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Covering The Back Mountain

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Scout Troop 281 notes 50 years

By SHEILA HODGES
Staff Correspondent

Boy Scout Troop 281, sponsored by the Dallas United Methodist Church, is celebrating its 50th year and plans to announce a special anniversary celebration in the near future.

The troop's 1983-84 season will begin Thursday, Sept. 15, with its opening meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Dallas United Methodist Church.

Scoutmaster Henry Steuben of Dallas currently has 28 active members in his troop as the Dallas troop has accepted some members from the recently-disbanded Shavertown troop.

Steuben became Scoutmaster of Troop 281 earlier this year after the former scoutmaster, Bob Schooley, left the area. For a while, the troop was without a leader and was continued by volunteer fathers. Steuben, whose son Greg has recently joined the troop, was approached for the job and has since found it to be a very rewarding challenge.

Steuben and his assistants, Eugene Gingo and Barry Brown, are currently planning fall activities which will kick off with a Fall Camporee in October. The Camporee is followed by a Polar Bear Camp in February and a swimming competition during the winter months. All of these activities are designed to sharpen the competitive spirit of the troop as a number of scout troops in District 2 are involved in them.

The scouts of Troop 281 were hard at work at the Luzerne County Fall Fair acting as parking lot attendants, a project they undertake every year as part of their community service scheme to earn credit



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denison

Mapmaking session

Members of Dallas Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas United Methodist Church, study mapmaking at a recent meeting. From left, Ed Raebuck, Darren Michael, scouts; Kurt Fetterman Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout; Henry Steuben, Scoutmaster; Scott Gregg Steuben; Don Dickson, Sr. Patrol Leader; Chris Fetterman, Asst. Sr. Patrol Leader; and Steve Strazdus, Jr. Asst. Scoutmaster.

toward summer activities.

Steuben, who is trying to get the older boys more involved as potential leaders, feels this is what modern day Scouting is all about. The senior patrol leaders now have more ideas of how they would like to see activities handled.

"The patrol system should work more as a small group with adult

supervision and guidance," the scoutmaster said.

Steuben explained that Scouting continues throughout the year but that there tends to be little activity following Summer Camp at the end of July.

Troop 281 was especially successful at camps this summer as a number of younger scouts, involved

in scouting for the first time, qualified in fields ranging from swimming to basketry to geology. He stated that troop members earned 45 merit badges and 23 skill awards. These awards were presented at a camp fire meeting held recently where the boys entertained their parents with songs and anecdotes from camp.



Dallas Post/Rod Kaye

PAK makes donation

Parents and Kids (PAK) recently made a monetary donation to the Dallas Intermediate School. Shown during the presentation are, from left, seated, Ruth Husband, principal, Dallas Intermediate School; JoAnn Hall, PAK. Standing, Sam Barbose, principal, Dallas Elementary School; Joyce Krivenko, PAK; Marianne Williams, PAK; and Sandy Kerchner, PAK.

PAK implements drug prevention

By JOAN KINGSBURY
Staff Correspondent

PAK, a program of parents and kids working together in the Back Mountain, has been instrumental in the implementation of a drug and alcohol abuse preven-

tion program within the Dallas School System.

Organized last April, PAK has as its main objectives to promote educational and recreational programs for young people in the Back Mountain area. The initial meeting, held at Trinity Presby-

(See PAK, page 8)

Misericordia receives aid

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

College Misericordia has received a \$24,250 State Department of Energy Grant to cover the latest energy conservation project taking place on the Dallas campus. The grant will cover the changing of the air conditioning unit at McHale Dormitory from steam conversion to electricity at an estimated yearly savings of \$9,307 with the unit expected to pay for itself in less than four years.

This is planned as the first step in ultimately shutting down the central gas steam conversion plant which serves the entire campus and replacing it with more efficient individual building units for hot water and cooling. This would allow the complete turning off of units not in use during the summer months, according to Kevin McGovern, Coordinator of Grants at College Misericordia.

Another energy conservation project planned at the local college, according to McGovern, is uniformly replacing all roofs with two-inch insulated foam roofing as is presently being done at the Merrick Student Center. Changing campus lighting to high intensity sodium lamps is another energy saver which in the case of McCauley-Walsh Hall, McGovern estimated would reduce electric consumption 500 percent.

College Misericordia, which won the Governors Energy Council Award in 1981 for savings realized then, has been involved continuously in energy conservation. Last year, a complete on-campus energy audit was conducted which will be used as the basis of a large number of future projects.

