admits that some of his favorite pieces in the Stoneware gallery are the ones he's created under McKenzie's influence, which might include just a simple pitcher.

photo by Jane Mehlbaum

Todd Jeffreys begins work on another creation in his studio/gallery, Stoneware.

Jeffreys is also influenced by Japanese potters, who are proud of their mistakes. "If they have a pot that comes out with a big crack in it, they say that's the part of the piece you should put out, so everybody can see it," he says.

A Japanese process that Jeffreys enjoys doing is raku, a quick process where you take the glazed piece out of the kiln at about 1,800 degrees, and smoke it. The result is a wild and abstract effect. Jeffreys says he spent about two years at Penn State doing only raku. "I'd go into the studio at midnight and just raku until three or four in the morning," says Jeffreys, adding, "it's a real neat thing to take a piece and have it finished so quick."

However, Jeffreys admits that over the years he has gotten quicker at his craft. When he first started he could only make six mugs an hour; now he can make up to twenty. He also says it takes him only five minutes to make a simple bowl or vase.

Jeffreys says it can be difficult to see certain pieces leave the gallery. "When you make a piece, put it out, and somebody buys it the first day, you kind of feel like nobody else is going to get to see it," he says, pointing out, "I figure I can make it again if I have to, but it's not that easy."

Whether functional or far-fetched, patrons of Stoneware walk out with a one-of-a-kind work of art. S

CHEAP THRILL$

As people tighten their belts to survive tough economic times, one of the first places they cut corners is on entertainment. Expensive vacations may not fit in your budget, but you can still have a lot of fun close to home. With imagination, planning, and an openness to different ideas, a variety of inexpensive choices is available on your door step. Hang onto your hat. Cheap thrills are on the way.

by Margaret Gustus

MUSIC

Music soothes the savage beast and entertains the rest of the world. A variety of rather inexpensive musical choices exists in this area.

Many taverns in the area have live entertainment. Depending on your taste, you have choices from Rock and Roll to Country and Western and just about everything in between. Also, some bars have amateur night. Every Wednesday night is amateur night at the Jerseytown Tavern where anyone can perform. It's a lot of fun for both the entertainers and the audience. For more details, call the Jerseytown Tavern at 437-2251.

Ekaterina Maximova and Vladimir Vasiliev, stars of the Bolshoi Ballet, recent performers for BU's Celebrity Artist Series.

A way to enjoy professional cultural events is by joining the Celebrity Artist Series, which brings various orchestras, musical companies and other professionals to the area each year. More information can be obtained by contacting Celebrity Artist Series at 389-4409.

Bloomsburg University often uses free concerts to exhibit the work of students and university personnel alike. The concerts cover various styles of instrumental and vocal groups. For more information, call Bloomsburg University at 389-4284.

Another area to look into for both music and theatre is your local high schools' concerts and plays. These performances are frequently very good, and you probably know some of the kids. Contact your local high school for more information.

ART

Art galleries are hard to find in the area, but not impossible. The Haas Gallery in Mitrani Hall on Bloomsburg University campus has a variety of exciting exhibitions throughout the year. For more information, call the university at 389-4646.

An unlikely place to look for an art exhibit would be in a hospital, but both Bloomsburg Hospital and Berwick Hospital have art exhibits in some of the public hallways. Call the Bloomsburg Hospital at 387-2100 and the Berwick Hospital at 759-5000 for information on the artist being currently featured.

Many times area banks have art work by local artists displayed in the lobbies. Check out your bank for more information.

Local high schools often have art shows as a way of spotlighting up and coming talent. Contact your local school district for information.

THEATRE

Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE), in downtown Bloomsurg, brings professional theatre to our area. BTE offers a variety of productions throughout the year. The cost of a ticket is less than that of a comparable play on Broadway.

To make theatre even more accessible to as much of the community as possible, BTE has a "Pay what you can" production for some of its plays. With this plan, one night of the production has no set admission fee. You are invited to enjoy the play for whatever admission fee you can afford. BTE also has reduced rates for senior citizens, students and group sales.

Another way to enjoy BTE at no cost is to volunteer your skills and talents. There are volunteer positions available for every facet of theatre. By volunteering your services, you get to meet new people, learn new skills, and can see the regular productions at no cost. In a play like "The Christmas Carol" that needs many children in the production, volunteering is often a family affair with the children appearing in the play and the parents

offering their time backstage. For more information, call BTE box office at 784-5530.

Another place to see good theatre is at Bloomsburg University. The productions are also of high quality, quite enjoyable, and rather inexpensive. Who knows, you just may see a future movie star while you are at it. For more information, call the Bloomsburg University theatre department at 389-4287.

Don't overlook your local high school. What the production may possibly lack in professionalism is usually made up in enthusiasm. Contact your local high school for information.

Although not truly theatre, the Comedy Club brings theatrical flair with its comedy routines every Wednesday night at 24 West in Bloomsburg. For more information, call Magee's Main Street Inn at 784-3200.

HISTORICAL AREAS

Throughout Columbia and Montour counties are numerous covered bridges—25 to be exact. The most famous of them are the twin bridges of East and West Paden. Incidentally, they are the only twin covered bridges in the United States. They are on Huntington Creek, just east of Forks, off Route 487. The original roads through these bridges have been bypassed and the bridges now serve as picnic pavilions in a well-kept county park. Most of the other bridges are still used for general traffic. To get a complete map pinpointing the exact locations, stop at the Columbia-Montour Tourist Promotion Agency at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Route 487 near the village of Lightstreet. Among the many other pamphlets, brochures, and maps of Pennsylvania, you can get the covered bridge map.

Tours of the Pioneer Coal Mine in Ashland help people better understand local history.

If you like following the trail of history, another place to visit is the museum run by the Columbia County Historical Society. It's in the old Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Orangeville. The museum contains local articles including kitchen items, furniture, clothing, quilts, and more. There is even an old piano. Besides the historical artifacts, there is a lot of information relating to genealogy, which makes sense since the building also houses the Columbia County Genealogy Society. The museum is open April through October. For more information, call 683-6011.

Another look into the past is the Pioneer Coal Mine, just off Route 61 in Ashland. This is a restored coal mine with coal miners acting as tour guides. As you go 1,800 feet deep into the Mahanoy Mountain in open mine cars, you learn the story of anthracite coal mining.

There is also a steam locomotive ride around the outside of the mountain that shows old strip mining operations and an old "bootleg" coal hole. The Museum of Anthracite Mining is nearby. Here you can learn more about the technology of coal mining through exhibits and displays of tools, machinery, equipment and photographs. There is a playground and picnic area adjacent to the museum and coal mine. Bring a sweater if you plan on going inside the mine as the temperature averages 50 degrees. The Pioneer Coal Mine is open daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and other times throughout the year. For more information, call 875-3850.

PP&L PRESERVE

If you like to walk on the wild side, the two nature preserves operated by PP&L may be the place to go. The Montour Preserve is four miles northeast of Washingtonville in conjunction with the Montour Steam Electric Station. It has picnic areas, hiking trails, natural and cultural history study areas, including a multi-sensory Braille Trail for the sight impaired. Two observation buildings are situated within a 148 acre refuge and are available for wildlife study and photography. For more information about the Montour Preserve, call 437-3131 and ask to be put on the mailing list. You will receive seasonal newsletters listing the activities.

The Susquehanna Riverlands and the Wetlands Nature Area are five miles north of Berwick in conjunction with Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. The Riverlands area has picnic pavilions, volleyball courts, ball fields, hiking trails, fishing, and nature and recreation programs presented by a resident naturalist. The Wetlands area is a protected environment for plants and animals. Bus tours are available to tour the perimeter of the nuclear plant, too. For more information, call 542-2306 and ask to be put on the quarterly mailing list.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

There is a variety of outdoor activities in and around Columbia and Montour counties. Just outside of Elysburg is Knoebels, a free admission amusement park that has activities going on from April through October. Besides the rides, swimming, food and entertainment of the park, there is also family camping available. Knoebels offers "hand-stamps" at special rates that could make a day at the park inexpensive. For more information, call Knoebels at 672-2572.

A festival that is quite unique is Benton's Frontier Days Celebration held in July. Besides the musical entertainment and good food, there is an American Rodeo Association-sanctioned competition and hot air balloon races. There is just a lot of fun to be had. For more information, watch your local newspaper.

Danville is celebrating its Bicentennial this summer with many activities including a Grand Parade and Street Festival in August. For more information, call Danville Revitalization at 275-2430.

Unless you live under one of the covered bridges, you are familiar with the numerous activities associated with the Bloomsburg Fair, Sept. 26 to Oct. 3. However, the fairgrounds is host to many other activities throughout the year. There are horse shows, antique shows, a national tractor-pull, 4-wheel off-road jamboree, a Civil War show, and other activities. Almost every month something different is scheduled. For more information, call the box office at 784-4949.

A great festival that is held at Knoebels in October is the Covered Bridge Arts and Crafts

photo by Brian Rippey

Ganoga Falls at Ricketts Glen

Festival. Spend a weekend during peak autumn foliage to enjoy great food, crafts, antiques, carriage rides, and the general good mood of a festival. There are also bus tours of many of the covered bridges available.

The various town parks offer a lot of entertainment. For example, Bloomburg Town Park has tennis, basketball, and street hockey courts. It has fields for soccer and baseball. There are picnic pavilions, general recreation areas, and a fitness trail. Throughout the year, there are activities such as the Cake and Ice Cream Social, a fishing derby, and fairs held by various social groups in Blooms-burg. Check out your local town park. Lists of activities are frequently posted there and may also be advertised in local newspapers.

DOWNTOWN AREAS

The downtown areas of Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville all have a variety of entertainment throughout the year. The activities include car shows, concerts, flower shows, teen dances, antique shows, and arts & crafts shows. The downtowns have at least one street fair scheduled. The street fairs usually have entertainment, food, arts & crafts, and other activities. For more information, watch for schedules in the local newspaper.

Another facility usually located in downtown areas are the public libraries. Besides books, most libraries have classic and current video cassettes available. There are often children's story time, and various exhibits of local and national events. Check out your local library.

STATE PARKS

Within a one hour drive of Bloomsburg are three state parks easily worth the travel time. Each has many activities to choose from and at least one unique feature.

Hickory Run State Park in Carbon County near White Haven is one of the larger state parks, covering 15,500 acres. One of the outstanding features is Boulder Field. This large area, probably pre-glacial in origin, is where boulders were deposited in a thick layer prohibiting trees from growing through. Boulder Field is part of the Pennsylvania Trail of Geology, and is also on the Registry of Natural Landmarks. Also at the park are 36 hiking trails, 14 miles of snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails, picnic facilities, a lake for swimming and fishing, and primitive and modern family camping areas, and group camping areas. There are also interpretive and campfire programs led by a naturalist that consist of slide shows, movies, nature hikes and historical and geological lectures. For more information, call Hickory Run State Park at 443-9991.

Ricketts Glen State Park, near Benton and covering 13,050 acres, is one of the most scenic parks in Pennsylvania. The Glens Natural Area, a national landmark, includes a rugged, three-mile hike following the beautiful waterfalls. Along the trail, you will see 22 falls including the 94-foot Ganoga Falls. Also at Rickets Glen is swimming, fishing, picnicking, 20 hiking trails, five miles of horseback riding trails, and 22 miles of snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails. There is group camping and primitive and modern family camping. Ten family cabins are also available; reservations are necessary. Boating on Lake Jean and Mountain Spring Lake is allowed for all qualified non-powered or electric motored boats; boat rentals are available. There are also interpretive programs led by a naturalist that include slide shows, movies, and nature hikes. For more information, call Ricketts Glen State Park at 477-5675.

Shikellamy State Park and Marina is near Sunbury. The Shikellamy Overlook was once an Indian lookout where all traffic on the Susquehanna River could be observed. There are picnic facilities, hiking trails, and a great view. The Marina is a boaters' paradise. There are boat rentals and mooring and launching facilities. All qualified boats, including unlimited horsepower motors, are allowed. Water skiing is also permitted. There is an Environmental Education Center with various ongoing programs. If you are planning to use the picnic facilities, be sure to bring something to feed the ducks — "crackers for the quackers," you might say. For more information, call Shikellamy State Park at 286-7880.

VOLUNTEER

Usually when thinking of having fun, many people think of doing something that is just entertainment. But why not have fun and feel good about yourself, too. Volunteer your time to one of the many organizations that's looking for help. You can volunteer special skills—for example, your painting skills—to Habitat for Humanity. You can share things that give you pleasure; for example, if you have a rather friendly dog, you can check with a nearby home for the elderly and take your dog for a visit. There are many organizations which need volunteers desperately. Your help could make the difference in many lives. Think of an organization that interests you and then give it a call. The number is in the telephone book.

Life is too short not to have a good time. Call some friends, or gather the family and get out there and have some fun. After all, fun is where you find it. S

photo by Marlyse Heaps

Shooting deer—on film—is also a popular and relatively inexpensive hobby for local residents.

