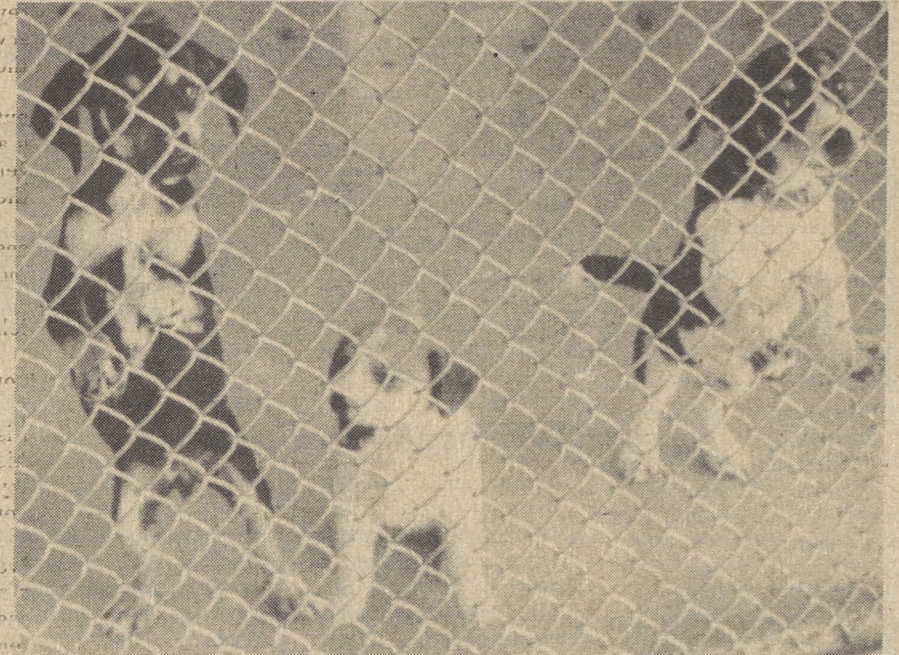




ACCEPTING AN ANIMAL—Shelter Manager Lauren Marcikonis accepts a cat at the Luzerne County (Jessie Thomas Bennett) Animal Shelter. [Photo by Roger Hill]



A HOME—These young pups are just a few of the thousands of animals that find a haven at the shelter every year. [Photo by Roger Hill]

# What's going to happen with 17,000 dogs running loose

"What's going to happen with 17,000 dogs running loose?"

That's how Lauren Marcikonis makes the point: Luzerne County needs to support its local chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

It seems hard to believe that Ms. Marcikonis, manager of the "Jessie Thomas Bennett Shelter," and her seven fulltime workers handle that many animals, but a look at the amount of dog and cat food consumed attests to the number of stray and abandoned animals that find a haven there.

During an average week the "visitors" at the shelter run through 300 pounds of dry dog food, 300 pounds of dry cat food plus six cases of can cat food. Most of the food is paid for at regular commercial prices,

although sometimes a supplier cuts his price to help out the shelter.

Relying on nothing but donations and payment from local municipalities, the shelter provides much needed food, warmth and medical care for the thousands of stray animals that are brought in each year. The shelter pays standard, commercial vet rates, too.

"We're called the Luzerne County Shelter, but we cover Carbon and Wyoming Counties, too, because they have no SPCA," Ms. Marcikonis explained.

"We billed each of the municipalities \$200 this year, but many of them are unreliable. Wilkes-Barre is very good, but Plains, where we are located, gives us nothing. Kingston gives us \$50, but we're out to the Kingston Police Department two or

three times a week. That won't even pay for the gas for our vans.

"Since we've put out the appeal we've had a good response, but we still need donations to keep coming in. The school children in Dallas as a really big help. Every year before Christmas I give a talk out there and the children each bring in some dog food or a toy for an animal. They even gift-wrap them and sometimes add a card."

In addition to rounding up animals and accepting strays and pets whose owners no longer can or will keep them, the shelter crew has plenty of duties which keep each of them busy.

There are 62 dog cages, 12 puppy cages and 30 cat cages to be kept clean. "We don't use volunteers," Ms. Marcikonis explained, "they seemed

to think their duty was to play with the puppies. Nobody wants to clean out the cages."

Often the animals that are brought in—sometimes rescued from abusive owners—are in pitiful condition. Many are thin and those get special meals until they are fattened up. Or they go to the vet.

