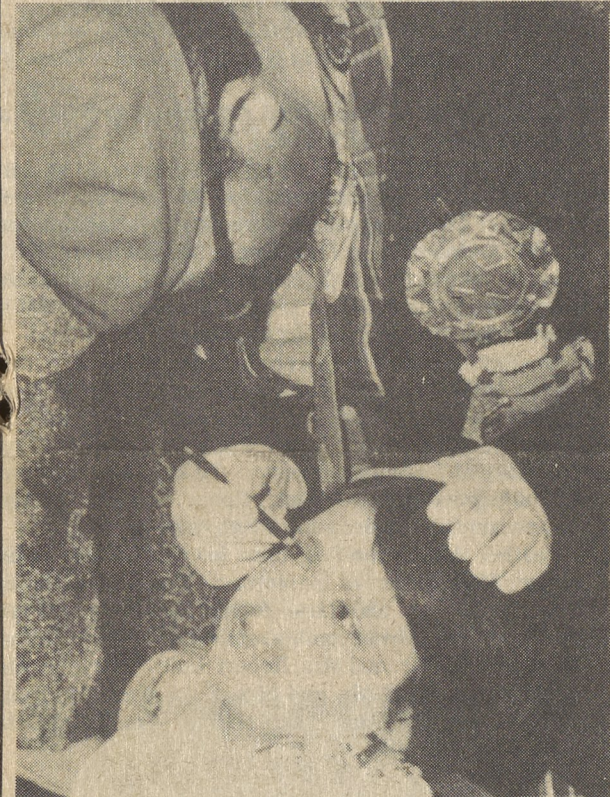




**JOIN THE FUN**—Come join the fun, coaxes Clown Don Lockhart of Peggy Jordan, while Francis "Red" Ambrose looks on in amusement at the Dallas Rotarians children's dinner party recently at Irem Temple Country Club. (Photo by Ted Gregory)



**TELL YOU A SECRET**—Clown Past Potentate Thomas Reese leans over to share a secret with Rotarians Rev. Andrew Pillarella and Howard Strom at the Dallas Club's children's party recently at the Country Club. (Photo by Ted Gregory)



**YOUNG CLOWN**—Clown Bob Rilk makes up Jeffrey Besecker as a young clown at the Dallas Rotarians dinner party for their children at Irem Temple Country Club. (Photo by Ted Gregory)



**FATHER LOOKS ON**—Robert Besecker looks on intently as his son, Jeffrey is transformed into a clown by Bob Rilk. (Photo by Ted Gregory)

## Mahlers note 33rd wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mahler, Demunds Road, East Dallas, observed their 33rd wedding anniversary on Friday. They were married on Feb. 1, 1947, in the Dallas Free Methodist Church by Rev. James Payne, pastor at the time.

Mrs. Mahler is the former Miss Dora Kester, daughter of Mrs. Ethel Kester of East Dallas and

the late Byron Kester of Demunds Road. Mr. Mahler is the son of the late Rev. and Mrs. A.A. Mahler of East Dallas. Rev. Mr. Mahler was widely known as a pastor of the Free Methodist Church, having served at several Free Methodist pastorates in the Back Mountain, including the Free Methodist campground in East Dallas.

Mahler is retired and was employed as a maintenance person at the Mercy Center in Dallas prior to his retirement in August. Mr. and Mrs. Mahler have two children: Roger

Bellas of Beaumont and Mrs. Donald (Bonnie) Metzger of Demunds Road, East Dallas. They also have three grandchildren: Susan and Roger Bellas, Jr. of Beaumont and Kimberly Metzger, East Dallas.

## BURNHAM

# New Olympic plan

The Olympics are not political. The Olympics are not political. The Olympics are not political.

No matter how many times I write it I still can't seem to believe it. I'm supposed to write it 100 times. It's a sort of punishment.

After I do the hundred repetitions, I'm supposed to believe once again in the great ideal—that the Olympics games are a gathering of athletes who compete for the purity of sport and the sanctity of wholesome competition. The Olympics portray the outstanding of humankind striving ever upward to improve. Each step forward hurdles us closer to the day when we'll all be brothers and sisters. The Olympics are not political.

Sure. And flags are not political—simply brightly colored cloth to add to the festive surroundings. And national anthems are not political either. And regimented parades with athletes wearing national colors are not political.

And the fact that we worry so much about which nations win what medals—that has nothing to do with politics. No. "Oh hell, Martha, that filthy, red, commie trash has two more gold medals than we do."