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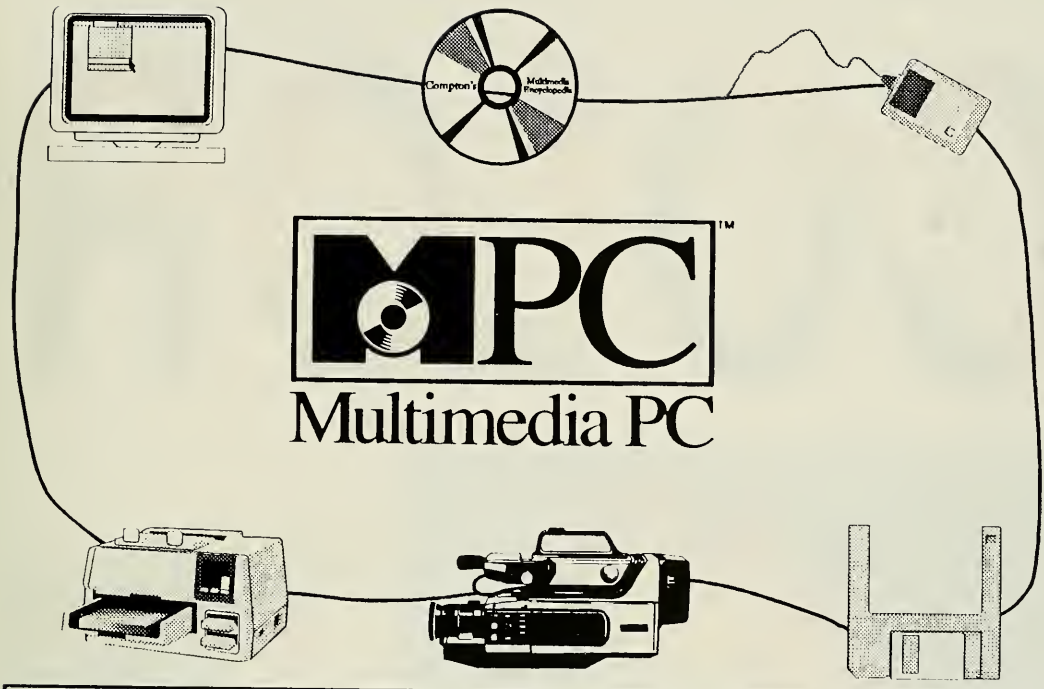

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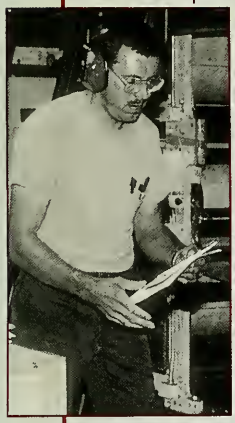

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About the Cover
Guy Martineau is getting high from jumping down. Photo by Bruce Strong

BEHIND THE LINES

One of the foundations of our republic is that most of the work of governmental bodies must be done in the open, that the people have a right to know what their government is doing and why. Usually, public officials understand this and are willing to give the public access to matters of public record, as defined by state and federal law, by innumerable court cases that test the law, and by the Constitution itself. Occasionally, we find that we must take a little extra time to secure such records.

Such was the case on one of our stories. It all began with a simple request to Bloomsburg High School for a date of graduation of one of the subjects for one of our stories. Such information is a matter of public record, as defined by several Pennsylvania court cases as well as specific court interpretations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, also known as the Buckley Amendment. Further, by Pennsylvania law, "every public record of an agency shall, at reasonable times, be open for examination and inspection by any citizen." [Pennsylvania Statutes, annotated, Title 65, sections 66.2] Merely requestinq such information during working hours is all that is required.

We did not ask for any confidential information, such as grades or disciplinary actions, only for what is a matter of public record, and only for a small part of what is available. The principal refused our request, even after we politely provided specific legal citations. He then said he would contact the subject to see if it was all right to release such information. At that time we had no reason to believe the subject would refuse to authorize release of the information. However, we again informed the principal that by law we believed he had no choice but to release such information, even if the subject refused.

We then contacted a member of the school board who is an attorney, and learned that he didn't see any problem in releasing such information. That afternoon, we contacted the superintendent, and again renewed our request for information clearly in the public record. By now, we had additional information from both the Student Press Law Center and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) supporting our request. The superintendent and principal again stated that their interpretations—they acknowledged they weren't trained in law—were different from ours, and they wouldn't release such information without permission of the former student.

Later that aftemoon, we contacted Bob Lystad an attorney with Baker & Hostetler (Washington, D.C.), legal counsel for the Society of Professional Journalists. Through SPJ, a strongly-worded letter was sent to the school district informing them of their responsibilties and the public's established right to know such information, and that, if necessary, *Spectrum* would pursue whatever actions were necessary to assure compliance to the law.

In the meantime, the school contacted our subject. Our subject, who had previously been most cordial and cooperative with our reporter, now yelled at her, tnreatened to sue us, claimed we were damaging his reputation, demanded the article be pulled from the magazine, then hung up. He called back ten minutes later, and spoke to the editor-in-chief, again threatened suit and demanded the article be pulled. In a lengthy conversation, the editor-in-chief explained the nature of a simple request, that there was no attempt to conduct a thorough investigation, and that it is a responsibility of the media to assure fairness and accuracy. He also said that the magazine would not kill the story.

The subject called the office of the president of Bloomsburg University, said he wanted "all the dirt" on our editor-in-chief, that he was going to send letters to all the University students and staff, and that he would sue the University if the article ever appeared. This, of course,

(continued p. 43)

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Gift-Giving

It's not always what it's wrapped up to be

In this season of gift-giving, unsuspecting Americans may find it is not always "the thought that counts."

Of course, not giving or refusing a gift is an insult in many cultures. But, violating another culture's gift-giving rules regarding its appropriateness and the manner in which it is given and received can also lead to embarrassing situations.

Sometimes, meanings are attached to certain gifts that can spell trouble for uninformed Americans. For example, do not give clocks to the Chinese; their word for clock has a morbid, deathly connotation to it. Offering a knife or other item with a sharp edge suggests the "cutting" of a relationship among Latin Americans and can symbolize suicide in Japan. A handkerchief suggests tears or parting in the Middle East. Any pictures of partially unclothed females (even of famous statues) or of pets, like dogs who are considered "dirty and lowly," are also inappropriate gifts in the Middle East.

Give two of something to someone from Hong Kong; it carries better luck than a single item. Be careful not to give four of anything to the Japanese or Koreans. Like the number 13 in the United States, 4 is their "bad luck" number.

Although the Japanese customarily wrap gifts in paper, it cannot be white, the color of death. Also, they never use brightly colored paper or bows.

Flowers, often selected for hostesses, visitors or romantic interests, are laden with symbolism. White flowers symbolize death in Japan, as do lilies in the United States and white chrysanthemums in many European countries. In Mexico and Brazil, purple flowers are the "flowers of death" and in France, carnations are believed to bring bad luck.

Strong romantic interests are implied by giving red roses in Germany. But beware, giving red roses to a man's wife in Germany is comparable to offering her provocative undergarments.

Because it is bad luck to present an even number of flowers in many European countries, be sure to always present an odd number–except, of course, 13.

To question the appropriateness of a specific gift, you can call the Cultural Attaché Officer at the embassy of the nation involved. You are better safe than sorry when inquiring if your intended gift will carry any unpleasant connotations.

–STACY TASSONE

For more information consult Do's and Taboos of Hosting International Visitors, by Roger E. Axtell (1990)

MONEY

Endangered Species

Many species of animals are classified as endangered in the effort to preserve them from disappearing altogether. But, there is an endangered *specie* that has escaped the notice of most of the media and environmental groups.

The 50-cent piece is seen less and less in general circulation. "We see one or two a week and that's about it," says Dan Garrison, Burger King manager, Bloomsburg. "I don't think I've seen one recently," adds Ward Ritter, of Ritter Office Supply, Bloomsburg.

However, that *specie* is still popular according to the numbers being produced. "There were 30 million half-dollar coins minted in 1991," says Hamilton Dix, spokeswoman for the United States Mint, Washington, D.C. "The coins are produced to meet demand" she adds.

So, why are they so rarely seen in the general circulation, banks, or retail stores?

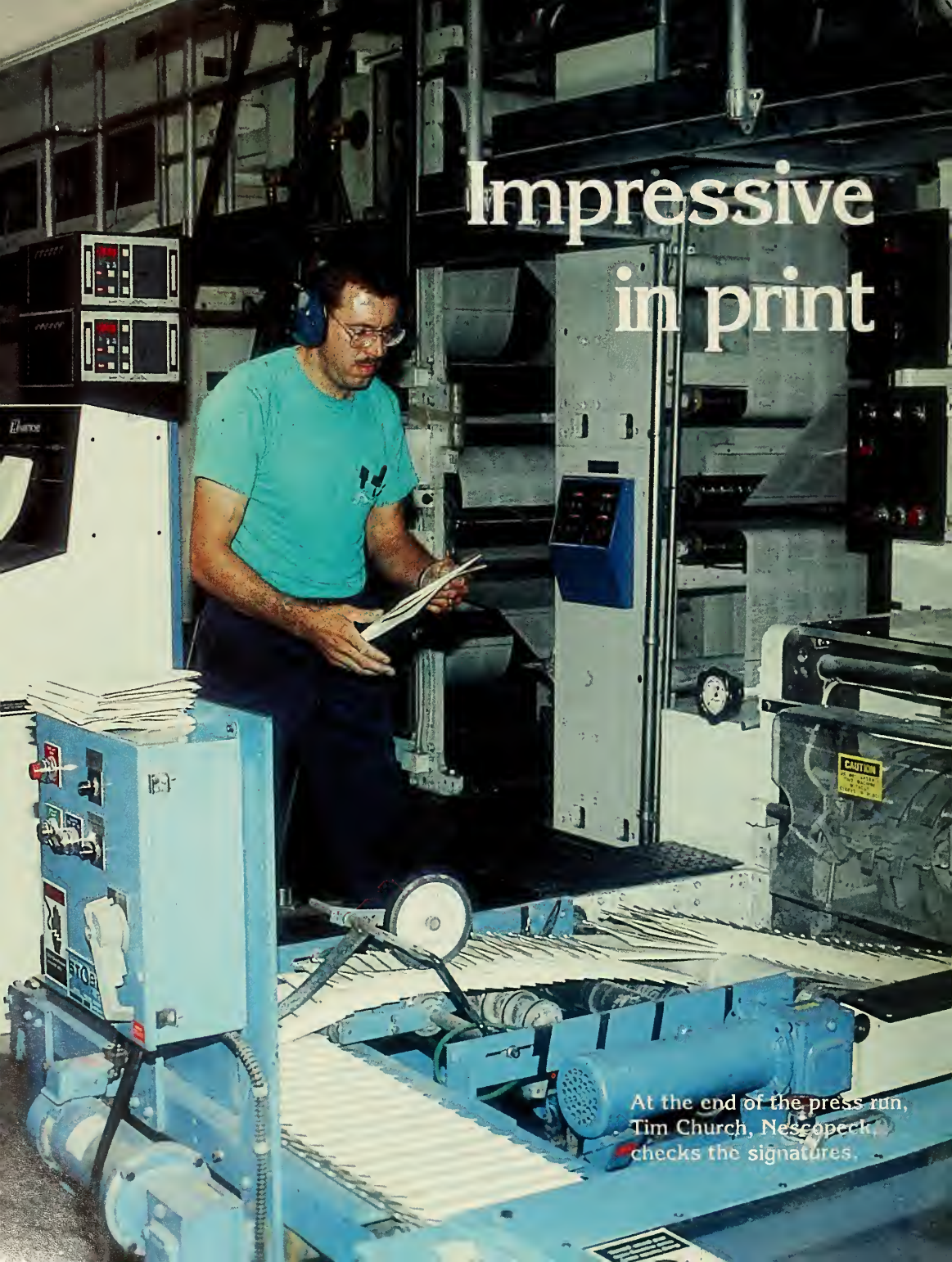
"We have no problem getting them," says Jan Girton, executive vice president of Columbia County Farmers National Bank. "They are just not a popular coin," Girton says, "they are too bulky and don't fit into any vending machines." Russell Lewis, of Russell's Restaurant, Bloomsburg, thinks that "people don't carry them because they're too big." Joe Finn, owner of Finn's News Agency, 9 E. Main St., Bloomsburg, agrees. However, Finn says his business usually sees $20-$30 per week in 50-cent coins, adding "people that do ask for them are usually collecting them or saving them for their grandchildren."

The half-dollar coin was created by an Act of Congress in 1794 and changed little in appearance until 1964 when it went from 90 percent silver content to 40 percent.

So this particular *specie* is not endangered at all. It appears to have simply changed habitats. From banks and stores, it has moved to the homes of collectors or grandparents and found a new shelter in children's piggy banks.

–NEIL DOLAN

Impressive in print



At the end of the press run, Tim Church, Nescopeck, checks the signatures.

by Carol Crane

Workers at Bloomsburg Craftsmen print millions of books read by millions of Americans. Yet, there is one story they will never get to print—and that's their own.

It's the secret behind many best-sellers, including works by Stephen King, James Michener, and James Herriott. Its workers have printed several Watergate books under the cloak of secrecy. It is an industry giant in the highly competitive field of book printing and binding, yet is largely unknown in its Columbia County home.

Bloomsburg Craftsmen is almost inconspicuous, tucked behind Old Berwick Road in South Centre Township. But every day, for six days a week, and sometimes seven, 165 employees synchronize their energies with those of the machines inside the plant to print up to 180,000 hardback and paperback books over a 24-hour period.

"Few people have any idea of what we're doing," says Dan Morrison, bindery superintendent. "With the name, some even think that we make tools."

The types of books printed at the Bloomsburg plant range from computer-instruction manuals to current best-sellers to reprints of classics by masters, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald. Among the recent best-sellers printed in Bloomsburg were Ross Perot's *United We Stand* and Magic Johnson's *My Life*. But the biggest runs are James Michener's *Chesapeake*, with 900,000 copies, James Herriot's *Every Living Thing*, with 750,000, and first runs of Stephen King's titles, with 450,000 copies—"and you know with King that you'll get reprints and reprints," Morrison says.

