

Pa. home sales expected to rise

Existing-home sales in Pennsylvania are expected to increase 1.8 percent next year from this year's level, according to the National Association of Realtors' latest state-by-state outlook for the economy and real estate.

The housing units in the NAR forecast include single-family homes, condominium and cooperatives.

A total of 211,200 home resales is likely next year in Pennsylvania, compared with an estimated 207,400 in 1985, the association's report said. In 1987 a 6.8 percent decline to 196,900 units is expected in Pennsylvania.

Nationwide, the association forecasts that existing-home sales will total 3.57 million in 1986, up 4.3 percent from an estimated 3.42 million this year. A 3.0 percent increase to 3.67 million units is projected for the nation in 1987.

Civilian non-agricultural employment in Pennsylvania is expected to increase 1.6 percent in 1986 from this year, and a 2.1 percent increase is expected in 1987.

Pennsylvania's civilian unemployment rate is expected to average 9.1 percent in 1986 and 8.9 percent in 1987, compared with an estimated 8.5 percent this year.

Nationwide, the association forecasts that civilian employment (including agricultural payrolls) will increase 1.3 percent next year and 1.6 percent in 1987. The U.S. unemployment rate is expected to average 7.4 percent next year and 7.5 percent in 1987, compared with about 7.2 percent in 1985.

The National Association of Realtors, the nation's largest trade association, represents more than 650,000 members involved in all aspects of the real estate industry.



Dance held
The Back Mountain Knights of Columbus, Father John J. O'Leary Council 8224, recently held their annual dinner dance at The Barn, Newberry Estates, Dallas, honoring Past Grand Knight Edward Buckley. Past Grand Knight Buckley was presented with a plaque, Past Grand Knight pin, and Jewel by

Grand Knight Harry Beck. From left, seated, Mrs. Edward Mark, Mrs. Edward Buckley, Mrs. William Jones, Mrs. Harry Beck, Mrs. Bruce Boyle, Mrs. Louis Butera. Standing, Faithful Navigator Edward Mark; Past Grand Knight Edward Buckley; District Deputy William Jones; Grand Knight Harry Beck; Deputy Grand Knight Bruce Boyle; Chairman Louis Butera.



Party held
Arrangements committee members for the annual Arline Phillips Christmas Dinner Party, sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, are shown with program principals just before the holiday event got underway recently at the American Legion Home, North River Street, Wilkes-Barre. Shown here, from left, seated are Jané Slabinski, Staff; Betty S. Frith, administrative assistant at PAB, Wilkes-Barre; Marilyn Maslow, Dallas, co-chairperson; Mary Legenz, Trucksville, Association staff; Helen Petrosky, Wilkes-Barre; Harold Shelly, Shavertown, invocation. Standing, Frank J. Petrosky, board member at PAB; Ronald V. Petrilla, Ph.D., Hazleton, Association executive director; Dr. John Biernacki, Wilkes-Barre board member at PAB; Leslie Maslow, Dallas; Jennifer Maslow, Dallas; Fred Morgan, Shavertown; Guyler Gutstein, Shavertown; all cloak-room volunteers; Thomas W. Jones, President of the Board at PAB, Forty Fort, and chairman-toastmaster for the affair.

Babies born at same time

There were no superstitions in the minds of Elizabeth Hicks of Dallas, and Kathryn Snyder of Wilkes-Barre after they both delivered baby girls, at the exact same moment on Friday the 13th at the Geisinger-Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

"I was two dates past my due time, and when I woke up that morning and looked out the window at the snow thinking that it was Friday the 13th, I knew, if anything, it was a good omen," Mrs. Snyder commented.

Mrs. Hicks was four days past her expected delivery date, and she, too, had no reservations about what a cold, snowy Friday the 13th might bring.

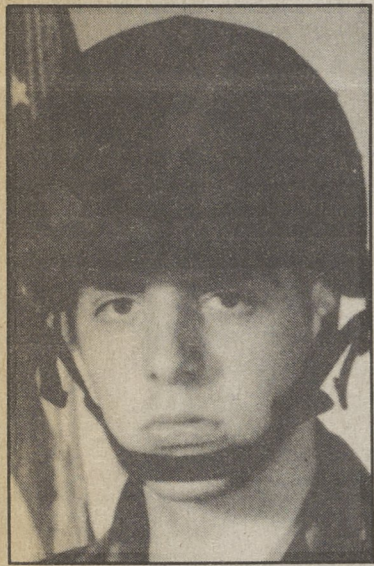
Baby Laura Ann Snyder weighed in at eight pounds, and measured 20 3/4 inches. She has two sisters, Amy, eight, and Becky, six, and a brother, Barry Jr., two and one-half.

Baby Kateyn Elizabeth Hicks weighed in at seven pounds, one ounce, and measured—more coincidence—20 3/4 inches. She has a sister, Kristen, age three and one-half.

Barry Snyder and Ted Hicks, the proud fathers, agreed that they have no negative feelings surrounding Friday the 13th.



New mothers
Elizabeth and Katelyn Hicks are shown here at left while Kathleen and Laura Ann Snyder are pictured at right. The baby girls were both born at the same time on Friday the 13th at Geisinger-Wyoming Valley Medical Center. The girls' parents, however, see nothing superstitious in the births.



PVT. HENRY WESTFIELD

Westfield ends OSUT

Army National Guard Private Henry Westfield Jr., son of Henry E. and Alice Westfield of 90 Claude St., Dallas, has completed one station unit training (OSUT) at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

OSUT is a 12-week period which combines basic combat training and advanced individual training.

The training included weapons, qualifications, squad tactics, patrolling, landmine warfare, field communications, and combat operations. Completion of this course qualifies the soldier as a light-weapon infantryman and as an indirect-fire crewman.

Soldiers were taught to perform any of the duties in a rifle or mortar squad.

He is a 1985 graduate of West Side Area Vocational Technical High School, Pringle.

Service set

A special Christmas Eve service is planned by Pastor David Penley of the Dallas Baptist Church. This service will begin at 8 p.m.

It will include a time of carol singing and a presentation of the Christmas story. A candlelight service will conclude the program.

As we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas as remembering God's gift of Jesus, we invite all of you to share this time with us.

Church group plans session

The Shavertown United Methodist Church will hold Church School for children, youth, and adults on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 9:30 a.m.; "Chew 'n Chat" session for college students at 9:30 a.m.; Worship-First Sunday after Christmas at 11 a.m.

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