

Miers farm is honored

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

The Ralph Miers farm in Lehman Township was honored this week by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as a Pennsylvania Century Farm. The 126-year-old farm had the distinction of joining 848 other farm families in the Commonwealth which have earned this recognition.

Ralph and Nettie Miers, whose address is RD 5, Shavertown, are the third generation of Miers to own the Lehman Township farm. The 87-acre Miers property was originally purchased by Ralph's grandparents, Johnson C. and Mary J. Miers for approximately \$11.96 an acre.

Johnson and Mary had a son William, who continued to operate the farm. William had a brother, sister, two half sisters and a half brother but he was the only one interested in farming.

At that time the principal crop was hay which Ralph's grandfather, Johnson, and father, William, sold to the mines in Wyoming Valley. It wasn't until the 1940's that the Miers changed to dairy farming. Today, Ralph has about 40 head of cattle, at present 29 of them milk cows.

Ralph's parents, William and Mary Loretta Cease Miers, had three boys, Ralph, Ernest L. and Arthur M. and a daughter, Beatrice L. Hawk. Ernest and Arthur are deceased, but Beatrice resides in Mountaintop.

Ralph and Nettie have four children, Gary A., Roger C., Eileen Headman and Rachel Miers but Roger is the only one interested in the farm and plans to continue in dairy farming.

Ralph and Nettie reside in the original house on the property. The only renovation done was when Ralph's father made the roof higher and added a room upstairs in the farmhouse.

According to Ralph, the barn has had additions constructed since it was first built, one in 1868, one in 1899 and a third in 1915.

Today, in addition to dairy farming the Miers grow only a few vegetables for their own use. The farm, however, still has its original 87 acres.

Ralph says he has no idea what the value of the farm is today



Old farm

Ralph and Nettie Miers are shown here on their farm in Lehman Township. The 126-year-old farm was recently recognized as a Century Farm by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

because he has never been interested in selling it.

State agricultural secretary, Penrose Hallowell said "The Century Farms program recognizes those farm families which have contributed so much to our Commonwealth's economic and agricultural heritage. For more than 200 years, our farm families have worked to make Pennsylvania the leading agricultural state in the Northeast and agriculture the state's number one industry. Our Century Farms are proof that Pennsylvania Agriculture is truly Growing Better."

To be recognized as a Century Farm, the farm must have been

owned by the same family for the past 100 years, and a family member must still live on the land. The farm must also contain at least 10 acres of the original holding.

In addition to the Miers farm, the Donald L. and Mary Cook farm of RD 3, Drums, was also recognized as a Century Farm. The two farms join seven other farms in Luzerne County designated as Century Farms. They include Gordon and Judith Dawe, Lehman; Elizabeth Knies, Mountaintop; Nelson Lewis, Pittston; Carl and Harriett Michael, Eugene Marvin, Walter Hontz, and Ralph Harrison, all of Shickshinny.

Births

The following area couples have announced births recently:

A daughter to LINDA AND RICKEY GASPER, Box 152, RD 5, Shavertown, on May 3 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A daughter to MARION AND JAMES SICKLER, RD 2, Box 20, Harveys Lake, on May 1 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A daughter to JEANNE AND WILLIAM KRAVITZ, RD 1, Box 291, Harveys Lake, on May 1 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A son to JANICE AND ANTHONY PERO, 117 Watkins St., Swoyersville, on April 26 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A son to SUE ELLEN AND JEFFREY BOYES, RD 1, Bethel Hill Road, Sweet Valley, on April 28 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A son to ELIZABETH AND JAMES HARKINS, 188 Mount Airy Road, Shavertown, on April 4 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A daughter to CONSTANCE AND CHARLES LAJEUNESSE, 128 Perrin Ave., Shavertown, on April 18 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A son to SUSAN AND ROBERT SHAFER, 251 Hughes St., Swoyersville on April 19 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

A daughter to SUSAN AND ANDREW SORDONI, Pole 48, RD 1, Box 298, Harveys Lake, on April 20 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

A son to MARGARET AND HARRY VAN KUYK, RD 1, Box 135, Dallas on April 20 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

A son to SHARON AND PATRICK LYONS, 93 Grandview Ave., Dallas, on April 20 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

Poetry contest

A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in World of Poetry's 9th Annual Poetry Contest, open to all poets. There are 200 prizes worth over \$25,000.