The list of customers who patronize the Bloomsburg plant reads like a "Who's Who" in the publishing industry. Harper Collins, Random House, St. Martins, and W. W. Norton are among the many publishing houses that look to local workers to produce a flawless finished product within a specific time frame.

Morrison, a mild-mannered ex-Marine, possesses an acute awareness of the needs of his workers as well as the demands of Bloomsburg Craftsmen's customers. "I enjoy the industry," he says. "You're not doing the same book every day." Morrison began his career at the plant as a maintenance man almost 20 years ago. Since then, he has worked in almost every section of the facility. Inside his no-frills office, an entire wall is lined with shelves which display books that have come off the Bloomsburg Craftsmen presses.

In 1964, when Bloomsburg Craftsmen opened for business, the plant operated with two sheet-fed printing presses. Today, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment in the industry, the plant is computerized and has extended its printing capabilities to include six web printing presses.

However, it's the dedication and preciseness of Morrison and the other employees of Bloomsburg Craftsmen that give the company a competitive edge in a very crowded market.

It's also knowing the meaning of the word "deadline" that keeps Bloomsburg Craftsmen in business. According to Robert Ciero, plant manager, the secret behind the local company's success is, "We give the customer the book when they want it." To the publishers, the biggest asset, in addition to quality and price, is service, which means producing books faster than anyone else. Moreover, Bloomsburg Craftsmen's location is ideal—far enough from New York to guarantee lower costs while running a unionized operation, but still accessible to major shipping routes.

The process of getting a manuscript to the press begins in the plant's Pre-

Negatives for about 13,000 books are stored at Bloomsburg Craftsmen for publishers who hope that sales will justify second printings.

Production Quality Control department where staff check all specifications from the publisher, and assign a production cycle.

A copy of each page of the book is placed under a camera which produces a negative with 32-pages spread across it. From there, the workers transfer the negatives to aluminum plates, using a high-intensity lamp to "burn" the image onto the metal.

The job is next assigned to a specific printing press and proofs are given to the publisher for final approval. The plates are put onto presses. The printed signatures (usually a group of 32 pages) are compressed into bundles which may be

Doug McHenry, Nescopeck, a camera operator, checks the quality of photographs.

shipped to a plant in Scranton to be hardbound or remain at the Bloomsburg plant to be paperbound. Finally, the books are shipped to warehouses, and from there to bookstores.

If publishers are running their companies with fewer people, trying to avoid labor-consuming rush periods by planning production all year long, they de-

Checking page negatives in the Craftsmen's Opticopy Room is Robert Weaver, Jerseytown.

mand increasing quality and service. Morrison explains that the ever-changing publishing patterns have affected their own business. "Publishers now print fewer of the same title and look for fast turn around on reprints if a book sells well," he says. As a result, "we don't really know what's going to come in for printing, even one week before," he says.

Although publishers expect security to be maintained on their books until publication date—which may be several months after the books are printed—

Frank Shultz, Bloomsburg, prepares aluminum plates for the press.

Dan Morrison (second from left), Bloomsburg, looks over finished books with Dave Diltz (left), Mifflinville; Russell Creasy, Bloomsburg; and Randy Whitebread (right), Wapwallopen.

sometimes extra security is needed. One best-seller that exploded off the Bloomsburg Craftsmen's presses—but nobody at the plant, including Morrison himself, knew until the very last day the real title behind *Untitled X*, was Oliver North's *Under Fire*.

Nevertheless, while hard financial times have had an adverse effect on many industries, Morrison reports that the Bloomsburg printing plant continues to prosper because more and more people are realizing that reading is one of the thriftiest venues of entertainment available. Last year's totals are a testament to that. In 1991, Bloomsburg Craftsmen filled 4,833 orders, resulting in the printing and binding of 40 million books.

Many American businesses have found out the hard way that prosperity cannot be taken for granted, particularly in northeastern Pennsylvania. Morrison says that Bloomsburg Craftsmen is aware of the worst-case scenarios and for that reason, the company will continue to rely on the relationship of workers and machine to produce perfect products. S

Photos by
Joanie Helfer and
Marlyse Heaps

Doing away with obstacles

Compliance with ADA regulations will take time, money, and tolerance

by Patricia Peron

Joann Farrell has been a Bloomsburg University employee for 31 years. Last June, her husband, David, entered her office for the first time, using the ramp and a special wheelchair elevator that now allow physically disabled people to have access to the Ben Franklin building, where Joann's office is located.

"I was as excited as he was," Farrell says. "Can you imagine, after all this time, David was finally able to see where I work."

David Farrell is one among the many disabled people for whom changes in Bloomsburg and all over the country are not coming too early, but are coming anyway, thanks to a federal act whose impact on small communities draws signs of relief but also raises controversies.

Effective January 1992, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability in the private sector, in state and local governments, and in public transportations, is opening doors for 43 million Americans who have had many reasons to complain about inequality of opportunity and access in everyday life. Echoing and enforcing the Rehabilitation Acts of 1973 and 1977, the ADA goes further since it mandates equality of opportunity whether or not federal fundings are available.

With $2 million worth of handicapped facilities improvements, including curb cuts alterations, elevators, power doors, and a ramp, Bloomsburg University shows that complying with the ADA has been necessary and possible but not always easy. "The oldest buildings have proved to be the most difficult to accommodate," says Dr. Robert Parrish, vice-president of administration. The ramp built near Ben Franklin was also complicated and expensive, but because of the area, it was the only way of linking the campus' three geographical levels, says Parrish. The University is now assessing six different telephone locations for the hearing-impaired (TDD system.)

Prior to the ADA regulations, a few improvements, such as curb cuts, were made on the campus, but Parrish explains that the University was always short of funds. Today, the University benefits from state appropriations. However, Parrish adds that another half-million dollars will be necessary to guarantee access to every program, the University's next goal. Although Parrish says it's hard to assess how many individuals will be able to study or work on the campus, he believes those changes were necessary. "If it's only one person, that will be alright

The new access ramp at Bloomsburg University makes visiting wife Joann at work possible for David Farrell.

photo by Joanie Helfer

anyway."

For Gerry Depo, Bloomsburg town administrator, the ADA is likely to be one of the most significant acts for the Bloomsburg community. However, Depo admits that it's also one for which support appears to be hard to get.

Depo was a strong supporter of the elevator which led to major alterations last year in town hall and has raised quite a few questions. "It was one of our attempts to comply with the Act," he says, explaining that the elevator now entitles anyone to full and easy access to the whole building. But for a small town like Bloomsburg, the $200,000 cost for the elevator has been hard to justify. Since no special funding was allotted to the project — and it's unlikely that any specific federal fund will be earmarked to help local governments comply with ADA regulations — other projects had to be postponed.

If nobody ever argued on the need for the elevator, concerns were expressed as how and when alterations should take place. For instance, it was suggested to postpone the project for two more years in order to get appropriate budget allocations; some persons believed that the elevator may even have been unnecessary since almost any visitor could be helped on the first floor.

Nevertheless, like Depo, Town council member Florence Thompson is convinced that the elevator was not only important for the building but also the most reasonable step in the long term. Installing a movable chair on the stairs was the temporary alternative suggested during council meetings, but as Thompson says, "it didn't make any sense at all." Thompson explains that such a device would have cost money, would not have facilitated access but on the contrary, created major headaches, requesting somebody to help a disabled visitor in and out their wheelchair for instance. Moreover, Thompson says the advantages brought about by the elevator are numerous. In particular, it enables a disabled individual —and that's her case — to work in the building facilities as independently as possible, which is one of the ADA requirements.

Town hall improvements are only part of the town's projects to cope with ADA requirements. An elevator is also considered for the library's new addition and 17 handicapped parking spaces are being designed, which will not be made possible without a few headaches since handicapped parking space usually takes two regular spaces. Public restrooms at Town Park and Bloomsburg Swimming Pool are also scheduled for modifications in 1993. The next step for the town is larger street-crossing signs. "I'd like to see "chippers" [audio messages that sound like birds] in Bloomsburg but they are way too expensive," Thompson says. Thompson and Depo's point of view is that such improvements, if they respond to specific ADA regulations, will benefit the community. "It's a financial burden for the town," Thompson says, "but if you want to have a municipality that keeps growing and competing with malls, you have to accommodate people with disabilities."

> "If you want to have a municipality that keeps growing and competing with malls, you have to accommodate people with disabilities."

Responding to critics who say Bloomsburg is facing a financial burden today because alterations were not enforced yesterday, Depo insists that the town administration undertook some of these projects prior to the ADA enactment—the elevator was planned in 1988—with a view to "better accommodate people with disabilities." He says that since 1986 the town has put curb cuts wherever possible, and is now making an effort to eventually have every intersection properly accommodated.

Carol Kile, Bloomsburg, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, does not share Depo's opinion about full accessibility. Last September, she fell from her motorized cart while trying to negotiate a curb, and complained that the town was not complying with access rules fast enough. "People don't realize how hard it is to live with an impairment until they have it," she says. "Bloomsburg is an example that things are not changing quickly enough." Kile moved from Williamsport last August to be closer to her family but today, she says she regrets that decision.

"She has a point," Depo says, "but that accident was unfortunate and anyway, those projects are extremely costly and require some planning." According to Depo, since there are no specific allocations for them, those improvements can only be met over a few years. Depo says they will be met by the January 1995 official deadline.

Shelley Shenyo-Baum, Downtown

Manager at the Bloomsburg Chamber of Commerce, says the 32 members of her association don't have the same problems and are already in full compliance with ADA requirements. "The local retail businesses have made a lot of renovations over the past eight years to accommodate disabled people," she says.

Once again, Kile doesn't share the same feelings, complaining that most of the businesses downtown don't provide her with enough access and force her into mail-order shopping. Even the mall proves difficult for her since she needs somebody to assist her with the main door.

Shenyo-Baum mentions Cole's Hardware, which has a ramp in all its locations. She also explains that most of the downtown businesses don't have steps up into their premises. For her, part of Bloomsburg's ability to foresee those requirements is explained by Harry Magee's influence. Magee was paralyzed in an accident. "He lobbied a lot of businesses in town to make those alterations," she says. But she also acknowledges that this January 1995 deadline is not so hard to meet for small businesses. Indeed, the ADA requirements specify physical alterations but "in a reasonable and affordable limit." In many cases, the alterations will be widening a doorway or lowering doorknobs and will cause little or no financial burden at all. Very few businesses will have to rebuild their elevator shaft to accommodate wheelchairs as is Magee Main Street Inn's case. Moreover, most of local retail businesses have less than 15 employees, and are not concerned by the act's employment provisions [prohibiting discrimination against qualified disabled individuals.]

For his part, Edward G. Edwards, executive vice-president of the Chamber, says that he hasn't seen a larger company in the area "come to me and say that they can't comply." Nevertheless, he says that as the deadline draws nearer, "we might face some problems." Edwards and Shenyo-Baum are concerned that alterations will be dealt with too late and will create unnecessary financial shortfalls. "Because of the recession, everybody has been trying to chew on ADA regulations instead of slowly putting things in compliance," she says. She adds that it will take a test in court to finally push those improvements, and the ADA now allows it.

All agree that the first and most important effort has to come from the whole community. "Right now, the ADA is policed by ADA people themselves," Shenyo-Baum says. Kile could not agree more, as she explains that her husband had to paint a parking space blue to make sure she has it reserved. Depo says that the town doesn't have enough people to deal with the problems, let alone the budgets. "There's a majority of people who think that the sums invested are excessive," he comments. He says those improvements will help the whole population, especially senior citizens, and therefore, should be better accepted.

Acceptance and awareness are the Act's key-words. "Disabled people are not brain-drained," says Kile, who used to be a psychiatric nurse. Indeed, a person suffering from diabetes or in remission from cancer is, according to the law, a disabled person. "I want to make myself known," Kile says, "and that's what ADA is all about." Peggy Vitale, Facility Director for Suncom Industries agrees. "It's society that makes the handicap sometimes," she explains. "Most disabled people don't see themselves as such."

Suncom, a non-profit organization, has been providing mentally and physically disabled people with rehabilitation and training services for 15 years in Bloomsburg, and yet their activities are hardly known. Their three-year-old Community Integrated Employment Program, which has helped place individuals in companies like Weis Markets, will undoubtedly benefit from the ADA provisions on job advancement and responsibility.

Twenty-three-year-old Ruby Crane, Bloomsburg, would like to get a job outside the center. "I have a lot of qualifications that people don't have," she says. However, for Crane, the problem is to be accepted and also, to be able to go to her workplace every day. Yet, with minimal public transportations available—only senior citizens get partially refunded when they use the local cab company—Crane will have a hard time fighting for her independence.

"Going to the bank, driving one's car, those are things we take for granted," says Vitale. But for Farrell, Kile and Crane, this is not so easy. And for them, changes will never come to soon. **S**

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Where quality service comes FIRST

Bloomsburg's Bite of the Big Apple

The Arcus Brothers' big city selling tactics may be intimidating, but they get the job done

by Patricia Peron

The Arcus Brothers could promise the moon to their customers and sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo—if an Eskimo ever decided to do business with them.

At the corner of East and Third streets in Bloomsburg, the dusty microcosm of a department store is not quite like Neiman Marcus in Houston, but it is one of the area's most fascinating commercial institutions, attracting many customers and repulsing others.