"Two weeks ago somebody brought in a dog and I immediately noticed a strong odor. We found a chock chain imbedded in its neck. We took him to the vet who removed it but we lost the dog anyway. The owners had not removed the chain which was put on the dog as a puppy and he outgrew it."

Those who man the shelter are animal lovers.

The building is staffed around-the-clock and it is not unusual to find Lauren Marcikonis poking around the pre-dawn hours, flashlight in hand, to rescue an injured animal.

When an animal is adopted into a family the shelter is as vigilant as a social service. "We make adoption checks," the young manager commented. "We're not just a giant pet shop that doesn't care what happens to them."

The shelter staffers are sometimes distressed at the reputation animal shelters have. There is no "destroy them in five days if nobody adopts them" rule. One man turning over two cats asked, "They won't be in any pain, will they." The response came back, "We're not into pain."

## Folk festival open opens Sept. 11

The fifth annual Luzerne County Folk Festival, northeastern Pennsylvania's only full scale multi-ethnic festival will present an ethnic mosaic of the region from Sept. 11 through 14 at the 109th Field Artillery Armory, Kingston.

Starting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. with a parade of international flags, the Folk Festival focuses on the heritage and culture of 26 ethnic and national backgrounds.

Through art, craft and artifacts the Festival illustrates history,

tradition and culture. In its offering of ethnic food, the Festival offers the opportunity to enter ethnic kitchens to observe the preparation of Eastern European, Italian, German, Middle Eastern and Oriental specialties and an opportunity to sample traditional foods from around the world.

Festival performances combine the best in local talent with guest appearances of top name international groups. The entertainment schedule provides a range of expression including folklorist Joe Glazer, famed as "Labor's Troubadour", who will appear on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. as part of an American program; the George Tomov Balkan Dance Ensemble of New

York which will present the cheerful, bouncy dances of Yugoslavia on Friday at 8 p.m.; the Sopilka Dancers who will perform exciting Ukrainian Dance at 8 p.m. on Saturday and the famous Kujawiaki, which performs the music and dance of Poland. Saturday afternoon's program is especially for children and features the puppet magic of Steve Abrams and his "Folk Heroes of the Puppet Stage".

Folk Festival craftsmen invite visitors to learn centuries old folk craft including pysanky (egg decorating), wycinanki (paper cutting), wheat weaving, decoupage, embroidery, wood carving, needlework and crafts using natural materials.

Northeastern Pennsylvania's roots are deep into Europe and this is reflected in the Festival where visitors can explore their own roots by viewing authentic artifacts and asking questions of participants. Many Festival people are multilingual and can offer conversation in the language of visitors. Festival hours are Sept. 11, 12, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sept. 13, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sept. 14, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. General admission to the Festival is \$2.50, student rates \$1 and free admission to children under 12. Group discounts are available. Further information is available from the Festival sponsor, Luzerne County Tourist Promotion Agency, 301 Market St., Kingston, PA 18704 (717) 288-6784.

## RHC schedules 18-week weight loss program classes

Rural Health Corporation will conduct a Behavioral Modification Weight Reduction Program at the Exeter Township Medical Center, Rt. 92, Falls, Behavioral Modification is a revolutionary approach to weight loss because no diet is used. Emphasis is placed on "changing problem eating habits" to

achieve proper weight. Classes will start on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will continue for a duration of 18 weeks. Prior to acceptance, all individuals must attend a free introductory lecture which will be held at the Exeter Township Medical Center on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Roberta Klein, R.D., M.S., nutritionist, will conduct the classes. Ms. Klein has been trained by Dr. Henry Jordan, nationally known psychiatrist and author of the book "Eating is Okay" at the Institute for Behavioral Education, King of Prussia.

All interested persons are welcome to attend the introductory session.

## Quick revisits British school

Herb Quick, Kunkle, teacher at Wyoming Seminary, revisited the Queen Elizabeth School in Crediton, Devonshire, England, where he taught French in 1970 while on sabbatical leave.

The Quicks visited with their old friends and acquaintances during their brief stay. Daughter Jennifer was born in England while Quick was

employed there. Another daughter, Kathryn, was two at the time. Their father reported both were ecstatic about visiting England.

The Quick's capped off their summer vacation with a 10-day trip to Paris, Seine Valley, Normandy and Brittany.

Quick, who has been teaching French at Wyoming Seminary for the past 23 years won the

Maslow Award given at graduation exercises last June. The award is given to a member of the faculty or staff who has demonstrated effective teaching, support of the program and ideals of the school and who has had a positive influence on the life of the students.

