

Western Pennsylvania Plans Relief Sale

GAY BROWNLEE

Somerset Co. Correspondent
SPRINGS (Somerset Co.) — Although 40 giant-sized Relief Sales are held annually to benefit Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide missions agency headquartered in Akron, a newly organized sale is planned for the Western Pennsylvania and Maryland area.

The date settled on is Saturday, September 18, at the scenic Garrett County Fairgrounds in McHenry, Md. The site piggybacks on the fame of beautiful Deep Creek Lake, its next-door neighbor.

"The sales are held to raise funds to finance projects in the United States and overseas that reach out to help those who are in need in the name of Jesus Christ," said Dianne Holsopple, event coordinator and board chairperson.

Holsopple is from Hollsopple, Somerset County, and will serve cooperatively with Ernest Holsopple, her husband.

Although an MCC relief sale is held every spring in Harrisburg, Holsopple reports for many years there has been interest in having both an east and west sale in Pennsylvania.

The local area was selected because of its central proximity for volunteers, who will come from Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia, in addition to Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"It is about three hours from everywhere," Holsopple observed, adding that most of those involved are Mennonite, Amish and Brethren In Christ affiliates.

Donations of quality workmanship are needed whether they be quilts, wall hangings, rugs, furniture, arts or crafts items. The

donation committal deadline date is June 30.

Committees are into their respective responsibilities, especially the foods committee, chaired by Elvin and Vera Beitzel of Salisbury, Somerset County.

Beitzel recently led the charge in examining the fairground facilities and was impressed with the equipment he found already in place.

On a walking tour led by the grounds committee — Raymond Yoder, Salisbury, and Donald Sealing, Bittinger, Md. — the party entered each booth as it was unlocked.

"There are a lot of refrigerators and grills," he said, "It looks good to me."

"I think it's grand," added committee member Kathryn Bowser, whose experiences serving on food committees for various large events, span decades.

Serving with Beitzels, are Bowser and Virginia Brenneman from Accident, Md.; Paul and Naomi Yoder, Oakland, Md. and Kay Bender, Grantsville, Md.

The committee, in fact was a few weeks behind schedule in looking the place over after their initial effort was thwarted by three late winter snowstorms that hit the area in early March.

Food safety is a primary issue but the committee is familiar with state inspections and very aware of regulations regarding the same.

Holsopple says every type of food is available at these events, from Pennsylvania Dutch ethnic choices to plain old hot dogs.

One item mentioned was the funny little "moon pie," which was being discussed with a good deal of enthusiasm.

No doubt some willing baker



Pictured are some of the planners for the Western Maryland-Pennsylvania Relief Sale to be held Sept. 18 in McHenry, Md. From left, Kathryn Bowser, Virginia Brenneman, Donald Sealing, Kay Bender, Naomi and Paul Yoder, Elvin and Vera Beitzel, Raymond Yoder and Harriet Hershberger.

will be happy to flip half the pastry dough over the reconstituted apple filling so an expected long line of hungry takers can each have one.

Besides the food of course, the actual auction will be held while the other activities are simultaneously happening.

There is talk of several sporting events that could be held in conjunction with the event, but their feasibility is still being studied.

A farmer's market will be held and Ten Thousand Villages will participate in the Western Maryland-Pennsylvania Relief Sale to

offer international hand-crafts that provide needed income for unemployed and underemployed orkers worldwide.

The Allegheny Mennonite Conference primarily is handling the event. One congregation, Springs Mennonite, reportedly, is challenging other congregations to contribute pre-sale funds.

Quilt referrals must be made to Jane Benson, Grantsville, Md., or Yvonne Dever, Jerome, before June 30. Benson can be called at (301) 895-5893. Dever is at (814) 479-4827.

All other inquiries or donations

should be addressed to Holsopple or Dale Miller, the treasurer. Reach Holsopple at (814) 479-7682 and Miller at (724) 864-2037.

Publicity questions are handled by chairperson Harriet Hershberger at (814) 662-2051.

The site is along U.S. 219. Take Interstate 68 West from Cumberland, Md. to Exit-14A at Keyzers Ridge, approximately 28 miles.

Or take Route 40 from points east and west to the junction of Route 219 South at Keyzers Ridge. Go about 13 miles to the fairgrounds.



Virginia Brenneman, Kay Bender, and Vera Beitzel are members of the food committee for the area's first-ever MCC relief sale.



Vera Beitzel of the foods committee is making notes of her observations for the MCC relief sale.

Pa. State Grange Young Couple Face New Challenge

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — Henry and Madeline Seidel are living proof that opposites really do attract. When Henry, a self-avowed conservative and very disciplined individual, started dating Madeline in 1994, it was her free spirit that attracted him to her. Now, after three years of marriage and

recently being named the Pennsylvania State Grange's Young Couple for 1999-2000, it's those "differences" that makes their union an exciting, but challenging, adventure.

"Marriage takes a lot of work," Henry said. "You've got to work hard to communicate. By communicating, we keep those

little things in our lives from becoming big, troublesome things."

"In the three years we've been married I've learned you can't change a person," Madeline said. "And that there is a need for communication."

The Seidels, who live on

(Turn to Page B15)



The Pennsylvania State Grange selects its 1999 Young Couple of the Year. From the left are runnerups James and Georgette Klotz from Huntingdon County, and winners Madeline and Henry Seidel of Berks County.