

# THE DALLAS POST

BRIGHTON BINDERY CO  
BOX 336

BRIGHTON, IA 52540

Vol. 96, No. 52

Wednesday, January 8, 1986

25 Cents

New Year comes in with a bang

## Police, officials are kept busy in first week of 1986

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

The bells of 1986 did not ring in total harmony as the New Year dawned on the Back Mountain. There were numerous discordant notes as the bells rang in the beginning of 1986, ushering in what most residents hoped would be a happy and successful New Year.

### MAN KILLED

January 1 was not half over when reports circulated around the local area that there had been a tragic accident at the Hillside Personal Care Home on Route 309, Dallas.

A 48-year-old Forty Fort resident, Caroline Ross Rittinger of 37 Walnut St., Forty Fort, was charged with criminal homicide in the death of her father, Robert August Shipkoski, resident of the Hillside Personal Care Home.

Mrs. Rittinger, daughter and the only child of Shipkoski, was alleged to have walked into her father's room at the home and stabbed him in the right section of his chest.

According to reports, Shipkoski had been a resident of the home for about four years. In an arrest affidavit, Mrs. Rittinger told the police she stabbed her father with a knife she brought with her from the kitchen of her home in Forty Fort. She also told the police, according to an affidavit, that she had been thinking about killing her father for some time, but did not think that she could do it.

At the time of the stabbing, a roommate, James Estabrook, was present and later stated that Mrs. Rittinger arrived at the home in a taxi, introduced herself and visited with her father for a short time.

When she was leaving, according to Estabrook's account, Mrs. Rittinger raised her hands with an object in them and came down with a driving motion into Shipkoski's chest. Estabrook said that he saw the motion twice, then got up from his bed and ran for help, according to his statement in the affidavit.

Mrs. Rittinger is alleged to have then gone into the diningroom and remained there until she was taken into custody by the police. She was arraigned before District Attorney Richard Adams and remanded to jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail. A hearing for Mrs. Rittinger was set for Jan. 10 before District Magistrate Earl Gregory on charges of criminal homicide.

### THOMAS RE-ARRESTED

It was less than 24 hours later that Luzerne County District Attorney Robert J. Gillespie announced that Ronald L. Thomas, Sr., owner and operator of Thomas's Guest Home in Sweet Valley, destroyed by fire in July 1985, resulting in the eventual death of 10 persons, would be re-arrested on charges as the outcome of the blaze.

Gillespie said that summons are being drawn on charges of recklessly endangering the lives of others and would be mailed to Thomas this week. Thomas was tried on the same charges in December but District Justice Robert Marshall of Shickshinny dismissed the charges on the basis that the Commonwealth presented insufficient evidence for a prima facie case.

According to State Police Sgt. Chester Zarembo, the same evidence will be used against Thomas when he is re-arrested but presented in a different manner.

### DYNAMITE FOUND

With the cases of Rittinger and Thomas apparently

under control by law officials, Back Mountain residents again looked forward to a better and happier 1986 when they were stunned by the news report that Kingston Township firemen and police were called to the scene of a possible bomb explosion.

Michael and Barbara Kasper, while in the process of clearing out the basement of their home at 106 Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, found a shoe box containing sticks of dynamite. The Kaspers, who had not owned the property for any great length of time, were preparing to move to another property in Sweet Valley.

Upon finding the box of dynamite somewhere in the rafters of the cellar, the Kaspers were advised by a relative to move it away from the house. The homeowners called the Kingston Township police and fire department and both units arrived on the scene in a short time. A bomb squad from the Scranton Police Department was also dispatched to the scene.

Shortly after they arrived at the scene, they removed the sticks of dynamite, carefully wrapped them and placed them in a steel container. The Scranton officials placed the dynamite in their car and said they would dispose of it.

Attempts to learn how long the dynamite was in the home at 106 N. Pioneer Avenue were unsuccessful. Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol said it was his understanding that the former owner of the property was a construction foreman, who lived there only part of the time. Sabol said he supposed the owner brought the dynamite home with him at one time planning to use it somewhere, put it up among the rafters and forgot about it.

It was reported that a paper under the shoe box which contained the dynamite was dated 1970.

### PRISON FIGHT

The bomb scare over, residents began to resume normal living patterns until Sunday, Jan. 5, when news broke from another area, the State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID).

It was reported six correction officers at the institution were injured after becoming involved in an altercation with three of the inmates.

Despite various reports about the incident, a call to Thomas Figmik, official in charge of information, revealed that the altercation was under control and investigation being conducted by the law officials.

Figmik said the inmates were going into the diningroom and one of the correction officers approached the one inmate for a routine search. The inmate allegedly resisted the search and two other inmates became involved.

At the same time, other corrections officers came to the assistance of their fellow worker.

