

# Great American Race comes to Wilkes-Barre

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Being billed as the largest event ever to be held in Wilkes-Barre, the Great American Race, it was announced last week, will be coming to town on the Fourth of July, with this area serving as the final leg of a 3,000 mile, 11-day race from California to New York.

The announcement was made last Thursday at the Sheraton Crossgates Hotel where local officials explained the operation of the rally along with a host of other programs that will encompass a three-day period that will bring in an estimated \$1 million in revenue.

"The festival may introduce somewhere between \$750,000 and \$1 million in revenue over the three-day span and bring in as many as 100,000 people," Bill Bachman, Director of Corporate Communications for Blue Cross, who is also involved with the event, said.

The gala affair will begin on the 4th of July at noon at Kirby Park with the Antique Racing Cars to arrive at the Market Street Bridge between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. All cars participating in the race, approximately 120 so far, must be at least 50 years old. Among those entries will be Durland Edwards of Swyersville who will drive a 1936 Ford Phaeton. A public viewing of the cars will then be held at the Armory from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. with a concert and fireworks display to be held the same evening.

The race itself will begin on June 25 at Disneyland in Southern California. Over a 10-day period drivers will compete for daily cash prizes,

tally and physically. It's constant calculations."

The festivities won't end with the conclusion of the race, however. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., July 5, a 2.2 Fun Run and Distance Race will be held starting from Public Square. A Regional Antique Automobile Display and Nostalgia Flea Market will take place after that from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along with a Golden Oldies Rock Band performance from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

but the way the rally is designed, it isn't really a race at all. Each driver is required to maintain certain speeds and arrive exactly on time at a pre-determined destination. Drivers who arrive too early or too late will be penalized by the loss of points.

The pack will depart on July 5 from Public Square to New York with the winner to receive a \$100,000 first prize. The drivers will then return to Wilkes-Barre at 5:00 p.m. the same day where the winners will be officially announced at Kirby Park.

"It's really a misnomer to call it a race," Gary Boam, of the Committee for Economic Growth and Vice-Chairman of the Wilkes-Barre event, said. "It's really a race on time. Getting a perfect score is the main objective. One wrong turn can cost a driver dearly. And that's exactly what happened last year. The difference between the first and second place finisher was 30 seconds and it was because the second place finisher took a wrong turn somewhere in New Jersey."

"Your main tools are a stop watch, pad and pencil," Edwards noted. "There are some guys who even use telephone poles as markers. But it's exhausting both men-

On July 6, the cars will participate in the annual Giants Despair Hill Climb from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by a concert at Kirby Park by the Wyoming Valley Band.

"What we'd like to emphasize is that these events are totally wide open to the public at absolutely no cost," Bachman noted. "And we don't want to scare people away by saying we expect around 100,000 people. There will be plenty of room. Everything is designed and packaged so that we will be able to provide hospitality."

One event that will cost money is the Great Race Victory Banquet at Genetti's on July 5. But that affair is not open to the public.

Today, the Chamber of Commerce will hold a noon luncheon at the Sheraton Crossgates to introduce Edwards and help raise the \$15,000 he needs to cover application fees and expenses.

Edwards and Gary Evans of Nanticoke will head a four or five-man team and will be driving a 1936 Ford Phaeton. "Aside from one or two modifications this is essentially the original car made by Henry Ford," Edwards said.

Other antiques should include a 1909 Thomas Flyer, and one particular Mercedes valued at \$1 million which will have armed guards posted around it. The oldest vehicle entered will receive a \$25,000 cash prize.

Interstate Battery of Dallas, Texas, will be the national sponsor, and the Atlantic Financial Federal banking firm announced it will also serve as a major sponsor.

Other local sponsors include Goodwin Auto of Larksville, King Glass and Paint Co., Kingston; Jack Williams Tire and Auto, Kingston and Koral's Fashion Plus, Kingston.

## LAKE-LEHMAN NEWS

BILL GEORGE is the son of William and Shirley George of Sweet Valley. Bill is involved in wrestling, football and baseball. He was a varsity starter for all three sports. Bill also enjoys lawn darts, skydiving, and horseshoes. Bills' future plans include college with a major in accounting.

Tor and Gerd Undheim of Algard, Norway. He is one of two transfer students here at Lake-Lehman. Oyvind is involved in soccer and volleyball. Some of Oyvind's other interests include music and other sports. Oyvind's future plans include attending college back in Norway.

of George and Edna Yatsko of Dallas. Janet is involved in field hockey and band. She plays the

saxophone. Janet is also a member of 4-H. Some of her other interests are horseback riding, tennis and biking. Janet plans to attend Findlay College and major in Equestrian Studies.