Hearing is set in Gabriel case

A public hearing for John Gabriel, building and grounds supervisor for the Dallas School District, will be held Thursday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. in the District Administration Building, Church St., Dallas.

The Sept. 15 hearing will probably be only the first of what could drag out to be 10 or 15 hearings or a possible 40 plus hours of testimony.

The entire Dallas School Board will sit as a panel of judges at all the hearings and will be represented by Atty. Charles Lemmond who has been appointed Special Counsel to the Board in this matter.

Gabriel is being represented by Atty. Arthur Piccone.

Gabriel, who went to court to dispute the Dallas School Board's Aug. 8 action firing him from the position of building and grounds supervisor, has continued working in his current capacity pending the outcome of this hearing.



Dallas Post/Bill Savage

Carnival family

The Swika Family of Montdale has been in the carnival business for 60 years. Here, four members of the family take time from their schedule. At left, Steve Swika, III holds Justine Lynn Swika, who was just 18 days old the day the Luzerne County Fall Began while Steve Swika Jr., above right, hugs 14-month old Adam.

Swika's rides add fun for fair-goers

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

Behind the scenes at the Fall Fair last week were people brushing their teeth with water from paper cups, washing diapers, shaving, knitting, feeding their dogs, and reading the paper. They were the workers - "the traveling carnies" - who, year after year in town after town, make the magic that the people crowd to see.

While hundreds of children thrilled to the attractions at the 1983 Luzerne County Fall Fair, the youngest one there, Miss Justine Lynn Swika who was just 18 days old on the fair's opening day, didn't join in the festivities. Justine spent most of her time napping in the family trailer at the edge of the fair grounds off Route 118 in Lehman, while three other generations of her family were working the rides, amusements, and concession on the midway.

Her great grandfather Steve Swika, who started the family business 60 years ago during the depression with one concession in Peckville, was working in the office along with his wife Regina who acts as secretary. Grandpa Steve Swika

Jr., who manages S & S Amusements, was trouble shooting out on the grounds while his wife, Jackie, who doubles as Show Secretary, was running the French Fry concession.

Steve III, who proudly greeted his first child August 20, was supervising the rides while the new mother Christine looked after the baby and her sister stood in for her by running the Candy Booth Game. The young couple, who just bought a winter house in Montdale, met two years ago when Steve was working the Norristown Firemen's Fair which Christine attended as a female firefighter of the Springmill Fire Company.

The Waffle and Ice Cream Concession is run by Steve's sister Sandy with a little assistance from her 14-month-old son, Adam, who is just learning the business. All the trailers belonging to the family members are clustered together with lawn chairs set out and the family dogs tied in the shade. Steve III presently has two dogs - a beagle given to him at the Hartford Fair last summer and a German Shepherd pup another fair goer gave him earlier this year in Clarks Summit.

The Swika family, who now owns 26 rides plus concessions, are hard

(See SWIKA, page 8)

'Carni man' is watching

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

When you are at a fair and suspiciously watching "the pitchman" who has taken your money, it may come as a surprise to know he may also be watching you and making some judgements of his own.

"The guy who spends the most money is the greediest one," said Joe Sheldon who has been in the business of running carnival games for 25 years.

