



George Common demonstrates his company's new computer. The machine is used to provide energy cost projections for individual homes.

## Computer surveys area homes

Home heating and energy saving has entered the highly technological world of computers and the results are providing cost projections ranging over the next 15 years. Common and Co., home insulators, are front-running the computer age in energy conservation locally and providing an unusual survey of area homes.

Using ordinary photographs, specifications of interior space and basic cost information, the portable computer draws a composite picture of heat savings and loss. It will estimate yearly energy use, and, based on the current cost of fuel (plus a ten percent escalation per year) tell the homeowner how much he will be paying through the coming years.

Jim Rittenhouse, general manager of Common and Co. explained the computer has already been used to survey local homes. "The accuracy is startling," he said. "It takes the guesswork out of it for us. And it is correct within 1 1/2 percent either way."

The developers, Thermal Data Corporation of Wayne, Pa. claim to have perfected a technique which bypasses costly and sometimes temperamental infrared cameras. The Thermal Data Computer processes measurements scaled from an ordinary photograph. The calculations, which take less than one minute, predict the optimum heating performance of the residence, a new yardstick which the homeowner can compare to his present heating costs.

Information fed into the computer includes measurements of the house, type of construction, current cost and type of heat. A section analysis is also provided with information of type and construction of ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors and present insulation. The resulting picture provides a basis for determining what can be done to achieve "optimum heating performance." Translated to the bottom line, it tells homeowners how low their heating bills could

ever be if all parts of the house and heating system were optimized.

Using this yardstick, the insulation contractor will be able to quantify what various conservation measures, in combination, can ultimately achieve. Homeowners participating in the survey will be asked to compare present heating costs with the computer's determination of optimum performance. Return on future investments is also included.

Rittenhouse can take a photo of a home from the outside, note its construction type and determine the approximate cost of heating under present energy standards. Of course, he noted, older homes are not built according to today's standards making heating costs higher, in reality.

The present survey is conducted as a test of the new computer technique, but initial findings are very impressive. The computer is available upon request for an in-house inspection and on-site computer analysis by calling Common and Co. of Shavertown.

Congratulations are extended to David Munoz on his promotion to manager of Radio Shack in the Midway Shopping Center. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Munoz, formerly of Centermoreland. David received an associate degree from Keystone Junior College and also studied at the University of Scranton and Kings College. His wife is the former Miss Patti Moore of East Dallas, a secretary at the main office of Franklin First Federal Savings and Loan in Wilkes-Barre. The couple is residing at 62 South Welles Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Woolgrowers Association of Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties held their annual dinner meeting Saturday in the Centermoreland United Methodist Church social rooms. The day opened with a demonstration of wool products and was highlighted by the election of officers for the coming year. United Methodist Women of the Centermoreland UM Church served the dinner.

A new softball diamond is available for use by the public at Frances Slocum Park at Carverton. Members of the Marine Corps Reserve Unit at Forty Fort spent several weekends preparing the softball field with finishing touches applied by park personnel. The softball field is located about 300 yards in on the left from the main entrance to the state park.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Karichner are residing on Hildonia Avenue in Dallas. They were married on Saturday, Sept. 17, in East Dallas United Methodist Church by the pastor, Rev. Donald Walter, Mrs. Karichner is the former

## Back Country Briefs

Miss Holly Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore of East Dallas.

Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company will hold its Oct. Meeting on Tuesday evening at 8 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Kytte, Monkey Hollow Road, Centermoreland. President Cjarles Goble will

preside. Reports will be made on the progress of the new fire hall, which is under construction on the fire company's plot just south of Weaver's Market in Centermoreland.

Richard and Marion Brunges of Centermoreland received all the awards in the Dorset sheep show in connection with the Luzerne County

Fair at Dallas. The Brungeses have been breeding Dorsets for many years. Among the awards received were those for Champion Ram and Ewe and Reserve Champion Ram and Ewe.

Sacrament of Christian baptism was administered on Sept. 26 to

Kelly Jean Dunningan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dunningan, in Carverton UM Church, and to Aaron John Gittens, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Gittens of Mount Zion in the Mount Zion UM Church. Rev. Dr. Allen Cease, pastor, administered the sacrament to both youngsters.

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## Nesbitt expands Therapy Program

In the last three years, the demand for Physical Therapy treatments at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital has increased by over 360 percent. A substantial growth of this nature prompted an immediate plan for the department's expansion.

The former facility limited therapists to six treatment areas, while the new unit accommodates 11 patient treatment areas. In addition, the new structure features an enlarged whirlpool area and a "Hubbard" tank designed for full immersion of burn, trauma, arthritis, orthopedic-neurologic and pre-post-operative therapy patients.

Many specialized treatments are available in the department. TENS is used to suppress pain without the use of drugs. Bio-Feedback aids in the alleviation of muscle pain

in stroke and trauma cases. Electromyography (EMG), a nerve conduction test, is used in the diagnosis and prognosis of injuries or severed areas. A new addition is the Pelvic Traction unit for treatment of pelvic disorders and automobile accident victims.

The innovative Sports Medicine Program, located in the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital "Health Center" in Edwardsville, is another service rendered by the Physical Therapy Department.

The Physical Therapy Department, staffed by a director, 10 therapists, and 11 clerk aides, accommodates an average of 380 patient therapy visits daily. It is projected that 96,000 treatments will be performed in this coming fiscal year.

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## Plymouth Merchants Fall Sales Event

Plymouth Businessmen will sponsor their Annual Fall Sales event beginning Monday, October 4, and continuing through Friday, October 8.

Most downtown merchants will have special advertised values and will also give the customers a chance at a special award in which the only requirement is to leave their name and address in a box in the store for a drawing to be held on Friday, November 24. The Plymouth Business Area is especially noted as the home of the leading furniture stores in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Participating merchants include the following...

Anthony's Beauty Salon  
Ben Franklin Department Store  
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Landaus Furniture  
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