As largely advertised by the black and yellow wooden billboards that give the store its unique New Yorkish character and infuriate town officials, the Arcuses' family business has thrived since their grandfather started it in 1919.

Their paternal grandfather is the brothers' favorite role model. "He was born in Russia but historical events forced him to move to the United States," Michael Arcus says. Their grandfather settled in northeastern Pennsylvania, where he had some relatives. "As far back as he could remember, they had always been in business there," Stephen Arcus adds.

The brothers entered the family business in 1971, at the store's first location on Center Street. After a few years on Main Street, the store was moved to its present location in 1975. The grandfather's store was originally a clothing outlet, and to keep up with the tradition, Michael and Steve Arcus still have clothes on sale.

"We'll never stop selling clothes," Michael says, "so that we can advertise that the Arcuses have been in business since 1919."

A quick tour of the store and anybody would presume that apart from a few tie-dye T-shirts scattered along the shop window and some nylon ties left unnoticed in a box by the counter, there's hardly a trace of clothes. But ask Michael about clothes and he'll take you "backstage," where rows of clothes in every style, shape, size, and condition have been waiting for prospective customers for years.

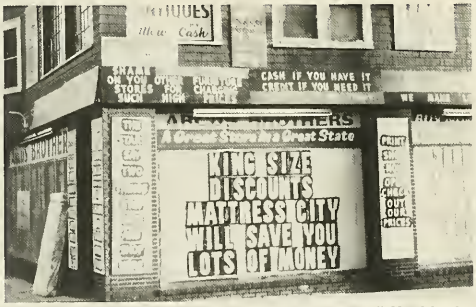


photo by Brandi Mankiewicz

Bric-a-brac is what best describes the Arcus Brothers' store, and one of the numerous sign boards that pave the way through it claims they sell more than 1,800 different items. From tooth-whitening paste to mattresses to stereo systems, there's enough to delight the hardest-to-please customers. "We know everything that's in the store," Steve says.

It's hard to tell if the fascination that wraps you up comes from their personalities or from the store itself, a unique retail operation that has the mixture of an Egyptian bazaar, New York's Little Curiosity Shop, the general store of 19th century America, and today's department stores.

Have a look at their sales literature and you'll learn that the store is a furniture outlet, a stereo center, and an X-rated video movie club.

We stopped renting other movies because most of the time, we were not getting them back, and anyway, they were not working as well as the porn ones," Michael says. Of course, he refuses to give any names, but claims that the list of club members, some of whom come to the store for that sole purpose, covers the area's social spectrum. "And you would be surprised," he adds, "students are not the only ones to come from the University."

Forty-two-year-old Michael Arcus is more cheerful and more outgoing than brother Steve, 17 months his junior, who willingly lets him lead the tour of the store. He approaches business less seriously, although it's clear that business will always be a serious matter for the Arcuses.

"Where else could you find an Amish waterbed?" Michael jokes, explaining that since the Amish don't use electric-

ity, he doesn't have to sell them a heater with the bed and can make more money. He claims that he has sold a few waterbeds to Amish people. The marketing humor of the Arcuses is shrewd, down-to-earth, and right-to-the-point.

"The store is not a museum," Michael says. "People are just here to get the best deal and we're not here to run a non-profit organization," Steve adds. They claim their prices are the best around because they don't believe in investing in glitter and fancy decoration. "Our grandfather used to say that if you had time to dust the store, you didn't have time for business," Michael says.

Michael Arcus

Larry Smith, Bloomsburg police chief, is one of their regular customers for stereo equipment. "They've been in the practice for years and as long as I'm satisfied with them, I'll keep coming back," he says. "The town has even purchased material from their store."

Mara Synnevedst, a 21-year-old Bloomsburg University student, was attracted by the Arcuses' prices when she was shopping for a compact disc player. "I finally decided to go to the Arcuses' because they had the best prices." Nevertheless, she admits that she didn't like their high-pressure sales tactics. "They kept talking and used the 'come back later tactic' assuring me that they would match the price if I found a better deal elsewhere," she recalls.

Synnevedst, like many other customers, has heard that part of the "Treasure Island" stock was of questionable origins. A number of times, local law enforcement agencies have recovered stolen property at the store. However, Lt. Deborah Barnes, assistant chief of the Bloomsburg University Police, says she doesn't believe the Arcuses had any knowledge the goods were stolen when they bought them (for resale). Smith says he "had no file" of any convictions for the Arcus Brothers.

They were charged twice in 1978 of receiving stolen property, but the charges were dropped. However, in 1983, they were convicted of possessing and trying to distribute drug paraphernalia, for which Steve was sentenced to one-year accelerated rehabilitation disposition and Michael to six-month probation. In 1977, Michael was sentenced to 179 days in jail, for defrauding the government and selling counterfeited gold coins. He served time in Allenwood federal prison. Michael says that he didn't know the collection of coins he had bought for $10,000 was counterfeited. "Although I was innocent, I chose to plead guilty because it was the easiest way out," he says. "I didn't have any money to pay for an attorney, and at least I had a vacation."

With a smile, Michael says he wishes the rumors about selling stolen property were true since he "wouldn't have to pay for it." What's true however, is that some of the stock is not new but is reconditioned. "We don't lie about it and we warn the customers," he claims.

"Helping students" and keeping good relations with the University is the Arcuses's motto. Their latest contribution to student lifestyles is a series of deck chairs printed with the Bloomsburg Huskies emblem. "We want them to know that we like Bloomsburg University and that we support them," Michael explains.

Although they have faithful customers among the students, many people claim they won't step into the store. Thomas Kresch, assistant director in the resident's life office at the university and a former BU student, says that he "heard rumors about the Arcuses" when he was a student and has seen "students over the years that had bought things from the store and were not satisfied." He also says that for his part, he will never buy anything there. "There are other places where I would prefer to shop at," he says.

For many, the way the two brothers do business is completely against what they believe is the "proper" way for businessmen to operate. But, the Arcuses, with their aggressive marketing philosophy and their high-pressure sales tactics, are not much different from business owners in urban areas, especially New York City — and far more tame than most of them.

Michael Arcus also believes that anti-Semitism may be behind the refusal of some persons to visit the store. "We also have an awful lot of area residents," Michael says, "but some people will never come to our store just because we're Jewish." Their store's front was vandalized by juveniles last spring, with some of the billboards spray-painted and covered by swastikas. "I really don't think those vandals knew what they were doing," Smith says about the incident. He adds that the Arcuses even wrote a letter to ask for the dismissal of the case in court. Michael says that he and Steve never asked to be refunded for the damage.

photos by Curvin Huber

Steve Arcus

Although Michael argued at that time that "it was not a personal attack," he says that "there's always been a lot of animosity against the Jewish people and that's a never-ending situation that is spreading to small towns like Bloomsburg."

Michael and Steve Arcus don't consider that their oversized billboard proclaiming, "we're damn proud to be Jewish merchants" is a provocative statement for a small conservative community. "It's our trademark," Michael justifies, "if some people won't buy from our store because of that, that's their problem, not ours." Michael emphasizes his Jewish background but also explains that he attends synagogue only on special occasions; Steve says he's an Orthodox Jew. However, he works every Saturday at the store. "There's nobody else to do the job and Saturday is the busiest day," Michael says. "Nobody will take his place and I need him to open the store when I'm sick." Their store will always come first for the Arcuses.

Although he dropped out of Bloomsburg High School when he was a senior in 1969, Michael expresses no shame about it. "I dropped out of school because I had learned everything I needed to know to run the business," he says. He adds that when he thinks of school, he remembers all the years he wasted. For him, the purpose of education is just to find a good job and to make a lot of money. "You should be allowed to learn only the things that will be necessary to do that job," he says. Nevertheless, and because his girlfriend challenged him, Michael managed to get his G.E.D in 1977, when in federal prison. Steve graduated from Bloomsburg High School in 1970.

Michael's advertising style is inimitable. "Shop and compare and compare what you are getting for your hard-earned money," advises one of the ads he regularly sends to newspapers. The style matches the billboards that have covered the stores since 1967. It's a curious yet fascinating blend of loose Bible connotations, practical advice, large scale economics, and surrealist mercantile poetry.

Obviously, such an aggressive marketing presence, with those huge billboards on their store fronts, doesn't please town officials who have tried, in vain, to have the Arcuses remove them. "We've had a number of complaints about those boards," says Gerry Depo, Bloomsburg town administrator. He says the town has filed several times with the court but there's nothing they can do to remedy the existing situation. Once in a while, a new board springs up in an obscure place and the zoning commission is called upon to intervene. Depo says the Arcuses never agree to take out a permit which is required for commercial advertising. "They claim it's free speech, but it's truly commercial in our view." "It's our building and we do whatever we want with it," Michael boasts. Depo says his name appeared on their boards quite a few times in retaliation.

It's not a secret in town, the Arcuses don't socialize with local officials and certainly don't approve of government regulations. Michael goes as far as to say that "some people around here should get a psychological examination every year."

The same animosity seems to characterize the brothers' stormy relationship with the Bloomsburg Chamber of Commerce. "We once were members," Steve

says, "but we didn't like what they were doing so we decided to leave them with their problems." The brothers left the association in 1972, after having been convicted twice of Blue Laws violations for selling on Sundays. They claim they never got the support they expected from the Chamber. Shelley Shenyo-Baum, downtown manager at the Chamber, says "there is no way to classify them or their store, which is a bit peculiar in a town like Bloomsburg." She also says that nothing is ever said about the Arcuses during meetings with the local businesses. "They've been here so long that everybody is used to them," she explains.

According to Michael and Steve Arcus, their business doesn't suffer from a lack of popularity. "We're not afraid of the competition from WalMart or from the Columbia Mall," Michael says, boasting, "last year was our best year and we're right on board this year."

Business seems to be hereditary in the Arcus family and Shawn, the fourth-generation heir, is no exception. The oldest of Steve's seven children, 18-year-old Shawn has been the owner of "Shawn's Trading Post" for two years. It's Michael who wanted Shawn to have a "taste of business" before he started college. But ultimately, "it was my responsibility to make the store successful," Shawn says. He says he's been making substantial profits.

Shawn's a freshman at Bloomsburg University, undecided about a major but determined to run a store "as a hobby, never as a career." He confides that the two brothers had better "buy a gigantic crane and move their store to New York City, where it belongs." But that would not entice him into working with them. "They would drive me crazy," he smiles.

When they think of retiring, it's only with a knowing smile on their faces. "One of my sons will keep up the business," Steve plans. Michael, who is not married, says he will raise animals, his second passion after the store. He says that the Arcuses will be in business till the end of time. "Steve will be a businessman in Heaven, and I'll have a store in Hell," he jokes. "Guess who will be the most successful." **S**

Blocking THE ROAD TO Progress

Historic concerns delay Danville bridge replacements, economic growth to coal region

by Brian and Gail Rippey

Ever since the days a four-lane highway that would link Interstate 80 at Danville to Interstate 81 near Minersville was proposed, landowners and businessmen south of Danville have felt slighted, cheated and just plain angry.

Back in the mid-1960s, residents of Danville and nearby communities stirred up enough controversy to keep the Federal Highway Administration from building a portion of its "Lakes-to-Sea" interstate highway connecting system through the Susquehanna Valley.

It didn't seem to matter that people living south of Danville in Northumberland and Schuylkill counties were willing to give up their properties for the sake of improving access to and from the anthracite region—those in and around Danville didn't feel so benevolent.

That was the first blow dealt to those living in isolated coal country. Nearly 30 years later, a few Danville property owners are still setting up roadblocks.

Concerned about preserving the borough's historical district, some West Market Street homeowners are delaying replacement of the antiquated and dilapidated Danville-Riverside Bridge, a narrow structure that can barely accommodate two tractor-trailers going in opposite directions at the same time.

Hardly a day goes by that at one time or another the bridge, estimated to be used by more than 16,000 vehicles daily, isn't congested with Route 54 traffic.

Little has been done to ease the traffic tie-ups or replace the 88-year-old steel structure since the state Department of Transportation targeted its replacement in 1983.

Despite PennDOT's (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation) coming up with a plan that would route traffic under the historic district, through a tunnel and then to the bridge at the end of Factory Street, the preservationists won't budge on their desire to have PennDOT bypass Danville altogether.

"We feel the traffic would be better suited if it were up across the (Danville) state hospital lands, and out back across the river to Route 54 out there," says Dr. Michael E. Ryan, speaking for himself and about 20 others who live in the historic district.

But Russ Campbell, PennDOT's bridge project manager, says building a bypass around Danville, which carries a price tag of about $150 million, wouldn't solve the problem, but would merely create another one — what to do with the existing bridge.

"The department has maintained the position that we are going to replace the existing bridge," Campbell says. "We are going to replace it with either a new bridge at the Mill Street location, which is at about the same place as the existing bridge, or at the Factory Street location about 200 feet or so downstream from the existing bridge."

Campbell adds that the majority of people concerned, being not only Danville and Riverside residents but also business, industry, and community leaders, favor the Factory Street alignment off of Continental Boulevard to keep trucks out of downtown.

Ryan, however, says that's been PennDOT's plan all along. "We've felt like PennDOT officials have been looking at this in a biased fashion, and it was their choice all along."

Regardless of where it will be built, Campbell says construction of a replacement bridge, estimated to cost about $10 million, should have begun in 1987 or 1988.

Ed Myslewicz, PennDOT's community relations coordinator, admits dilemmas like the one in Danville are rare.

"This is the last [old] remaining major river bridge crossing the Susquehanna," says Myslewicz.