"It was a routine search," said Figmik, "The type that is conducted all the time."

He reported that Correction Officer Edward Piekara was admitted to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where he was kept overnight for observation. Figmik said he did not want to release the names of the other officers pending investigation. He did say, however, that the three inmates were not "choir boys".

Further details will be released following investigation.

### TALKS REACH IMPASSE

In the meantime, talks between the Commonwealth Telephone Company and its unionized employees (Communications Workers of America) have reached an impasse in its federally mediated negotiations. The latest offer by the company has been studied by the union's committee and rejected, according to officials.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

### Ready to eat

This chickadee, caught by Dallas Post photographer Ed Campbell, prepares to settle down to a nice, quiet dinner. The bird was feeding in Lehman and is thankful to the kind people who left food out for him in this cold winter weather.

## It's Girl Scout Cookie time

Got the winter blahs??? Well, an answer to that is to think "GREEN". The Girl Scouts are coming. It's Cookie Time again. And those good Girl Scout cookies cheer up dreary winter days.

Some 6,200 Girl Scouts in Penn's Woods Council will join with 2,110,000 other Girl Scouts across the country to bring you these delicious treats. And while they fill your orders, the girls are learning their first lessons about selling, record keeping, handling money, and they are also earning the money that supports their troop activities. So many lessons to be learned with each box of cookies sold.

Officially the Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council Annual Cookie Sale will get underway on January 18. Girl Scouts throughout the six county jurisdiction of the Council will be taking orders until February 2. Delivery of cookies, will be made between March 1 and 16.

Mrs. Betty Hensley, General Cookie Sale Chairperson, talked about the quality of the cookies. She pointed out that Girl Scout cookies are made with only natural ingredients and freeze well. This can be an incentive to order additional boxes. She also mentioned that cookies can be used as ingredients to make such tempting desserts as Minted Brownie Pie, Apple-Raisin Brown Betty and Savannah Toffee Torte.

Mrs. Hensley said that public support of the annual Girl Scout cookie sale enables Penn's Woods to provide camping opportunities to Girl Scouts at a lower cost. In addition, the sales assist in the maintenance of the council's troop camp facility in Hobbie, Camp Joy Lo, and the council's principal outdoor facility, Camp Louise, located near Berwick. Girl Scout cookie sales also strengthen the development of council plans and further advance the overall Girl Scout program in each of the areas of Penn's Woods Council. The Cookie Sale is the only community appeal for money to support these activities.

This year the girls will be selling the traditional Scot Teas, Thin

Mints, Peanut Butter Hoedowns, peanut butter sandwich Savannahs, and last year's unique new cookie, the Chocollage. They will also have Golden yangles, the snack cracker made with cheddar cheese, for those folks who don't want sweets. The price of the cookies is still only \$2.00 per box.

Volunteers and Girl Scouts are attempting to reach all segments of the community with this annual

cookie sale. Persons interested in ordering Girl Scout cookies may contact the Penn's Woods Council office at 10 S. Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, 829-2631, where they will be referred to a local troop.

So watch for the Girl Scouts out selling cookies and remember that giving never tasted so good. Buy several boxes of cookies and enjoy, enjoy!

## Host families sought

Host Families are being sought for 25 high school students from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, Ecuador, Australia and Japan for the school year 1986-87 in a program sponsored by the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE).

The students, age 15 through 17, will arrive in the United States in August 1986, attend a local high school, and return to their home country in June 1987. The students, all fluent in English, have been screened by their local representatives in their home countries and have spending money and medical insurance.

Families interested in hosting a Spanish student, age 15 through 18,

during five summer weeks 1986 (end of June through July), are also being sought. The students in this program will not attend school.

Host Families may deduct \$50 per month for Income Tax Purposes.

AISE is also seeking American high school students age 15 through 17, who would like to spend a high school year in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain or Australia or participate in a five week summer Host Family stay throughout Western Europe.

