

## Belsnickel Festival slated for December 1 and 2

BOYERTOWN - In the folklore of the Pennsylvania Dutch, the word "Belsnickel" was applied to a rather mean version of Santa Claus.

A neighborhood man would masquerade in old clothes, visit homes, first threatening the children with a switch and then giving them treats. This tradition has all but died out.

However, to the present day residents of Boyertown, the word Belsnickel represents the tri-part Festival of craft, art, and antique shows staged by the Boyertown Area Historical Society.

For the first time, all three shows will be held in the Boyertown Area Senior High School, 4th & Monroe Sts., Boyertown.

The Festival will begin with a craft show set for Friday, November 23rd, 12 to 8 and Saturday, November 24th, 10 to 5 in the dining room of the Senior High School.

The room will be crammed with local and regional craftsmen, displaying and demonstrating their wares. On view will be dolls, jewelry, pottery, wooden trays, macrame, dried arrangements, needlework, hooked rugs, leather items, scrimshaw, toleware puppets, paper cutting, decorated eggs, marquetry, ceramics, candles, stained glass, and tinsel painting.

The art show will be held the same dates and hours as the craft show in the corridors of the Boyertown Area Senior High School. As visitors proceed to the craft show, they will see oils, pastels, and watercolors created by local artists. Subjects range from portraiture to landscape to local scenes.

Refreshments will be available as well as copies of the Society's cookbook. Admission to these two shows is free.

The final segment of the Festival will be an antique show to be held the following weekend, Saturday, December 1, 1-9 p.m. and

Sunday, December 2nd, 1-5 p.m. in the dining room of the Boyertown Area Senior High School.

This year the show will feature a display of antique toys on loan from members and friends of the Society. Trains, dolls, wooden toys, etc., from the late 1800's to the early 1950's will give visitors a chance to look at the Christmas delights of yesteryear.

The Belsnickel Festival has become a Boyertown tradition, and Society members hope that even more people will join for this year's Festival, the ninth one to be held in the community.

## Delaware looking for buyers cooperatives

NEWARK, Del. - The Extension Service is in the process of locating existing cooperative and buying clubs in Delaware in order to conduct a survey and case study for the Cooperative League Fund, Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the survey is (1) to determine the number of cooperatives in Delaware, (2) to identify some needs of existing cooperatives to more

adequately serve families, (3) to determine if additional cooperatives are needed to serve Delaware citizens, and (4) to aid in providing data from Delaware to be used by the Cooperative League Bank Implementation Commission.

The results of the survey will determine the role the Land Grant Institutions in Delaware will play in providing technical assistance to consumer cooperatives.

Extension is in need of immediate information that

## Muzzleloaders OK for southeast deer

HARRISBURG - Deer hunters in the special regulations area of southeastern Pennsylvania this year will be permitted for the first time in recent years to use flintlock muzzleloader rifles to take whitetails.

The Game Commission hopes that the firearms liberalization will help increase the harvest of a growing deer herd in the area.

From 1964 until last year, deer hunters in Delaware and parts of Bucks, Mon-

gomery and Chester Counties were restricted to buckshot in shotguns. In 1978, the shotguns could also be loaded with single projectile ammunition.

This year, special regulations area deer hunters will also be able to use single barrel flintlock ignition long guns .44 caliber or larger with open iron sights propelling a single ball, in addition to buckshot or rifled slugs or punkin balls fired from a 20 gauge or larger shotgun. The flintlocks must have open iron sights.

Special regulations area trappers are also now permitted to use a .22 caliber rifle or handgun to dispatch animals caught in a trap.

will help in locating cooperatives and Buying Clubs, and urges all knowledgeable citizens to provide such information immediately by calling 302/856-5258 (Sussex), or 678-5157 (Kent and New Castle).

Those not familiar with cooperatives and legislation (PL 95-351) passed that will provide the establishment of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank may request further information from Betty Richardson, program development specialist, at 302/678-5157.



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