Campbell says PennDOT is neither mini-

mizing the need for a new bridge nor is it being soft on the opposition. The department is required by law, he says, to follow a step-by-step procedure to address problems that may be caused by a replacement project.

PennDOT recently completed an environmental impact study that details the effects a new bridge would have on the historic district.

Like previous studies PennDOT has undertaken concerning the bridge project, Ryan says the environmental impact study is "incredibly biased."

Ryan says that a bridge at Factory Street is going to have a major effect on the properties there. "It's already having an adverse impact. The prices of houses are not what they should be. Houses aren't selling on our street just because of the mere threat of the bridge," the historical district resident says.

"The reason it's having that adverse effect is because it (the bridge at Factory Street) is going to result in increased traffic, increased pollution and increased noise on our street. Basically, PennDOT's decision has been to preserve the downtown section—the business section—at the expense of the historic district," Ryan adds.

Campbell acknowledges the old bridge creates a traffic bottleneck in both downtown Danville and Riverside, and it hinders motorists who must use it as their means to get to Interstates 80 or 81.

"There is real concern with the region south of Danville that if the bridge were to close, it could affect the movement of goods and services to them from Interstate 80," the PennDOT official says.

> "Every group under the sun is for the Factory Street alignment except one."

State Rep. Robert E. Belfanti Jr., D-107 of Mount Carmel, couldn't agree more. For the past 10 years, Belfanti has been lobbying community and business leaders up and down Routes 54 and 901 to help him get the roads improved so there would be a good link between the interstates.

He was successful in getting legislation to authorize the road improvements and in obtaining funding for them.

And he's not the least bit happy about the bridge replacement delays. Trying to pitch sell his district, which includes Danville, to prospective industries as the place they should locate "isn't easy when you can't show them easy access routes," Belfanti says.

"If not the first, then tied for first in the decision of a new industry to locate is the accessibility to major highways, and the time it takes to get to them. We have the Shamokin Industrial Park, which is between Elysburg and Paxinos. Traffic leav-

photo by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Aerial view of the Danville-Riverside Bridge, with proposed site indicated by arrow.

ing that park is either heading to Route 80 or 81. Traffic going to 81 moves quite smoothly," the politician adds.

"But traffic that would normally go to Interstate 80 still has Route 54 to contend with, still has that bridge, still needs to go down through Mill Street, and then through two or three red lights to get to 80. So it makes some industry pause before locating in that industrial park."

Jack Donaldson, manager of Paper Magic Group plants in both Danville and Elysburg, says there's no doubt the old bridge causes transportation problems for industry.

"The Danville bridge has been a bottleneck," Donaldson adds. "It has caused delays in bringing over products from our plant in Elysburg, getting products that we store here in Danville down to Elysburg, and of course, having our truckers in and out to make deliveries. It hasn't been any major problem, but it has delayed things, up to a half hour or 45 minutes sometimes."

Paper Magic employs about 700 workers who make greeting cards and decorative gift boxes.

Belfanti says the Danville-Riverside bridge is a significant barrier to development and economic growth in the coal region.

"It's really a combination of the bridge and Route 54," Belfanti notes. "But if we improve Route 54 and that bridge is not replaced, all we have done is eased access to a bottleneck. It needs to be both."

PennDOT has tentatively set construction of the replacement bridge to begin in 1994 and to be completed in fall 1996. Meanwhile, it recently spent more than $1 million making repairs to strengthen the bridge so it wouldn't need weight limits. Putting the bridge in good shape would cost about $8 million more, Campbell says.

Myslewicz says PennDOT is aware that people south of Danville are pushing for the bridge construction to get started as soon as possible.

Belfanti says, "every group under the sun is for the Factory Street alignment except one. And that one has thrown a number of monkey wrenches into the project over the years.

"This bridge should have been built at the same time the Catawissa bridge was built [1984]," he adds. "If it was not for the state

Historical and Museum Commission, or whatever other angles the group could think of—I do credit their tenacity for holding this thing up as long as they have — the bridge would be there."

Much has been done to placate the objectors, Belfanti says. PennDOT has re-engineered the project so the historic properties would not have to be razed. Instead, concrete steel and acoustical insulation would be put on the foundations of the homes to reduce vibration.

Making those accommodations won't solve the traffic problem, Ryan says. "...We think this is just another part of the 80-81 connector route and that it's just going to result in a lot more truck traffic and increased car traffic through Danville."

But Belfanti says the increased traffic is already there, and the road improvements will only make it flow better.

Jim King, director of Northumberland County's Industrial Development Authority, says replacement of the Danville bridge is of strong concern to everybody who looks beyond themselves and at the bigger picture in terms of economic development.

"In fact, I'd say it's the number one issue," he adds.

King says a new bridge is not only important to spurring development in the eastern end of Northumberland County, it also is vital to keeping businesses already here.

"From a Northumberland County standpoint, we're concerned about the Merck Pharmaceutical plant in Riverside. That's 550 of some of the best jobs in Northumberland County and if there is a load limit placed on that bridge, or if that bridge falls into the river, it will increase all of Merck's transportation costs, because then their trucks have to detour all the way to Catawissa in the north or down to Sunbury in the south to cross the river," King says.

Ryan agrees that a new bridge is needed, but he's not sure where it belongs — he only knows where it doesn't belong.

And despite fighting an uphill battle, Ryan says the group remains steadfast in its efforts to get a bypass, which, he adds, PennDOT proposed back in the days of the "Lakes-to-Sea" route hearings.

"We haven't given up yet, although it's certainly late in the game," Ryan says. **S**

They free-fall into the air and spring back up in search of a natural high

Imagine falling through the air from a 225-foot height, your life hanging by a cord. The air rushes past your limbs and you're tossed about like a rag doll, at a speed of 60 miles an hour. Suddenly, you're jerked back upwards as your cord recoils. Now you're rushing back up toward the sky. Once you reach maximum height, it starts again. Welcome to the world of bungee jumping.

Bungee jumping is one of the many adventure sports that are popular throughout the world today. In Mexico, it's cliff-diving; in Europe, it's sky-diving; in the United States, thousands of daredevils are leaping from cranes, bridges, hot air balloons, and towers, with a cord attached around an ankle or about the waist, to experience unique sensations.

It isn't a new sport. Bungee jumping was once practiced as a harvest ritual on Vanatua, a small island chain in the South Pacific. In the ritual, men jumped from towers made of sapling trunks with vines tied to their ankles.

Yet, that mystical, ominous aura surrounding bungee isn't known of by many jumpers. And for the majority, physical sensations are all what they're looking for. "It's the adrenaline rush," says Mark Elliott, an 18-year old freshman at Bloomsburg University. "Bungee gives you a natural high," he says.

(Continued p. 26)

story by Brandi Mankiewicz and Patricia Peron

photos by Marlyse Heaps and Joanie Helfer

Elliott's first experience, a 175-foot jump from a construction crane near Philadelphia, was thrilling enough to be repeated; the second time, it was from a 225-foot high crane platform in Wildwood, N.J. Although impressive, Elliott's performance is not an unusual one in bungee jumping. Last October, several dozens of bungee jumping addicts gathered in California to jump from a 250-foot high bridge.

Challenge is at the basis of bungee. For the Vanatuan precursors, jumping was a test of manhood as well as a celebration. For Elliott, jumping may be "stupid or crazy," but it's also "a big accomplishment that makes you feel better." As for Jim Knepp, Lancaster, who jumped from a 185-foot high crane platform in York last September, "it's one of those things you have to try once, just to say you did it."

Indeed, for that "adrenaline rush," jumpers would try anything, and sometimes risk their lives. Pennsylvania has been lucky so far since it has had no serious accidents related to bungee jumping. Nationwide, the National Safety Council has reported only one bungee-related injury requiring emergency room treatment per 400,000 jumps. Nevertheless, two deaths and 11 injuries, all caused by human errors, have been the price to pay for bungee jumping in the United States since 1991. And sometimes, the error could have been easily avoided. One recent death occurred because, despite all the precautions he had taken, the jumper forgot to check if his cord was attached to the tower. It wasn't, and his heroic leap into the air was fatal.

> "Despite all the precautions he had taken, the jumper forgot to check if his cord was attached to the tower."

Knepp, a manager with a fire security systems company in Lancaster, knew that when it comes to risking one's life, safety is not a luxury. "On the way up to the platform, I made the operator double-check my cord," he recalls.

If dangerous, bungee jumping may also be illegal. Before enacting extremely strict safety regulations, Florida suspended bungee jumping. Jumping from a bridge or from a crane is illegal in most of the states, including Pennsylvania. As it appears, Elliott and Knepp not only defied the gods, they also defied the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Amusement Ride code, under which bungee jumping is regulated, at least until a specific code is enacted.

Jumping from a crane or from a bridge is prohibited because in most situations, "the heights involved are too high to allow for safety and good performance jumps," as Dana Brown, of the North American Bungee Association, Park City, Utah, explains. Surprised to learn that jumping from a hot air balloon is still allowed in Pennsylvania, he says, "the higher you jump from, the longer your cord is, and the harder it gets to control your performance without injuries."

In fact, danger and the violation of law are intertwined, Brown notes. "As bridge jumping is illegal, it's done at night," he says, adding that the operations are conducted without "strict procedures and safety guidelines."

As final safety precautions are taken, Rich Zaler, Middleburg, realizes this is his last chance to turn back.

States like New Jersey require that the jumpers be weighed before they jump so as to select the right cord. However, that correlation between height and weight is too often neglected, according to Brown.

Meanwhile, what's never neglected by the operators are the release forms minors are required to have with them in Pennsylvania and other states, and the contracts adults have to sign to absolve the operators of all responsibilities in case of death or injury.

> "Once in the air, I first wanted to grab something. Anything."

The cost to jump is $5 - $60, with the average price usually $45 - $55. Bungee jumping has become big business. Although California and Colorado are leading the way in the number of licensed and unlicensed operators, northeastern Pennsylvania has its share of business, with a hot air balloon operation every Wednesday at Broad Acres Farm, near Muncy.

"I wouldn't jump from a crane or a bridge but I'll try again anytime from a balloon," says 14-year-old Elizabeth Estes, Williamsport. "I wasn't really afraid." Estes has already jumped twice, at 150 feet, just like her mother, 39-year-old Penny Estes. "It was an incredible rush, something hard to explain to somebody who has never tried it," the mother says, adding that what one of her friends once said after jumping—"Man, gravity

really doesn't mess around"—was the closest you could get to the truth.

Yet, Penny Estes admits that she waited almost two years before she decided to try, and only did it when she saw her daughter jump. "I tried at 150 feet and I could control my fear, but I don't think I could go any higher," she says.

One of the options offered by hot air balloon bungee jumping is the different heights you can jump from, depending on your mood—or your courage. "It takes an eternity to jump from 150 feet, so imagine how long it lasts when you try at 300 feet," Estes comments. 25-year-old Clete Miller, a graphics salesman from Bloomsburg, shares the same feelings. "Once in the air, I first wanted to grab something. Anything." Nevertheless, he says that the sensations are so special that he wants to try from higher, possibly from 300 and, why not, 600 feet. "I'll try as high as I can, just because bungee jumping is much cheaper than sky-diving," he says. Jumping from a hot air balloon at the Muncy's balloon festival last October cost Miller $95, tee-shirt and videotape included. Sky-diving's average price for one jump is $200, according to Miller.

Braving one's fears is not that easy, and common sense should be the primary factor in the decision to jump, according to Knepp. "Once on the 185-foot platform, the height suddenly materialized and I really got scared," he says, adding that in his case, being up there was really stupid because he's afraid of heights. "I don't think that many people could jump from a crane anyway," he says. "It really defies logic and it doesn't seem to be a smart thing to do."

"It's only a few seconds, but it feels like minutes."

photo by Bruce Strong

If done properly, with attendants, mats, and special padded cords, bungee jumping can be safe, even if scary.

If Elliott isn't usually afraid of heights, (he also sky-dives and cliff-dives,) he admits that the same fear invaded him once on the platform. "I tried not to think that I might die," he says.

Anyway, for Elliott, the sensations he had prevailed over his fright. "As soon as you jump, you free fall for the descent," he explains. "It's only a few seconds, but it feels like minutes," he adds. When the cord is fully stretched, you have "hit bottom" and now, you're hurled upward in the recoil. "It's a different feeling from the descent," Elliott says, but it's still "a rush." You recoil about five times, and then you're finally let down. "That's when the blood rushes to your head," he says, "and it feels great."

An 18-year-old healthy, and physically well-trained male daredevil, Elliott fits the portrait of the typical bungee jumper. A portrait that doesn't seem to include the "average individual" for whom bungee is a high-risk activity. "That's a false image that the media like to convey," Brown complains. For Brown, bungee jumping is accessible to almost anyone, "from the housewife to the construction worker to the dentist."

The view from above can be spectacular if you dare to keep your eyes open.

Citing a study made in New Zealand, where bungee jumping is very popular, Brown asserts that "jumping provides a very exhilarating sensation that accelerates the heart rate in a very acceptable range." In other words, the only thing that should keep you away from bungee jumping are the risks involved by those impressive heights.

Moreover, "bungee jumping can be practiced at much lower heights, with safety at its best," Brown says, explaining that devices especially designed for bungee jumping are now attracting a whole different range of people, from ages 12 to 55. Such devices are bungee towers, and the major world manufacturer happens to be Air Boingo, Brown's employer.

Air Boingo has sold 21 towers since it started its business in 1991. It is now the nation's largest manufacturer of bungee towers.