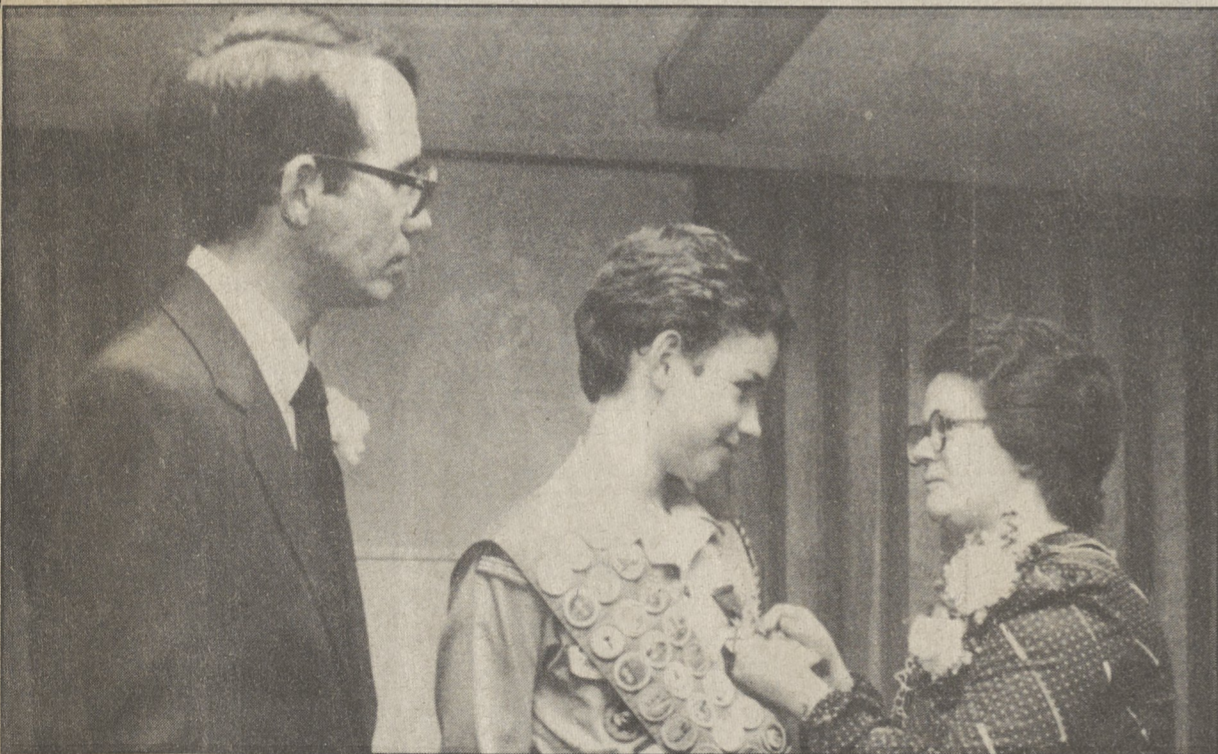
Families interested in this program should contact the Sally Nicholas, Eastern Penn. State Coordinator, 920 Glenwood Street, Emmaus, Pa. 18049, 215-797-6494 or telephone toll free: 1-800-SIBLING.

## Chapter formed

Vita Ostrander, national president of the American Association of Retired Persons, has announced the formation of the Luzerne County Chapter 3836 in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Ostrander offered congratulations to the new chapter and its president, James A. Clark of 717 North Main Street, Pittston.

Local AARP chapters sponsor community public service programs.

For further information, write to: AARP Field Services, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20049.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

### Proud parents

Sharon Holdredge looks proudly at her son, Daniel C. Holdredge, as she pins his Eagle Scout pin on his Boy Scout uniform. The Scout's father, Donald Holdredge, looks on during the ceremony which took place last week. Daniel Holdredge is a member of Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas, as was honored with the highest Scouting award last week.

## Holdredge awarded Eagle Scout

Daniel Corey Holdredge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Holdredge, of 64 Norton Avenue, Dallas, was recently awarded the Eagle Award, the highest award in Scouting. Dan is a member of Troop 281 of the Dallas United Methodist Church.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dan collected food for the Back Mountain Food Bank sponsored by the Back Mountain Clergy Association.

Dan has been in scouting as a Cub Scout from 1978 to 1981. He earned the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. He crossed over the bridge into Boy Scouting in 1981.

Dan has earned 29 meritbadges and 12 skill awards. He has earned

the God and Church Emblem, Den Chief Service Award, World Conservation Award, the Colonial Annapolis Historical Trail Award, and the National Capital Lincoln Trail Award.

As a Boy Scout, Dan has held the offices of Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Den Chief for Pack 281 for two years, Instructor, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Dan is a member of Acahela Lodge 223 Order of the Arrow. Last summer, he attended the 1985 National Scout Jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

A sophomore at Dallas Senior

High School, Dan is also a member of the Dallas High School Soccer team, and a member of the MYF, a church youth group.

During the Eagle Scout ceremony, State Senator Charles Lemmond presented Dan with a citation from the State Senate and also presented him with a Pennsylvania state flag.

Dan was also presented with awards from the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion by Thomas Reese and a citation from the House of Representatives. He also received congratulatory letters from Governor Dick Thornburgh, Gerald Ford, and President Reagan.

### Inside The Post

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Calendar .....   | 16    |
| Classified ..... | 13,14 |
| Commentary ..... | 6     |
| Cookbook .....   | 7     |
| Crossword .....  | 2     |
| Obituaries ..... | 4     |
| People .....     | 8     |
| School .....     | 11,12 |
| Sports .....     | 9,10  |