For a free brochure of rules and prizes write, World of Poetry, Dept. E, 2431 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, California 95817.



Planting tree

Shown here are students in the third grade class at Gate of Heaven School during ceremonies conducted at the school in honor of Arbor Day. From left, first row, Keith Jones, Joseph Kelley, Brian Jezuit, Brendon McGovern, Stephen Brdaric, David Yankoski, David Kasmak. Second row, Tara Bradbury, Melanie Kuniskas, Margaret Gilgallon, Melinda Henry, Megan Heffron, Maria Farris, Christine Elechko, Michelle Panuccio. Third row, Mrs. Ann Gray, Mary Ann Johnson, Kelly Adams, and Sister Davida, principal.

Third-graders plant tree for Arbor Day

The third grade class of Gate of Heaven School, Dallas, under the direction of Mrs. Ann Gray, planted a flowering dogwood tree on the church grounds recently, commemorating Arbor Day.

A ceremony followed consisting of

the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Tara Bradbury, a recitation of Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" by Melanie Kuniskas, and a story of the Dogwood Tree by Margaret Gilgallon.

A capsule containing the names of

the children, their nicknames, their dog's name, a penny, and other memorabilia they felt important to them was placed at the root of the tree. To honor the appointment of the new Bishop, James Clifford Timlin, his name was included in the capsule.

Obituaries

ELIZABETH DENNIS

Elizabeth Dennis, 91, formerly of Noxen, died May 2 in Valley Crest Nursing Home, Plains Township.

Her husband, Jerome, died in 1964. Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Funeral was held May 5 from the Nulton Funeral Home, Beaufort, with the Rev. Pegg Ainslie-Richards, pastor of Noxen United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment, Orcutt Cemetery, Noxen.

ROBERT MICHAEL

Robert H. Michael, 23, of RD 2, Dalton, formerly of Noxen, died May 1 in Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

Surviving are a daughter, Nicole Swlangbang; brothers and sisters, Paul, Susan and Sherry, at home; Mrs. Paula Fox, West Wyoming; maternal grandmother Mrs. Gertrude Woodruff, Luzerne.

Funeral was held May 5 from the Nulton Funeral Home, Beaufort, with the Rev. Jerry Tallent, pastor of the Noxen Independent Bible Church, officiating. Interment, Beaufort Cemetery, Beaufort.

MARTHA KOWNACKI

Mrs. Martha M. Kownacki, of Box 189A, Overbrook Road, Dallas, died May 3 in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where she had been a patient for two days.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Matthew Weiss, with whom she resided; two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral was held May 7 from the Mark V. Yanaitis Funeral Home, Plains, with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Joseph's Church. Interment, parish cemetery.

ALFRED FEIST

Alfred M. Feist, 90, of Oval Drive, Dallas, died April 30 in the Meadows Nursing Home, Dallas.

His wife, the former Loretta Kearney died in 1975. Surviving is a brother, Howard J. Feist, Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Funeral was held May 3 from the Luther M. Kniffen Funeral Home, Wilkes-Barre, with the Rev. Dr. James L. Harring, pastor of the Albright United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment, Oak Lawn Cemetery, Hanover Township.

ROBERT BRIAN HARKINS

Infant Robert Brian Harkins, son of T. Shawn and Cheryl Hanson Harkins, Box 100, Country Club Road, Dallas, died April 28 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Surviving in addition to his parents, are a sister, Shannon, at

home; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Harkins Jr., Forty Fort; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanson, Dallas; paternal great-grandparent, Mrs. Ellen Clarke, Ashley; maternal great grandparents, Mrs. Lillian Kata, Nanticoke; Charles Kata, Nanticoke; Mrs. Helen Hanson, Harveys Lake.

Private funeral services were held from the McLaughlin Funeral Home, Kingston, with interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township.

MILDRED HOLMGREN

Mildred P. Holmgren, 69, of RD 1, Dallas, died May 5 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Surviving are her husband, Spencer Sr.; a son, Spencer Jr., Noxen; a daughter, Mrs. Elouise Rogers, Mehoopany; six grandchildren.