Bungee towers naturally find their places in amusement parks, Air Boingo's main customers. Depending on its jump capability, a 70-foot, fully equipped tower is priced at $185,000 - $200,000, a price which includes a three-day management training period and a two-week training session for the employees on site before it's open to the public. The closest Air Boingo tower is at Vermont Valley, N.J.

Safety is for Brown the leading factor in bungee towers' successes. Under 18, jumpers have to be accompanied by one parent, and adults have to sign a liability-release form. Air-cushions and bumper pads, wrapped around the cord itself, are meant to prevent neck and back injuries during the recoil, while the six different cord sizes allow for jumpers weighing 40 - 280 pounds . Each cord is destroyed after 300 jumps, while usual tests allow a tolerance of up to 2,000. However, most bungee operations provide the same safety equipment today. What really works in favor of the tower is the securing presence of a gigantic mattress at the bottom of the tower.

Come rain or come shine, regardless of winds under 35 miles an hour, these towers can operate from 0 degree Fahrenheit, a limit hot air balloons operations are far from reaching. Open from March to October, Broad Acres Farm's weekly operations are likely to be cancelled without a notice if the weather doesn't cooperate.

For Brown, those towers open an extremely wide — and profitable — market, promoting the idea of affordable, family-oriented fun rather than a dangerous activity. At Action Park, California, it costs $20 to enter the tower, and an additional $5 fee per jump. According to Brown, 10 to 15 per cent of the revenues, to which most facilities add tee-shirt and gadget sales, will pay for insurance premiums.

Those towers are also a gold mine for business seminars, during which bungee jumping will work as a tool to help participants build self-confidence, overcome fears, and work as a team. High enough to provide that "stage fright" sensation, they're also safe enough to protect the lives of companies' golden-boys.

Very lucrative, this new version of bungee jumping is also seductive and functional. However, where's the real danger, Elliott would say. And for many jumpers, isn't it danger that really makes bungee so irresistible? S

Out For Justice

Donna Coombe proves a woman's place *can* be in the courtroom —on the bench

by Stacy Tassone

Donna Coombe *photo by Brandi Mankiewicz*

Struggling against opposition and bias, Donna Coombe, a Bloomsburg native, launched a campaign in 1980 to become Columbia County's first woman district justice. Today she is serving her second term, and hardly anyone thinks it odd a woman is on the bench.

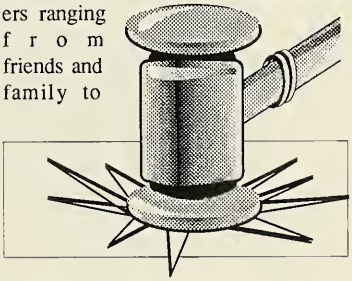
When Coombe first ran for office, her campaign was based on what she calls "important words." Those words were, "to be fair, to be honest, hard-working, dedicated and firm." She says, "I used those words a lot in my campaign because I felt that was me. I had to let the public know that."

Unfortunately, her words could not solicit votes from the skeptics who were uncertain about a woman's ability to take over office in Columbia County. "For the first three weeks, I continuously heard 'it's not a job for a woman'," she recalls.

According to Coombe, her opponent, a former Bloomsburg police sergeant, ran a newspaper ad boasting his qualifications that he had participated in the justice system as a police officer for about 15 years while claiming Coombe was "merely a secretary who had only read about the law."

"That made a lot of secretaries swing my way," Coombe recalls with a smile. "Secretaries work hard. They can really make a difference in any office. A really good, efficient secretary is a big asset to any boss," she believes.

In response to the campaign attacks, Coombe and an assortment of supporters ranging from friends and family to local residents took to the streets in attempts to inform the public and secure their confidence.



"Believe me, I was not known when I ran for office. I was a court administrator but nobody knew that. I went to church and Little League games but a lot of people just didn't know me. I had to become known to the public," she explains.

From January until the day before the election, Coombe and her entourage of supporters canvassed door-to-door, advertised, and went every place they could to meet people.

In 1981, Coombe, taking more than two-thirds of the votes, became the first woman district justice in Columbia County.

She attributes the changing attitudes to the fact that, after the initial impact that a woman was running, the public began looking at her qualifications and saying, "maybe she's worked up to this."

Today, she still believes you have to apply yourself and work hard to get your qualifications known. "I still think the public looks at qualifications. I think that's very important to them today. You have to first prepare yourself and become qualified, then take it out to the public and leave it up to them," she says.

Following her graduation from Bloomsburg High School in 1962, Coombe set to work as a legal secretary to raise money for college. Although she hoped to attend college, marriage and two children altered her plans. After working as a legal secretary for eight years, she spent five years as a judge's secretary in the Bloomsburg courthouse. Later, becoming court administrator for

Columbia and Montour counties fostered an interest in the district justice position.

Coombe says her desire to serve as a "public servant" comes from her mother, who told her that "each and every day, you can go out and do something nice for somebody and make a difference in their lives."

"Doing that from the time I was young until after working in the legal field for 18 years made me really want to be a dedicated public servant in a position where I could form a career," Coombe explains.

In 1980, Coombe attended an intensive one-month "crash course" in law at Wilson College to become state certified. Regardless of the difficulty level and the necessity to pay for the class out of their own pockets, there is still plenty of competition from interested people seeking state certification and the chance to fill one of the 538 district justice offices in Pennsylvania, she adds.

Coombe oversees a staff of four full-time and one part-time secretary. Together, they handle an average of 25-30 hearings and courtroom proceedings a day, in addition to the possible 75 other people that enter the office to pay fines and court costs or file actions.

Over the years, Coombe has noticed that she seems to be hearing more serious criminal cases involving burglary, murder, rape, sexual and violent crimes. "Violent and domestic disputes are especially prevalent in this area today," she observes. Coombe believes that people have resorted to stealing because they have less money. Sometimes, what is stolen is sold to feed drug and alcohol habits, she says. The growing population and general pressures of life are also contributing to increasing serious crimes, she adds.

Perhaps the most visible and unsettling change that Coombe has witnessed during her term is the explosion of drug and alcohol abuse in what used to be a quiet little community. "There's no doubt that drugs and alcohol have hit the Bloomsburg area," she observes. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of kids participating in the use of alcohol and drugs and today's parents have to be able to deal with teaching young children what the consequences are."

A few years ago, in attempts to put pressure on today's youth, the state introduced stricter penalties for underage alcohol violations. Coombe says she has noticed a slight curb in the crime but believes the first offense penalty of losing a driver's license for 90 days does not really mean a lot to most offenders.

"It's hard sometimes. You see a lot of nice people that have kids in trouble and you can only do so much as a judge," she explains. Nevertheless, she says she always does her best to make sure people feel they've had their day in court.

Despite her frustration, Coombe occasionally takes time out to speak with students about the consequences they could face from having criminal records related to drugs, alcohol and theft, among others. In addition, she speaks about the judicial system and careers in law to build their respect for the system.

Although Coombe deals with emotional, angry people on a daily basis, there is a brighter side. She enjoys the opportunity to perform weddings all over Pennsylvania. She has performed nearly 500 ceremonies, including those of her daughter, her brother, several nieces and nephews and a few police officers.

Whether dealing with criminal cases or performing weddings, she invests equal amounts of energy into every case. "They are all very serious cases that demand all of your attention," she says.

Coombe claims her job leaves her little free time to indulge in hobbies. "Occasionally, I just go out for a walk or spend some time with my family."

Anyone entering Coombe's office might be surprised by the decor. It's an unusual combination of model ships and Mickey Mouse paraphernalia interspersed with shelves bursting with law books. This blend of tradition and fantasy reflects a woman with strength and perseverance but who maintains a sincere, lighthearted compassion for the public she serves. S

JUST THE FACTS

The district justice system originated from the old English common law. The system, made up of three squires or justices of the peace who heard cases and made decisions, was brought to the United States by the settlers.

Today, there is one district justice per district who conducts arraignments and preliminary hearings in criminal cases and determines whether there is sufficient evidence to send cases to county court.

District justices hear civil cases seeking awards of up to $4,000, a figure that may soon be upgraded to $7,500. They also preside over summary offense cases that involve minor charges, including trespassing, underage drinking, and disorderly conduct.

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen and has lived in the district at least one year prior to the election is eligible to run for the position. In addition, persons who are not lawyers must attend an intensive one-month "crash course" in law and pass a test to become state certified. Upon winning the election, the district justice will serve a six-year term and participate in mandatory continuing education classes one week a year.

Of the 538 district justices in Pennsylvania, about 20 percent are women and about 11 percent are lawyers. The total number is expected to increase in 1994 as redistricting occurs based on new census figures.

Depending on their area's population, district justices earn $26,500-$38,000 a year.

Amateur Singing SENSATIONS

Karaoke has them off–key and in the spotlight

by Gabrielle Stander

Lights! Music! Action!

Singing in the shower isn't quite like this, but now all would-be superstars have the opportunity to show the world how well they can perform in front of a live audience.

Nervous? Well, maybe a little as the colored lights start swirling around and a curious crowd gathers near the stage. Your mouth is chalk-dry and your hands shake while reaching for the microphone.

Suddenly, your voice blends with the recorded music and you're belting out one of the Beatles' hits, with the Fab Four serving as your background singers. But, wait! It's not live; it's karaoke, a unique music machine that is allowing residents in Columbia and Montour counties the opportunity to let loose with a song or two.

Karaoke is a growing fad. Just ask Bob Fox, who works for All-American Karaoke, a Philadelphia-based company which contracts systems to public-gathering places like bars and restaurants. Fox brings his selection of 1,900 songs with him to the Good Old Days bar, Bloomsburg, every Thursday night. "I've been a karaoke DJ for five years," Fox says, "but it's really starting to pick up speed now."

Good Old Days attracts both young and old karaoke crowds, but surprisingly, when it comes to musical tastes, there is not much of a generation gap. Both age groups enjoy singing oldies. The unlimited freedom singers feel on stage is what keeps them coming back for more, says Fox.

There are as many different styles of karaoke machines as there are voice types, and all operate on the same basic principle: people sing along to a song played by the karaoke machine which uses either a laser vision or CD graphics laser-disk system (with or without back-up vocals.) At the same time, the lyrics come up on a monitor or screen, along with a video-clip in more sophisticated systems. The "star of the stage," who requests the song of his or her choice, may sing alone or with a group of people while the audience looks on. A tape of the performance can be made so the singer can look back for a good laugh on rainy days. Karaoke even frees up those who have stage fright or fear flubbing lines, because the machine adapts the music to different voice pitches and tones, and the lyrics are close by.

Fox says that karaoke is addictive. "Once someone gets the nerve up to try, they want to come back to do it again," he says. Of course, many admit that a

photo by Curvin Huber

Charlie Moncavage and Bob Scicchitano apparently are not afraid of getting crushed egos.

drink or two makes the first time much easier. Not everyone who tries karaoke is a first-time singer, however.

Fox, who has seen a wide range of talent, says this doesn't matter. He believes that many people are outstanding in their own way "because they do it regardless of how much talent they have."

> "Once someone gets the nerve up to try, they want to come back to do it again."

A supportive crowd also helps, says Gail Torio, Bloomsburg, who came to karaoke night with her family. Torio recently experienced karaoke in New York, where the crowds are tougher to please. "There would be people who would have tomatoes thrown at them," she says. "Here, everyone appreciates the fact that you're up there." Torio used to have high hopes of becoming a singer. "This is the next closest thing," she says. "It's definitely like living out a fantasy."

Robert Budd, Bloomsburg, says that karaoke gives him and his wife, Susan, a "nice break" in a hectic work week. He likes to sing their wedding song, "Sometimes When We Touch." Budd, who has been singing since he was 15 years old, tried karaoke last summer and loved it. He also had a tape made for him at a karaoke stand at the Bloomsburg Fair this year.

Karaoke at bars like Good Old Days and Lemons', Bloomsburg, both rely on sheer numbers to keep their businesses going. Bob Metz, a Millville resident who is a part-time karaoke DJ and truck driver, charged his customers $10 per song at the Fair this year. Because he owns his machine, Metz pays a copyright fee for each song to the publishing companies and the original singers. Karaoke DJ, Bob Fox, who owned a machine for three years, joined his current company to avoid the extra paperwork created by copyright fees. "I tried it on my own at first, but the copyright fees caused me too many headaches," he says. But, although Metz pays the fees, he is sure that the investment he made is worth it. In this case, business and pleasure do mix. "It's my first time here and I think it's a lot of fun," says Metz. After the Fair, Metz stores the $10,000 system until the Christmas season when he brings it out for parties.

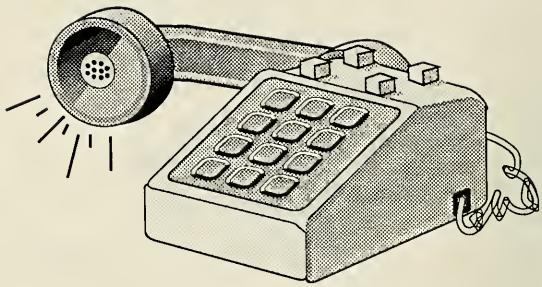
Bar owner Ned Lemons says that he bought his karaoke machine in last fall because he "loves to do different things." The basic unit (excluding the disks and sound system) cost him $500. Lemons rents out his machine to hotels and big parties in the area. He says he loves karaoke because, "It's like a big party all the time."