Quick's wife, Gwen, teaches French and English at the Dallas Senior High School.

## Trucksville UM announces full fall worship schedule

The Reverend Thomas A. Clemow has announced the fall schedule for the Trucksville United Methodist Church, with church school at 9:15 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. The Senior High United Methodist Youth Fellowship will resume on Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The Widows Club of the Back Mountain will meet on Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m. in

the educational building. The Administrative Board will hold a planning meeting on Sept. 21, 3-8 p.m. Members are asked to bring a sandwich lunch and join in the planning session of the board.

The fall Chicken Barbeque sponsored by the trustees will be held Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m., at the educational

building. Tickets may be obtained from the trustees or by calling the church office. Please make reservations early.

Plans are in full swing for the women's annual bazaar, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 24, in the educational building. The bazaar workshops will continue weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

## Fall Festival of Arts to open at Wellsboro

Travelers looking for a family experience close to home this fall should plan on enjoying one of the most beautiful seasons of the year in Pennsylvania.

The Second Fall Festival of the Arts in Wellsboro may be an excellent reason to schedule a trip. Visitors are sure to encounter

dazzling fall foliage, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, an antique show and sale, and a wonderful outdoor art exhibition.

The first weekend of October, Oct. 3, 4 and 5, are the dates to remember. For more information write Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce, 120 Main St., Wellsboro, Pa. 16901.

**L. L. Aux to hop!**  
Orders may be picked up at the Alderson Methodist Church on Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon or between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. The price per hoagie is \$1.25.

**After the TUNKHANNOCK TIGERS BEAT RIVERSIDE this Friday Night, SEPT. 12**  
Stop at SHADOW BROOK FOR PIZZA or BURGERS  
Present your ticket stub for a Half Price Drink

**BUY TWO GET 50% OFF ON SECOND MACHINE**

Now, you can get a sled for yourself plus a second one for the family or a friend and still save BIG!  
Buy any brand new Ski-Doo snowmobile and we'll sell you a second machine, of the same or lesser value, at 50% off suggested retail! See your participating Ski-Doo dealer today and get two snowmobiles for the price of one and a half.

**SKI-DOO GRAND OPENING THRU SEPT. 21ST COME & SEE US NOW!**  
**HONDA NORTHEAST**  
ROUTE 6, SCRANTON  
PHONE 383-0944

## IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING

### to owners of older John Deere Lawn and Garden Tractors

Maintaining the safety equipment on your older John Deere Lawn and Garden Tractor can be especially important. The original boot (or cover) for the battery's positive post on Model 60, 70, 100, 110, 112, 120 or 140 Tractors manufactured from 1963 through 1974 may have suffered from age or may have been lost or damaged. And if that positive battery post is not properly covered, there is danger of a spark causing a fire and bodily injury if you accidentally touch a metal gas can to the positive battery post when refueling the tractor. A more serious fire can result if you are not using a safety-approved gas can.

If you own one of the above models, John Deere wants to make absolutely certain that your tractor has the battery's positive post properly isolated. To make it easy—and safer—for you, we will send you a new cover, free. Just fill out the coupon provided below and mail it to the address shown. It comes complete with installation instructions and is not difficult to install. But if you prefer, after you have received your kit, make a date with your John Deere Lawn and Garden Tractor dealer and he'll install it for a small service charge.

Remember, safety and maintenance go hand in hand. The operator's manual can help you. Read it again. Keep your tractor as safe as it was when it was delivered.

It could be the most important thing you do today.

**FREE BATTERY COVER KIT**  
For Battery's Positive Post

John Deere Tractor Model: \_\_\_\_\_


Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Located on plate below steering wheel column)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Street)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code)

Mail to:  
John Deere Horicon Works P. O. Box 1000 Horicon, Wisconsin 53032



\*Kits are shipped UPS; therefore, a street address is required. W

**NOW OPEN**  
**MURPH'S SERVICE CENTER**  
Tunkhannock Highway  
Rte. 309, Dallas  
675-9674

**Complete line of Mobile Products**  
**Purina Pet & Farm Feeds**  
at mill prices  
**Coupons Accepted**

**Small Engine Repairs by Gary**  
**OPENING SPECIAL**  
Valvoline 10/20/40 W All Season  
Motor Oil \$20 case tax included  
Open Mon. thru Sat. 6 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sunday 7 a.m.-7 p.m.