OYVIND UNDHEIM is the son of

JANET YATSKO is the daughter

## GATE OF HEAVEN NEWS

ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON the Robinhood Players entertained the students with a dramatization of the life of Alexander Graham Bell. The two actors brought to life Bell's dream and its realization - to project the human voice across great distances on a wire. The play was enjoyed by a very attentive audience of grades one through eight. Special credit goes to the actor who performed the three parts

of "the tough kid", Bell's father, and Mr. Watson.

MR. WALUTES' third graders are working hard on book reports to be handed in on May 1. The children were allowed to choose their own topics and must illustrate the cover.

LAST FRIDAY, Mrs. Umphred's art class had a guest teacher. Mrs. Jack Jones brought the material and showed the children how to make ladybugs out of spring-type clothespins. Each child now has a pretty red-and-black lady, thanks to Mrs. Jones.

MRS. ALBERT'S fifth grade Social Studies class recently made

maps of the United States as the natin was in 1821. By choice of the class, the best maps were made by Shaun Brdaric, Maria Farris, Amy Freeman, Patricia McGovern, Carrie Snell, David Kasmark, Stacey Barkac and Brian Jezuit.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: Wendy Kuniskas is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kuniskas of Green Road, Shavertown. Wendy enjoys playing the guitar, listening to music, reading, watching TV, jogging, and playing with her nine brothers and sisters. Following graduation from high school, she plans to attend Penn State or Wilkes College, and eventually to become a criminal lawyer.

### Registration set

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association will hold FINAL registrations on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Merrick Hall, College Misericordia. Registration is open to boys and girls aged 6 to 15 as of Dec. 31, 1986.

A fee of \$15 for the first and second child, and \$10 for each additional child will be charged. A \$5 late charge will be added for any player registering after the above dates and will not be guaranteed a uniform except when available.

First year players are requested to wear sneakers to participate in a 10-minute introduction to the soccer program.

Parents and persons interested in coaching, refereeing, grounds keeping etc., are asked to sign up for these activities during registration.

## STRIKES & SPARES

J. Mitchell topped pins for 557 and H. Shupp hit them for 528 to lead the Orange team to four points from Carverton A in the Back Mt. Church League. Shavertown A shut out Dallas A and Carverton B blanked Trucksville C with none of the members on the four teams able to break the 500 mark. S. Hoover walloped pins for 248 (573) and W. Perry rolled 516 from Trucksville B but their scores were good for only one point from the Shavertown B men who were led by C. Kazokas' 234 (595). Glen Mazer's 212 (537) and Gary Mazer's 524 set the pace for Maple Grove's 2-2 split with East Dallas, whose J. Cobleigh rolled 534.

Only two reports were turned in for the Idetown Compacts League indicating that the Aries team picked up three points from the Corvettes sparked by J. Wole's 185. Dean Doty's 233-213 (625) and R. Stogoski's 508 aided the Camaros in taking three from the Pinto five, whose high man was E. Ishley with 514.

Bonomo's Sports Center stretched their lead to three games over Fashion Vending in the Ladies Country League by taking three points from the vending five. D. Garnett paced Bonomo's with 182 (474), N. Ide aided with 177 and K. Scavone added 172. Grotto Pizza remained in third despite dropping four points to G.H. Harris who is in fifth spot. Gordon Insurance continued in fourth by taking one from sixth place Castleties. Castleties B. Strazdus scattered pins for 212-175 (512), J. Knorr turned in 193 (494) for Gordon's and F. Allabaugh hit 170 for Grotto Pizza.

Mahaffey took the lead by four games over Schmid's Amoco in the Imperialette League by taking three points from the Amoco team led by M. Neifert's 197-178-193 (568) and G. Bachman's 188. J. Mekeel rolled 173 (488) and D. Barbose hit 487 for Schmid's. K. Scavone's 471 helped Scavone Motors take three from the Jean Shop while Lombardo Bakery divided evenly with Humphrey's Apparel whose D. Lapasnick knocked down pins for 186.

In Our Gang League D. Jenkins hit 171 to lead the Buckwheat five to shutting out the Chibbie team while P. Anthony's 199 aided the Alfalfa team in picking up three points from Spanky's crew whose high man was V. Hudak with 236 (555). D. Jenkins led the Farinas with her 198 (491) in copping three from

Porky's five and the Worm team took three points from the Butch five aided by B. Searfoss' 508 and M. Dingle's 173.