Compared to Good Old Days, karaoke is a little different at Lemons', says Sherry Lohr, a graduate student at Bloomsburg University who landed the job of karaoke "cheerleader" last summer after singing only one song. Besides attracting an older crowd, Good Old Days' karaoke machine has a video screen and the larger-size laser disks, instead of the regular CD size graphic disks. "The video screen is nice because people have something else to look at," she says.

Charlie Harmon, Mifflinville, and Mark Newman, Berwick, are "regulars" at karaoke night at Lemons' every week. Their favorite song is Barry Manilow's "Copacabana." "We just like to sing," says Harmon. "We don't care what we look like."

Through karaoke, childhood fantasies come to life, hidden talent is finally realized, and unfortunately some egos may be crushed. That is the risk. But, for whatever reason people decide to try karaoke, they are usually prepared to have one thing—FUN. S

Answering the Call for Help



For emergency dispatchers, remaining calm is crucial to getting help on the road

by Patricia Peron

How do you differentiate between a cow found wandering in a backyard, somebody who's lost on his way home, and a house on fire? On call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Columbia County's emergency services team responds to everything.

Hidden in the basement of the county court house in Bloomsburg, the two-room Emergency Communications Center is a miniature replica of an army operations room, crowded with switchboards and computers. On a busy day, they will help the team handle 20 to 30 emergency calls—fires, accidents and other crises—plus an unaccountable number of routine ones.

> "We get the craziest calls three days before and three days after the full moon."

Irene Miller, the operation's director, says it takes a little more than just nerves of steel to be one of the 10 dispatchers who, when you dial 784-7911, will have to dispatch the right fire, police, ambulance or paramedics team to respond to your call. "The situations are never the same and each call has to be handled individually, to the best of our ability," Miller says, explaining that only one principle governs the team—no matter what the call is, it can't be ignored.

Each dispatcher undergoes a three-week training period, but their best resources are the expertise, tips, and self-control they've developed through one call after another. "You just have to try everything that works to keep people calm until the emergency team arrives," she says. "And it may take long, long minutes, especially if the person is calling from a remote area."

Although the dispatchers can't rely on any specific scenario, they can recognize behavior patterns that will very quickly alert them of the situation. "Hysterical people are the easiest to calm down," says Brenda Remaley, the operation's deputy coordinator.

Alissa Fetterman, who has been a dispatcher since 1989, agrees. "Sometimes, just shouting louder than them will get them to do what you want," she says.

What the team refers to as "anxious calls" are certainly the most difficult ones. "Some people are so calm that you first don't think that they're in trouble," Miller says. "But when they describe the situation—"my mother is unconscious and she's bleeding a lot," then you realize you're the one to be in trouble." Miller says that trying to keep them on the line before they collapse or before they hang up the phone, without giving indications on where they are, is most difficult.

Keeping people on the phone may not be realistic, particularly when the situation, a fire for instance, forces them to leave. "How can you expect people to be cooperative and give us their address or some indications when such a thing happens," says Diane Benner, another dispatcher. "In that case, the only thing to do is to leave the line open to trace the call or ask the police who sometimes know an area better than we do."

It may also be that the caller doesn't

know where he is. That's precisely when stress has to be handled carefully by the team, according to Miller.

Sometimes, the situation is less serious than expected. Miller says some people, especially the older ones, just call because they're alone and need to talk to someone. "But, we don't always have time to stay on the phone with them, so we call the closest police department which sends somebody to see them."

The team also has to handle harassing calls. "We know who the harassers are, because they call regularly and fake an emergency situation," Miller explains. "We cannot discard any call, so depending on how busy we are, we either let them talk or we tell them that we have to answer another call," she says. "It's sad because one day, they will really be in trouble and we won't believe them."

However, Miller notes those calls are a particular form of emergency, which also needs to be taken care of. "We refer some of the cases to the police and most of the time, we find out that those people have a real medical problem," she says.

Finally, there are the funny calls which bring a little bit of relief to all the stress. "One day, a guy called and told us, 'you're going to think that I'm crazy but I hear a cow mooing in my backyard," Remaley recalls. "And that was true; the cow had been wandering for a while and had found refuge in his garden, right by Main Street."

> "Interventions for domestic violence used to be very unusual, but today, we get at least one call a day."

Cows seem to be in trouble around here, as Remaley's story helps Miller remember when a farmer called to complain about one of his neighbors that was throwing stones at his animal.

There are days at the communications center which seem to be much worse than others. The team has its own theory for those. "I don't know if there's a scientific explanation behind the phenomenon, but you can be sure that full-moon days will be one of these," Miller says. "We get the craziest calls three days before and three days after the full moon." Remaley agrees. "We tend to be superstitious here," she says.

The emergency personnel get calls that reflect the changing social patterns in the county. "Interventions for domestic violence used to be very unusual," Miller says, "but today, we get at least one call a

day." Alcohol-related accidents are reported all the time, even early on a Monday morning. "Today, time makes no difference," Fetterman says, "especially for underage drinking."

Miller also stresses the necessity to be objective and cool-blooded. "It's when you react and you get involved that you do a bad job," she explains. Miller says it's only after the emergency is over that the team can breath and relax. "Yet, sometimes we don't even have the time to take a break after a difficult call," Miller notes, "because another one comes just after."

It's when a stressful situation is over that each team member's personality really surfaces, according to Miller. "Everybody reacts differently because this is precisely when the call is going to hit you," she says. Some members need humor to relax, some need to be alone, some simply need to talk, or some, like Fetterman, calm down by playing on Miller's computer.

Some simply can't overcome the stress and, according to Miller, it's time to think about another job. In her career —which she started in 1978 with an answering-service company, later organized as the Emergency Communications Center — Miller has seen a lot of dispatchers come and go. "I've seen many on-site emergency people who were used to catastrophes but couldn't handle the stress of multiple calls," she says. Others would take their stress back home every day.

"Sometimes, the team feels that they've done everything possibly wrong in handling the call and they want to quit," Miller says. "My reply is that just as long as they didn't lose the call and solved the problem, it's OK."

She also reminds them of the day when they helped an Amish woman deliver her baby. "The delivery was not going well and the midwife decided to call us," Miller recalls. "We stayed on the line with the midwife, while the ambulance was taking them to the hospital, but the baby was born before they arrived," Remaley adds. "It was great."

Some of the team's headaches will disappear in a few months. An enhanced emergency system, the 911 procedure, is being planned for the center and should be installed by the end of 1993. "We'll get more staff, at least three dispatchers per shift, we might even change location," Miller explains, describing the advantages of 911. "The computer will automatically identify the call, locate it, select the appropriate itinerary, and give important landmarks such as hospitals," she says.

Berwick borough, which already has that system, might be integrated in the new plan whose cost will be covered by a surcharge placed on the county residents' phone bills. By law, that surcharge cannot be more than $1.50. Miller justifies the surcharge, saying "it's a major improvement that will benefit the whole population." However, Remaley notes that with such a system, "people will have to stop calling us for nonsense."

And, it will make the job of helping people a little easier. **S**

INCIDENT: Officer under Fire

Area police officers and a court official have faced life–threatening situations

by John A. Michaels

John Hampton's voice boomed across the police radio, breaking an eerie silence. The Berwick patrolman was telling his colleagues the news they dreaded hearing. "Officer hit!" Hampton screamed. "We're on our way to Berwick Hospital, keep the roadways clear!"

It's the worst kind of call an officer hears.

Ptlm. Eugene Golla was on patrol March 30, 1977, checking a suspicious vehicle with out-of-state license plates that had been parked for several hours along Sunset Drive in Berwick.

"You could look inside the vehicle and see all kinds of tools," Golla recalls. "There was nobody around it so we asked neighbors to call whenever the driver returned."

He can't recall the exact time on his 8 p.m.- 4 a.m. shift, but he got a call about the van. "We went back to the area and drove up behind the van, turning on the [red and blue] lights," the officer adds. "The driver looked back in his rear-view mirror and took off."

Golla and Mark Travelpiece, a student intern from Pennsylvania State University riding with him, followed. The five mile, high-speed chase wound through rural roads and eventually ended with the vehicles circling in a farmer's field, and Golla trying to drive his cruiser away from attempts at collisions.

"We were chasing deer and cows around the field, and he tried to run us down a couple of times," Golla says of the other driver. "'We got to the point where he finally got stuck in the mud."

Throughout the chase, even as the vehicles were alongside each other, Golla says he didn't recognize the suspect, Gary Dolan. Golla alerted other members of the police department of his location before stepping out to confront the suspect.

> "We were chasing deer and cows around the field, and he tried to run us down a couple of times."

"I told Mark to stay in the car and I walked up alongside the van and told him to get out," Golla says. "He refused and I walked around to check the other door, which was locked. I returned to the driver's side and saw him reach for the console, pull out a gun and fire through the window."

The force of the blast knocked Golla to the ground, but he maintained his composure.

"He got me, shot a couple more times and I went down. The next thing I heard was tires spinning — he was trying to get out of the mud. I pulled out my revolver and shot once through the door and got up and shot a couple more times."

Golla, who was not wearing a bullet-proof vest, was shot in the stemum. Recovery took several months, but he eventually returned to the force. He worked his way through the ranks, became police chief and served until early 1992, when a back injury suffered on duty forced him to retire.

He carried one valuable lesson from the night of the shooting. "You should wear a protective vest, especially today in law enforcement because it seems like everybody is carrying a gun," Golla says. "The thought's always there about getting shot again — it never leaves — but I think I regrouped from it pretty good."

Despite his injury, the veteran police officer hasn't called for any type of gun-control measure.

"Don't get me wrong, I am pro gun,"

Golla says. "I believe that this is part of our constitutional rights, unless you've committed a violent felony. When I was in the hospital, I got a call from an outfit in Ohio that was anti-gun and they wanted me as a police officer who was shot to make a story about it and I refused. I believe people have a right to have a gun."

As for the man who shot him, Golla believes the American legal system didn't work.

"When Dolan was out on bail after shooting me, he got into trouble in New Jersey for guns and drugs and nothing was ever done about it. He remained out on bail until he was convicted of shooting me," the policeman says. "I believe the system has a lot of faults."

Dolan eventually got out of jail, went to Florida and is now serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for committing a crime with a fire arm.

Almost 15 years after being shot, Golla faced another life-threatening situation. This time it involved other people. On Aug. 1, 1991, accused wife abuser Wells C. Winn held his 18-year-old stepdaughter hostage, dousing her and the bedroom of her mother's home with a flammable fluid and threatening to blow up the whole neighborhood. Golla and two other officers, Sgt. James Comstock and Ptlm. Troy Maneval, sneaked into the house and apprehended Winn as he tried to strike a match.

"When we broke into the barricaded bedroom, he was trying to strike the match," Golla says. "I forget if Jim or Troy had the fire extinguisher, but whoever did doused him with the contents of a fire extinguisher. That was our plan and it worked."

Winn had kept police at bay for almost two hours before the decision was made to try to subdue him and end the standoff.

"I don't know if we would have been killed if the match had gone off, but the blast sure as hell would have knocked us around," Golla says.

While the officers were subduing Winn, Dawn Hess threw her pet dog, Peepers, out the second-story window to rescuers waiting below, then jumped just as Golla was reaching to rescue her.

On Aug. 10, 1992, Winn pleaded guilty in Columbia County Court to kidnapping, risking a catastrophe and two counts of terroristic threats in connection with the Berwick incident. Judge Gailey C. Keller later approved a plea bargain that sent the defendant to a state prison for five to 10 years. Winn gets credit for time already served in Columbia County Prison and will undergo evaluation and treatment for mental illness.

Recently promoted to corporal in late 1972, Bloomsburg Town policeman Larry Smith jokingly tells his traveling partner, Charlie Meeker, that the domestic violence call they were answering would be an easy assignment since police had been to the 12th Street address just two weeks before. It was a wrong presumption.

Smith and Meeker arrived on the scene in hopes of quelling the argument. Instead, Smith had to stare down an angry, rifle-toting husband.

"The man came up from the basement carrying a .308 rifle, but at the time it looked like a howitzer about six inches from my waist," Smith recalls of going face-to-face with Walter Beach. "Often times people say you can't react at situations like this, but the whole thing running through my mind was who would get shot—me, my partner, or the man's wife."

The situation appeared to cool down when the man returned to the basement, but minutes later, he finally shot up through the living room floor.

"I never thought he would do anything drastic until the shot came up through the floor," Smith continues. "When the slug came through about three feet from where I was standing, I knew he meant business."

The incident and another shooting in Catawissa when he was a much younger officer were Smith's two most life-threatening experiences.

"In Catawissa, it seemed we had to go to the Jones family's home every week because the husband threatened to shoot his wife," the veteran officer adds. "Then one day we got a call about a shooting.

photo by Brandi Mankiewicz

Chief Larry Smith

"I raced out of my house to see the bloodied woman being taken into Dr. Pratt's office on Main Street and knew we had problems. Being a young policeman, I wanted to race over to the home near the Catawissa Dam and take care of the situation, but when we got there, Mr. Jones had the upper hand because he could see us and we couldn't see him.

"That was scary because we had to walk up creaking steps to get to the upstairs, but little did we know that he had committed suicide. I had tried to talk to him but couldn't since my mouth was dry."

Smith, now the head of the Bloomsburg department that includes 11 full-time officers and seven part-timers, instructs his men to always have backup protection when answering domestic-violence calls.

"There is no such thing as a good domestic these days. Most domestic calls are violent," Smith says. "You have some officers who like to be the Lone Ranger, the guy in the white hat who is going to do everything himself.

"I explain to them that it doesn't do me a bit of good to come on scene and find you cold-cocked, lying on the ground knocked out. If you go together you have a better chance to get something done."

