

Farmers Provide Live Nativity Pageant

STOUCHSBURG (Lebanon Co.) — Six farm families are contributing time and livestock to bring reality to the outdoor nativity pageant to be presented at Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, on Sunday evening, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Christ Church is along Rt. 422, a mile west of Stouchsburg, Michael Firestine, of MAP Farm and vice-president and senior agricultural lending officer for Lebanon Valley National Bank, will accompany his donkey, Jackie, as she takes Mary and Joseph to the inn (old stone parsonage), where innkeeper George Fessler, a retired farmer from Charming Forge (Womelsdorf R.D.), will direct Joseph to the stable behind the "inn."

The stable scene is set in the corn shed rented by Paul Sonnen of Sonnen Acres Farm. Sonnen's son Jonathan will be the angel

Gabriel and son David will be a lantern bearer, along with Fred Bube, leading the pageant guests from scene to scene while the holy story is told by Pastor Philip Smith and Rebecca Sonnen, 1988 Pa. State Guernsey Princess and presently a Penn State student.

The nativity scene will include Mr. Firestine's wife Martene and two daughters Morgan and Margeux as angels, along with Megan Ginder of Womelsdorf. Mary and Joseph will be portrayed by Jill and Bradley Manwiller, Myerstown, and 4-month-old Haley Luckenbill.

Animals in the scene include a donkey, a calf, Sonnen's cow, Charity, and Bube's week-old lamb.

The pageant will progress to the hillside with the shepherd scene, the sheep provided by the farm of D.L. Grumbine & Sons, Myerstown, R.D. Richard Webber, retired farmer and present Marion



Six farm families are donating animals and their talents to for the live nativity pageant that will raise funds for a cancer patient.

Township supervisor, will be a shepherd, along with Irvin Strause of Myerstown; Wilbur Wilhelm of Denver; Josh Knoll; and Jason Maurer of Myerstown area.

The final scene will be at the "home" of Mary and Joseph two years after the holy birth, at which time the three magi (wisemen), riding their own horses (Bo, Showgirl, & Rocky) will approach the holy family and present their gifts. The magi are Carl Shaak Sr. and Jr. as well as Shaah's son-in-law Bryan Hamish. The magis'

costumes will use fine, gold-embroidered silks from Indian; also their horses will wear brocaded Indian covers.

After each pageant, cookies and beverage will be provided by the Church for the guests. There is no charge for the evening, but donations will be given to the Betsy Umberger Wolfe's cancer fund.

Mrs. Wolfe, who grew up in Christ Lutheran Church, is a 27-year-old registered nurse with a rare form of cancer that has not

responded to conventional chemotherapy. She is presently at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore for specialized treatment, which includes a bone marrow transplant. Her hospital stay is expected to be lengthy. Many expenses are not covered by Mrs. Wolfe's insurance, and a fund has been set up to help Betsy & family defray these costs. For more information, call (215) 589-4788.




A hillside service will be held during the pageant program.






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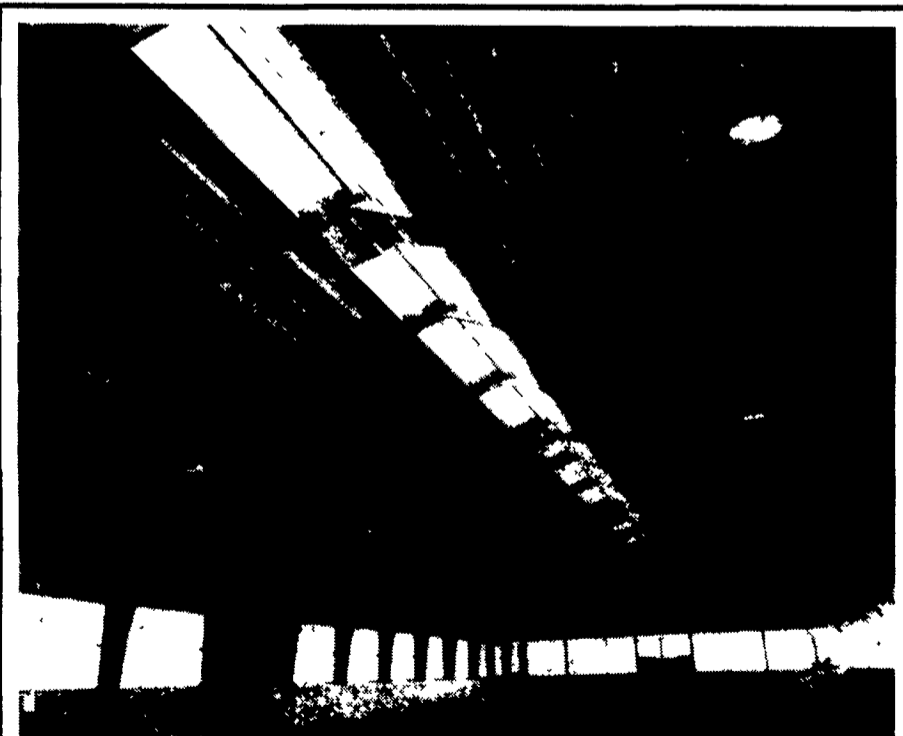


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