Funeral was held May 9 from the Nulton Funeral Home, Beaufort, with the Rev. Pegg Ainslie-Richards, pastor of the Noxen United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment, Memorial Shrine Cemetery, Carverton.

NORMAN SHANNON

Norman A. Shannon, 70, of RD 2, Harveys Lake, died May 6 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Surviving are his wife, the former Sarah Jane Zacharias; a sister, Mrs. Helen Bainbridge, Harveys Lake; a son, Phillip, at home; daughters, Virginia, at home; Mrs. Carson Gramley and Mrs. Renford Swire, both of Beaufort; seven

grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral was held May 8 from the Nulton Funeral Home in Beaufort with the Rev. William Kennard, pastor of Alderson Methodist Church and the Rev. Donald Baker, pastor of the Bowmans Creek Free Methodist Church, officiating. Interment, Kitchen Cemetery, Alderson.

WILMA SAKOSKI

Mrs. Wilma M. Sakoski, of Pellam Terrace, Dallas, died May 6 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Surviving are sons, Charles W. Sakoski, Hanover Township; Bishop Robert Clement, Union City, N.J.; daughter, Mrs. George Offshack, Tunkhannock; brother, William Nancarroll, Kingston; sister, Mrs. Louise Hamrick, Dallas; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Funeral was held May 9 from Lutheran M. Kniffen Funeral Home, Wilkes-Barre, with services in SS. Clement and Peter Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre. The Rev. Thomas H. Ferris, rector, officiated. Interment, Oak Lawn Cemetery, Hanover Township.

LLEWELLYN JONES

Llewellyn R. Jones, 86, of North Lake, Sweet Valley and Sarasota, Fla., died May 5 at a Wilkes-Barre hospital.

Surviving are sons, Harold K., Bala Cynwyd; Lawrence, Enfield, Conn.; Llewellyn B., Mechanicsburg; brothers, Theodore R., St. Petersburg, Fla.; Homer, New Jersey; sisters, Mrs. Margaret Brown, Harding; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandson.

AAA MEMBERSHIP
THE PERFECT GIFT FOR
MOTHER'S DAY FATHER'S DAY
GRADUATION
OR
ANY OCCASION
NO FUSS, NO BOTHER
ATTRACTIVE GIFT BOX
BUT, THEY'LL KNOW YOU CARE
CALL FOR DETAILS
THE VALLEY AUTOMOBILE CLUB
824-2444 or
TOLL FREE 1-800-AAA-2410
100 Hazle St. Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

Betterhouse leads the way!

THE BEST FOR LESS DIRECT
FACTORY-TO-YOU PRICES



Save hundreds, even thousands of dollars on a **Betterhouse KITCHEN**

We've changed our policy, but we haven't changed our quality!

After thirty years of furnishing cabinetry to dealers all over the United States, and installing hundreds and hundreds of kitchens here in our own area, our new Betterhouse policy brings you our cabinetry at the same prices normally paid by builders and dealers—and you can choose from the finest cabinetry in America—in a complete range of styles and finishes—cabinetry manufactured right here at our own factory in Wyoming.

Professional custom layout, design and installation service available.

Betterhouse SINCE 1951

1140 WYOMING AVENUE, WYOMING

Phone: 288-8421



Showroom hours:

Daily 8:30 to 4:30;
Thursday evenings 'til 8;
Saturdays 'til Noon;

Other hours by appointment

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR MOM ON MOTHER'S DAY?

Why Not A Special Bird From WATER TREE

Such as:

- Med. Sulphur Crested COCKATOOS
- Gorgeous & Tame HAND TAMED PARROTS
- Young Super Tame GREEN WING MACAW
- Plus Much More

also — FEED ■ CAGES ■ SUPPLIES

Water Tree Bird Shop
8 W. TIoga ST., TUNKHANNOCK, PA
836-1630
IF A BIRD ANSWERS ASK FOR THE MANAGER

HOURS: Daily 10-5; Fri. 10-8
Sundays & Evenings by appointment

Bresler's 33 FLAVORS
Ice Cream Shop

Mother's Day Give The Lady You Love A Beautiful Decorated Cake Or Pie

DALLAS SHOPPING CENTER
Ph. 675-8333