

family comes home to burning house

The unhappy surprise of coming home from a basketball game and finding their home ablaze was experienced by the Charles Hoeffcker family on the night of Feb. 16.

Their residence at 55 Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, was partially burned by a fire which was believed to have started in a bedroom.

Three volunteer fire companies quickly answered the 9:45 p.m. alarm. Shavertown unit, under the direction of Fire Chief Andrew Roan, responded with 20 men and a pumper and tanker. The Trucksville Company also had 20 men and 2 pieces of equipment, as did the Dr. Henry M. Laing Company, Dallas. Robert Chamberlain and Donald Shafer, chiefs, directed their respective units.

By the time firefighters arrived, flames were shooting from bedroom windows, which had exploded with the heat.

An older daughter was in the house but escaped without injury. However, a parrot, a gift to the daughter two years ago, was a victim of the blaze.

A neighbor, Howard Sproul, was cut on the hand when he attempted to help put the flames out prior to the fire-

men's arrival. Mr. Sproul was taken in the Dallas Community ambulance to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoeffcker and their family are staying temporarily with a neighbor, Florence Hock, while they look for a furnished apartment. Mrs. Hoeffcker said the family home was not gutted, but that they could not live there during the time repair work is being done.

"We are happy no one was hurt and that the family is intact. Also, we are very appreciative of the kindness of our neighbor, Mrs. Hock," Mrs. Hoeffcker declared.

Firemen said the fire was tapped out by about 10 p.m., but some volunteers remained at the site to keep the one-story frame dwelling hosed down.

The basketball game the Hoeffckers attended was between Dallas Senior High School and Plains High School. "Chip" Hoeffcker is a member of the local group, which won against Plains.

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Merrill, at rear, and their children, left to right, Fred, Brenda, Jane, and Larry, enjoy punch offered by Judy Holko of the personnel department at the United Penn Bank's newly remodeled Main Office in Wilkes-Barre.

United Penn Bank has open house

United Penn Bank's newly remodeled Main Office in Wilkes-Barre welcomed employees of the financial institution's dozen offices for a tour of the facilities marking a series of open houses for personnel, directors, stockholders and those who performed construction work over the past two years.

Among the employees on hand was Mrs. Fred Merrill, a member of the Proof and Transit Department in the Main Office, who resides with her family at Sandy Beach section of Harveys Lake.

Frank W. Anderson, chairman of the board, and William J. Pack, president, United Penn Bank, and both Back Mountain residents, were on hand to welcome visitors and bank personnel.

Dallas gambler nabbed earlier

The Dallas resident who was arrested Feb. 6 by F.B.I. agents as the alleged leader of a gambling operation appeared in Luzerne County court earlier this year on two charges.

George Peter Delvecchio, whose address is listed as Valley View Drive, Shrine Acres, Dallas, had charges filed against him over two years ago. Charges filed on Dec. 23, 1969, were: (1) being concerned with a lottery and (2) bookmaking. State Trooper Eugene McGuire was the prosecutor.

A Luzerne County grand jury heard the charges against the Back Mountain man Feb. 4, 1970.

On Jan. 29, 1971, Delvecchio, also allegedly known as George Julio, appeared before Judge Peter Paul Olszewski, and pleaded guilty. The case was heard without a jury.

Judge Olszewski fined Delvecchio \$125 on each charge and costs of \$39 on each.

On the bookmaking charge, it was noted that any contraband confiscated should be destroyed by the Pennsylvania State Police.

Delvecchio was represented by Atty. Mitchell Jenkins.

On Feb. 22, Delvecchio was indicted by a Federal grand jury on two counts in connection with bookmaking.

The gambling operation, which Delvecchio allegedly heads, was reported to do a \$15,000 a day business—for a total weekly take of \$115,000.

Eleven others, who were arrested along with Delvecchio by FBI agents Feb. 6, were indicted on charges of involvement in an interstate gambling operation.



Three Back Mountain fire companies responded to a call for assistance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoeffcker Feb. 16. Fire and smoke damage was extensive throughout the dwelling.

King's student government to sponsor Pizza Benefit

The Student Government of King's College is sponsoring a Pizza Benefit to aid victims of Cerebral Palsy in Wyoming Valley.

The monies raised by the sale of tickets will be used to supplement the cost of sending members of the United Cerebral Palsy Group of Wyoming Valley to the Fourth Annual C. P. Convention to be held in Pittsburgh during May.

The tickets may be redeemed at Pizza House by Pappas, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, on any one of four evenings beginning Feb. 24.

Members of the local group will participate in a bowling tournament while at the convention.

Tickets for the benefit are available at the King's Student Center or from any student government representative.

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- Sat. & Sun.—Mar. 20-21—"Danny Kaye in Two By Two" New York Weekend Trip
- Sun.—March 21—"Sandler & Young Show" Latin Casino
- Sun.—March 28—"The Supremes" Latin Casino
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- Sun.—April 4—"The Temptations" Latin Casino
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register to vote

The date for registration of voters in the Back Mountain Area is March 1. The registrars will sit at the Trucksville Fire Hall from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. for the convenience of anyone who wishes to register for voting privilege.

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