So the fact that Lake Placid facilities look like a concentration camp—it's simply new design techniques.

The murder of the Israeli athletes—they just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

So two black guys raise two black fists during a national anthem—just two ungratefuls. Bring 'em home.

And Hitler really loved Jesse Owens.

The Olympics aren't political? They're nothing but political. What they aren't is athletic. I say get rid of the athletics. Hard-working athletes deserve better. "What's a nice broad jumper like you doing in a place like this?"

Priorities must be put in order. What's more important, the 100-meter dash or world politics? The Olympics should involve one or the other. One guy runs faster than a couple of other guys and a flag is raised and a national anthem blares. Are we supposed to believe he ran faster because the political ideology of his country is purer?

Scrap the pretense. New ways of testing strength, endurance, agility and speed exist. These new events will test the national mettle. Athletes alone should not have to pay the price for national honor nor bear the burden of national disgrace. The flags, the anthems, the medals: they can all stay. What are the events?

To test endurance we can have the embargo competition. Each nation setup embargos on grains, goods, whatever. Whoever holds out the longest, maintaining a minimal population wins.

To test strength we would develop the energy control competition. This would be an all-out affair to test each nation's ability to manage its own energy while it tries to disrupt the energy balance in the other nations. This is an especially demanding event because it would follow the embargo competition.

Terrorism events would test agility and speed. Hostage taking, bombing and assassination on an

individual and guerrilla team basis would provide an exciting variety in the competition. Overall tallies of damage, numbers of hostages taken, and key assassinations would be kept over the Olympiad. Terrorism would provide the quick-hitting excitement needed to break up the grueling tedium of the embargo and energy control events.

Some of the lightweight events would be those involving trade agreements and strategic realignment. These events would involve diplomatic visits and cultural exchanges.

And we could still have the pageants and the parades. Each country could stage one and have it shown in all the other countries. Flags, soldiers, tanks, missiles, bands, patriotic music—all would be present. Failure to watch these parades would result in a reduction in national points. No points, no medals. Everybody participates in the Political Olympics.

Of course the best would be saved for last: The nuke events. After all the frustration, all the training and effort exerted in the other events, here would come the finale—the final release of national pride and energy.

The nuke events would represent the new Olympic flame! (only once of course). Can't you see it now: the color, the excitement, the awesomeness of every country in the world unleashing all its military power at one time! Who wins, you ask? What a poor attitude. After all, it's not winning that counts. When it comes to nukes—it's a matter of taking part.

## Women to hear Rev. Mock

Shavertown United Methodist Women will meet Monday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., in the church social rooms.

Program chairman for the evening is Joanne Parrish. The Rev. Charles Mock, pastor of Courtdale U.M. Church, will be guest speaker.

Deviotions will be given by Beverly Bunney. Members of the Priscilla Circle will be the hostesses.

## Women plan basement sale

United Methodist Women of Noxen have announced plans for a 'basement sale.' The sale will be held at the church on Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The women will also have wimpies, funnel cakes and a large assortment of baked goods for sale.

## Sr. Citizens plan Leap Year Party

A busy calendar of special events has been scheduled for the month of February at the Dallas Senior Citizens Center, Mercy Center, College Misericordia:

Monday, Feb. 4-1 p.m. Elders' Council Meeting  
Tuesday, Feb. 5-1 p.m. "I Remember When"—Victoria, Leader

Wednesday, Feb. 6-12:45 p.m. representative from C.E.O. will provide assistance with fuel rebate forms—Bring necessary papers to center.

Monday, Feb. 11-1 p.m. Pinochle Party.  
Wednesday, Feb. 13-12:45 p.m. Edwin Johnson, Wilkes College. Bird Feeding.

Thursday, Feb. 14-12:45 p.m. Dr. Joseph Pugliese—Cataracts and Cataract Surgery  
Monday, Feb. 25-12:30 p.m. Covered Dish Luncheon; 1 p.m. Pinochle Party

Monday, Feb. 29-1 p.m. Leap Year Party—50 cents per person "Ladies, Get Your Act Together".

These special events are in addition to a full program of on-going activities, classes and hot lunches Mondays through Fridays. Any senior citizen wishing to obtain more information on participating at the Center is encouraged to call Mrs. Victoria Gonzalez at 675-2179.

The Dallas Senior Citizens Center is sponsored by the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Office for the Aging.



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