B. Harris hammered the pins for 223 (612) and J. Gryskiewicz added 548 to lead the Bermudas in blanking Sweet Valley Outfitters in Bonomo's Major League. R. Bonomo hit 532 and Glen Mazer 525 for the losing five. J. Roan rolled 510 to lead Brown's Oil to four points from K Boom while Back Mountain Inn No. 1 picked up four by forfeit from Back Mt. Inn No. 2. F. Cornell rolled 567 and K. Spencer hit 530. R. Harned's 224 (577) and L. Coolbaugh's 530 showed the way for Back Mt. Sporting Goods three points from the Hambos who had K. Youngblood's 211 (576) and F. Adams 538. G.H. Harris led by A. Wendel's 217-204-247 (668) and T. Doughton's 209 (548) divided evenly with Monk Plumbing and Heating, whose E. Harris rolled 549 and F. Tregan 520.

In the seldom mentioned Lakers League Hanson Girls picked up three points from Wesley's Girls, who had Jean's 170 and Linda's 177. Bar A copped three from Water Front Cafe and the Wesley Boys shut out Academy sparked by Larry's 521.

In Bowlerette League Rose Gula's 421 was high series for both teams as her Tom Reese five lost three to Franklins. Nita Moser rolled 184-181-171 (536) but it wasn't enough as the Hoogie Bar girls dropped three to Brent Long girls who had Marcy Brown's 192 (477).

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### Tourney slated

A 50-50 tourney softball tourney is being planned for May 17 and 18 at the Noxen Ball Field.

The tourney, sponsored by the Back Mountain Hawks Baseball group, will feature five girls and five guys on the field at one time. It will be a double elimination, one pitch unlimited arc tourney with a 15-person roster included.

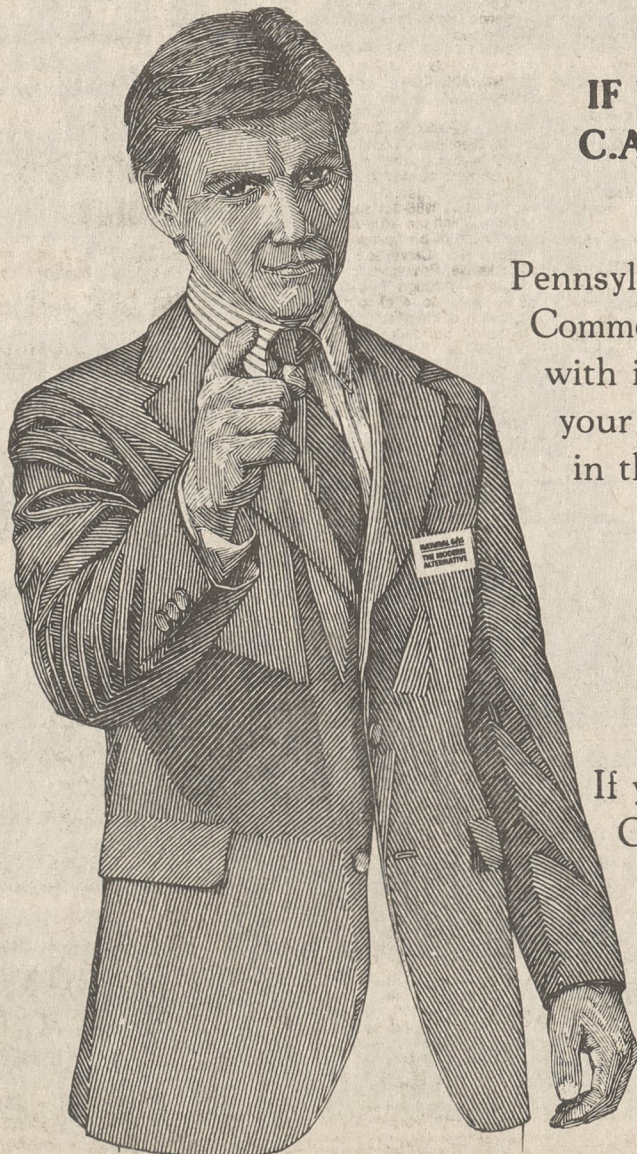
Individual trophies will be awarded to all members on the first place team as well as to the male and female Most Valuable Players.

Entry fee is \$65 per team plus one softball. For more information, call 298-2348 or 298-2647.

### Players needed

A Back Mountain women's softball team is seeking players and a coach. Games are played on Monday evenings during the months of June and July.

For more information, call 477-5101 or 298-2140.



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