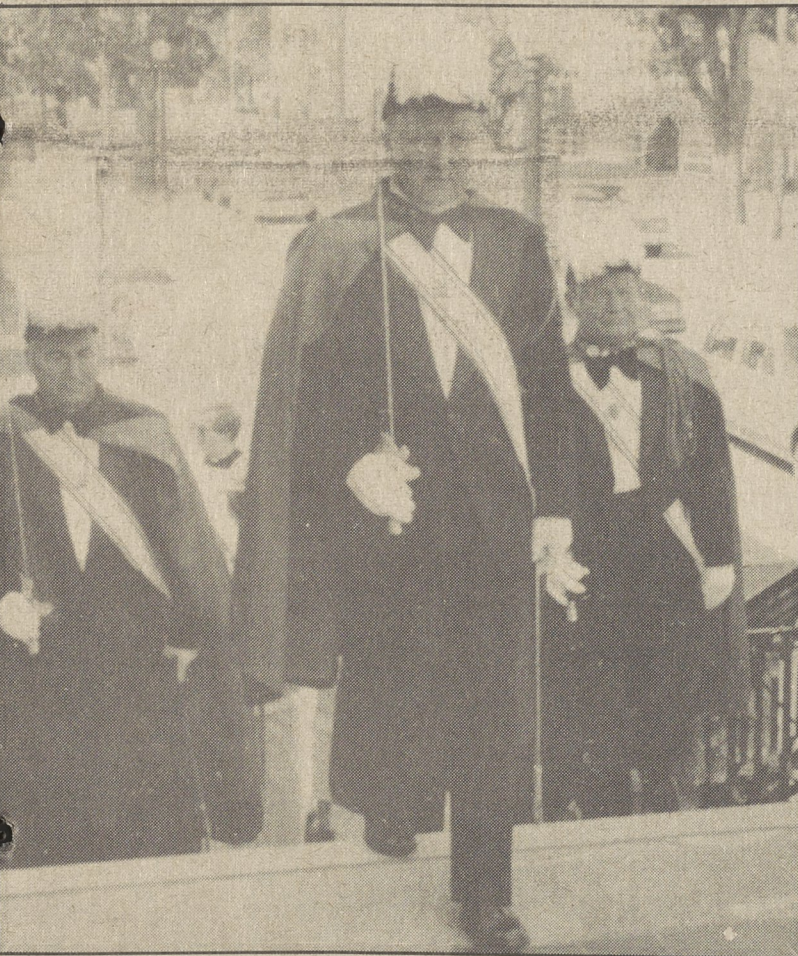
"Some people just want something for nothing and they're the first to say the game's not honest," continued Sheldon who ran such games as The Duck Pond, The Fish Bowl, Darts, Pitch and Live Rabbits at the Luzerne County Fall Fair last week. "Some people who come to these fairs are stupid, some are smart, they're just like us - 'carnies' are people, too" he continued defensively waving his arms in the air.

Two of Sheldon's employees who had previously been talking to a reporter about life with the fair stood by nodding their heads as "the boss" sounded off about the people who attend fairs.

One was 21-year-old Terry, a clean cut platinum haired youth who joined the troupe five years ago when it passed through his hometown of Massillon, Ohio. At age 16, Terry "just packed up" and has since traveled continuously from New York to Pompano Beach, Florida, an experience he described as "like camping out all the time."

His buddy, 20-year-old Ed Shay, who originally hailed from Reading, was hired by Sheldon Amusements a year and a half ago when he attended a fair in Newfoundland. He said, "I'm having a good time, I'm not tied down."

"My guys come from every walk of life," Sheldon said. "It's not a bad life for a single person, it's better than welfare. There's a lot of unemployment out there. Everybody here is working...so, they only stay for a year or so...they get paid while they're here. We have water and electricity, we shave, we get washed up, we shower before the shows, we change our clothes, we're just like you people."



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Leading the mass

The Most Reverend John J. O'Connor, D.D., newly installed Bishop of Scranton, is shown leading the procession prior to a Mass celebrated at Bishop O'Reilly High School.

Bishop O'Connor leads O'Reilly mass

His Excellency, Most Reverend John J. O'Connor, D.D. newly installed Bishop of Scranton, visited Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston on Sept. 2 to celebrate Mass for the beginning of the school year.

The Mass was the culmination of a week's activities where teachers and staff gathered at a meeting to prepare for the school's 29th academic year. Bishop O'Reilly is the oldest centralized Catholic high school in the Scranton Diocese.

Seventh, eighth and ninth grade students reported for orientation and class assignments on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The entire school body attended classes on Sept. 7. The students were welcomed by Rev. Theodore Marcinko, newly installed

Principal of the west side school. In his address, Father Marcinko told the students that he welcomed the opportunity to act as principal at an institution so rich in tradition and history. He asked them for their help in enabling them to reach their full potentials.

Bernard Popson, Dean of Students, spoke to the students about their responsibilities as young Christian men and women, and Miss Margaret Chulvick, Director of Student Activities, encouraged them to become involved in the multitude of sports and extra-curricular activities available at the school. Chulvick stressed to the students that success lay in their hands, and that having pride in the school and participating in its activities was the path to success.

We have a winner!

The Dallas Post has a winner in its "Front Page News" contest. The contest, conducted in conjunction with the Luzerne County Fall Fair, will feature the winner in a story in the Sept. 21 edition of the newspaper. The winner will also be awarded a Sony AM-FM stereo/cassette player and dinner (\$50 value) at Pickett's Charge Restaurant, Dallas. The winning entry was picked Sunday at 6 p.m. by Ricky Huey, age 12, of Valley View Trailer Park, Dallas. Read next week's Dallas Post to learn who made "Front Page News."

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