The chief explains some of the problems.

"What happens a lot of times when you go to a domestic, and you're trying to subdue the violent partner, 99 times out of 100 the other partner will turn on you because you're hurting their mate," Smith adds. "Most times the victims want to forgive their partners—after a cooling off period.

"Laws have been written to protect us. Now if we see any sign of violence we can make an arrest. If their mate refuses to testify at a hearing, then the case is dismissed," the police chief adds.

Smith believes the chances of an officer being injured answering a domestic call have increased greatly over the years.

"During my career, I've had two violent domestics that involved weapons and two bank robberies. No one's gotten hurt at the bank robberies, and someone got hurt at each of the violent domestics," he notes.

> "I didn't shake when I got there, but when I returned to the station, I was playing a good tune with my knees."

Police officers use security measures—sometimes makeshift ones. On several occasions, just knowing the person's nickname paid off.

Bloomsburg Police Sgt. Clair Hendricks recalls an incident several years ago, where he answered a late-night domestic call.

"When I got to the house on Zehner Street, I saw a man with a shotgun at the top of the driveway. And, the gun was pointed at me," Hendricks says. "Due to the fact that I knew the individual from years before in Catawissa, I kept calling him by his nickname, and kept advancing toward him.

"I kept talking to him until I could get close enough and grabbed the gun and took it away from him. That was one of my most harrowing experiences. I didn't shake when I got there, but when I returned to the station, I was playing a good tune with my knees," Hendricks adds.

Columbia County Sheriff Harry Roadarmel Jr. faced a similar situation while he was a state police officer in Blair County.

"I can remember very distinctly having to go for a man I had known for 10 or 15 years who had just beaten the living 'h' out of his wife and mother-in-law. Firearms were involved," Roadarmel says. "When we got to a rural cabin when he was holed up, he yelled to us that we wouldn't take him alive."

Patience paid off for Roadarmel. The long standoff ended without a shot being fired or any additional injury.

"It was pitch black and I don't think there was a star in the sky," the sheriff recalls. "I called to him by his nickname, 'Red,' and told him he wouldn't have much more time. About 45 minutes later, which seemed like hours, he threw his weapon down and walked toward me.

"When he reached me, I said, 'Red, this is Harry,' and he responded by saying, 'Thank God, it's you. If it would have been anybody else, I'd probably have shot it out with them because I wouldn't have listened to them."

Police officers aren't the only law-enforcement personnel to face the possi-

bility of bodily harm. District Justice Donna Coombe, Bloomsburg, learned of the dangers early in her career.

"I was only in office about three or four months and was there later getting caught up on paperwork when I heard a commotion in the outer office," Coombe recalls. "The next thing I know, a police officer comes running in and pushes me and I fell into the wall."

A startled Coombe didn't know that a man she had sentenced to jail about 90 minutes earlier had made bail and was standing outside her office window with a loaded rifle.

"The police officer had gotten a tip that the suspect was on his way here with a gun," Coombe adds. "He did have a gun in his vehicle. I don't know what would have happened if the police wouldn't have shown up or gotten a tip when they did."

The incident even had a happy ending for the suspect, Coombe says with a gleam in her eyes.

"The defendant went to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, and two years later he came back to see me and thank me for giving him the opportunity to straighten his life out," the justice says.

"He had become a truck driver and was engaged to be married."

Coombe has received numerous other threats, but doesn't take most of them seriously.

"A lot of people are just very angry at the system and seem to take their frustrations out on me and my staff sometimes," Coombe explains. "Verbal threats really don't annoy me.

"But, between home and here at the office, we have taken some security measures over the years, and thank goodness, we haven't had any problems," she adds.

Domestic violence crimes are increasing, local officers say. Confirming the numbers is a near impossibility because personnel in the Research and Development Department at Pennsylvania State Police headquarters in Harrisburg say they do not maintain records of such cases.

Experiences, for local officials, speak louder than numbers. **S**

BEHIND THE LINES

(continued from p. 6)

upsets administrators. The president's office contacted the provost who notified the dean who had a discussion with senior staff of the magazine. We learned that the University wanted us to go to lengths to try to avoid being sued. We reassured the dean that we also didn't relish the idea of being sued, would continue to check our facts, but would not pull the story. To his credit, the dean acknowledged that the University had no intention of censoring any story the magazine staff planned. However, the mere fact that the highest levels of the University spent a lot of time worrying over this issue could have led some student staff (and especially probationary faculty) to skirt issues of the First Amendment, Freedom of Information, and the public's right to know, and figure the hassle wasn't worth it.

In response to a question of what information should the University release to the subject, our editor-in-chief firmly directed the dean to release to the subject any information that was a matter of public record that the subject specifically requested.

The editor-in-chief, executive editor, and associate editor later met with the subject for about 90 minutes. We listened to his concerns, and explained a number of journalistic realities to him. We again explained that we check facts and reiterated that we were not doing an in-depth investigation of him or of his business, but merely profiling it for the public. Actually, we thought the article was rather complimentary. True to journalistic procedures and codes of ethics, we refused requests to provide a copy of the full article prior to publication (just as we would refuse the dean that privilege), but did make additional efforts (as we do on all our stories) to have the subject verify facts and quotes. At the end of that meeting, the subject better understood reasons behind many of the things that journalists do.

We know that sometimes readers become hostile and threaten the press. It's something we as journalists have to live with. The reality is that what we sought to verify was so insignificant to the entire story that we could have dropped it entirely and avoided subsequent problems. In fact, the secretary later called us and told us that the subject authorized the school to release such information—which we already had.

The issue is not of a subject becoming upset with the press—the public has every right to be upset with the press if they wish, even to sue if they wish—but of a public body refusing to provide information that is clearly in the public record, and for which they should know is public record. It is information that must be available to whomever asks for it—magazines, TV and radio stations, newspapers, or even average citizens who are entitled to such information and are not required to explain why they want it. We pursued our action against the school district fo one simple reason. If a local public body refuses to provide information on what we, the Student Press Law Center, the Freedom of Information center of Society of Professional Journalists, and even an attorney who is a member of the board consider to be a matter of public record, then what else is the district refusing to provide—and why?

—the staff, Spectrum magazine

DUCKS UNLIMITED IS WORKING TO

SAVE THE SWAMPS

The water stinks, the frogs belch, the insects drone, creating a constant hum, the ground is mushy, and in the summer, it's loaded with mosquitoes. If they're not unfit for human habitation, wetlands are down right undesirable.

However, wetlands are not uninhabited and are vitally important for all plants and animals. Here they can find water to drink, plants to eat, and brushy cover for protection.

Earl Michael, a farmer, owns 20 acres of swamp in the Shickshinny area. The area has always been a swamp with a creek running through it. An original pond was drained by the early colonists. Several years ago, beavers returned and built a new dam, flooding some crop land and creating a new pond.

The swamp that Michael owns was recommended to Ducks Unlimited for possible preservation by Ed Sherlinski, information and education specialist for the Pennsylvania State Game Commission.

"Basically, it is the only area that harbors ducks in Luzerne County and is part of the Pennsylvania Farm Game Co-op.," says Sherlinski. "It lends itself well to setting up blinds and allowing youngsters to learn how to hunt safely."

Members of Ducks Unlimited, an international non-profit organization, work to preserve and maintain the habitat of waterfowl in order to insure that future generations will have the opportunity to see waterfowl in a natural setting.

The organization was formed during the dust bowl of the 1930s when sportsmen banded together to do something about the scarcity of waterfowl in drought–plagued North America.

Ducks Unlimited has been instrumental in the development of The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement between Canada and the United States made to protect some six million acres of waterfowl habitat. This agreement has increased the amount of nesting sites in Canada, which in turn has increased waterfowl populations in all of North America.

"Currently, we are losing 50,000 acres of wetlands a day," says Tom Husband, chairman of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Ducks Unlimited .

In Pennsylvania, the group works mainly with the State Game Commission and various conservation organizations that recommend areas in need of preservation.

After receiving a recommendation, Ducks Unlimited evaluates the area and offers advice, expertise, and physical labor in improving and maintaining the area as an environmentally sound location for animals.

Wetlands are not only beneficial for wildlife, they also recharge groundwater supplies, purify polluted water, help control floods, and provide areas for recreational activities.

"Earl Michael's land has a good environment for birds, plenty of grasses and corn fields for feed and protection," says Husband. "It's an ideal place that birds would choose to live in."

Indeed, it is home to local ducks, egrets, and geese. At times, hundreds of Canada geese use it as a nesting and feeding stop on their migratory flight route.

During a youth shoot held in October 1992 for the Green Wings, the 12-to 18-year-old members of Ducks Unlimited, an estimated 500 ducks and Canada geese were sighted.

"I'll tell you, there's nothing like seeing a hundred geese sitting there nesting and feeding," says Michael. "It's a beautiful sight."

The program under consideration for Michael's land is the Green Land Program. It is designed for kids between the ages of 10-18 to teach them about wildlife and how to hunt safely.

Ducks Unlimited would like to see the area preserved, but it is not just a simple deal; Michael wants an exchange of tillable land for the area affected by the beaver dam, and, moreover, is not eager to deal with new neighbors and regulations that might affect his farm.

"If I don't sell, I don't have any problems with new neighbors," he explains.

Ducks Unlimited does not buy land in the United States because the country is mainly an area on the migration route from Canada to Mexico that waterfowl fly over and use to rest and feed.

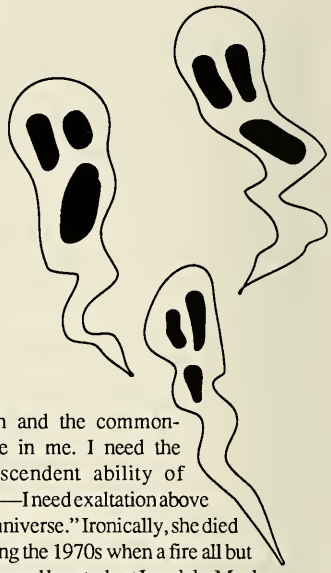
The Pennsylvania State Game Commission and various conservation groups are trying to work out a deal to satisfy all participants, but it may not be successful.

As for Michael, he has to decide whether to get rid of the beavers and a few of their dams or suffer the loss of crop land.

"It's not easy justifying both ends. I'm trying to make a living here," says Michael who proudly says, "I intend to stay farming." S

—DONNA GRAJEWSKI

GHOSTLY HOSTS HAUNT IRONDALE INN



by Brandi Mankiewicz

The family dog, Rocky, won't climb the main staircase, even at his master's beckoning. Strange sounds resound throughout the house when nothing should be stirring. A single chord is played on the piano in an unoccupied room, disrupting a friendly dinner with an icy chill. Is it coincidence or mass hallucination?

The Irondale Inn, Bloomsburg, has permanent "guests" who aren't planning to leave anytime soon. Strange sounds come from rooms and sometimes a strong male presence can be felt by different people in these rooms. These occurrences can be attributed to three ghosts named William Winters, Anne Boone, and Daniel Harris. Winters served under George Washington during the Revolutionary War and came to Irondale in his later years. Anne Boone was a distant relative of Daniel Boone. Daniel Harris was also named as a ghost, by several poems, but only his name is known. Are these ghosts real? The electrician thinks so.

The first electrician hired by Bob and Linda Wink, owners of the Irondale Inn, had an encounter that caused him to never return to the house. While he was working downstairs, he saw a woman carrying a baby, even though he was the only person in the house. The electrician never returned to Irondale. This was the only time, though, anyone has physically seen an apparition.

According to some, the ghosts roam around about the house nightly between midnight and 3 a.m. They are said to meet on the landing of the main staircase. This may explain Rocky's reluctance to ascend the staircase.

"If Rocky—a 90 pound German Shepherd-Doberman mix—wants to go upstairs," says Bob Wink "he'll go up the back staircase and meet us at the top." He also cowers away from certain rooms.

Although Rocky's actions indicate that he senses the spiritual presence everyday, the Winks feel it only occasionally.

Most of the other encounters with the ghosts have been the feeling of strong presences in rooms and weird occurrences. Although they lack physical forms, the ghosts have affected everyone who has come in contact with them, especially the late Janet Worthington Englehardt.

Englehardt was an executive secretary for the Bloomsburg Chamber of Commerce and an English teacher. She lived at Irondale during the middle of this century and wrote many poems about the ghosts. She was fascinated by them and even wrote of her desire to join their ranks in her afterlife. In "A Letter to My Daemon" she wrote "please meet me in my study at Irondale at eight o'clock tomorrow morning" to tutor her in the ways of haunting because "I seem to have too much of the earth and the commonplace in me. I need the transcendent ability of God—I need exaltation above the universe." Ironically, she died during the 1970s when a fire all but destroyed her study at Irondale. Maybe now she does walk the house as she once had hoped.

The permanent visitors aren't there to scare anyone. In fact, the Winks believe that they are quite friendly. Be nice to them, the Winks say, and they'll be nice to you.

Once, a young man who was staying with the Winks didn't sleep at all during his three day stay. On the last day of his visit, he was in the bathroom preparing to leave. As he was shaving, he thought to himself that he couldn't wait to leave. "As he thought this, the baseboard [heating cover] fell off in that room," says Bob Wink. "That never happened before or since." Did he anger the ghosts? Who knows?

The Winks aren't intimidated by sharing their house with ghosts. They have learned to accept them as a part of the house's mystique. The noises and strange happenings are just a part of everyday life for them. Now, if only Rocky could lose his fear, everything would be perfect. S

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