

Entertainment

Many disparaging remarks have often been made about the Wyoming Valley. It is doubly gratifying then, when it is possible to boast of the fine talent that has emerged from the area. In this case, two personable young ladies who are successful in their professions and who are proud to say they are Wyoming Valley products.



Esther Gray is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gray, Meadowland Avenue, Kingston. Esther attended Wyoming

DEBBEY WYSOCKI

Wyoming Seminary, where she was active in school activities, especially in theatrical productions. She later enrolled at Ithaca College, New York, where she pursued communications studies.

Esther, an attractive young woman with a bubbly personality, made many friends while at Ithaca, in particular the late Rod Serling, creator of "Twilight Zone." Fortunately for Esther, she had the opportunity to get first-hand experience in her chosen field as she spent much time in California at Universal Studios.

After graduation, Esther decided to pursue an acting career and moved to New York City. She began studies at the famous Lee Strasburg Acting Studio in the city. As a

result, Esther has made numerous television appearances.

Area residents might have seen Ms. Gray on some of their popular daytime dramas as "All My Children" or "Another World." If not, it is a certainty that everyone, at one time or another, has seen her in commercials broadcast nationally. Two of the most frequently aired ones are the dextrin commercial and Uncle Ben's Rice. Her success has been such that Esther was featured on PM Magazine, telecast by WNEP-TV, Channel 16, an affiliate of the ABC network.

Presently, Esther Gray is traveling coast to coast, from New York City to Los Angeles, busily furthering her acting career. When home, Esther enjoys spending time with her family at Harveys Lake.

Debee Parada is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parada, Hudson section of Plains Twp. Debee attended St. Joseph School and Plains Memorial High School. Debee was popular in school, and was an eager participant in school organizations and functions.

After graduation from Plains, Debee attended beauty school, and operated a beauty salon in Provincial Towers for a number of years. She then decided to move to Valencia, California, where she applied for and received a tour guide position at Universal Studios. When talking with Debee, she has

more than her share of stories to relate, since so many of the shows and movies seen by viewers are actually filmed at Universal, the busiest studio in Hollywood. For local people who have no contact with the entertainment industry, it is quite interesting hearing of her experiences with meeting and befriending such famous celebrities as Angela Lansbury, Shirley Jones, Burt Reynolds, etc.

As time passed, Debee grew especially interested in the casting area of production and began internships with casting directors. Working diligently in the extremely competitive field of entertainment, Ms. Parada has recently been promoted to an assistant production manager position at the studio.

She is now working on "Simon and Simon," starring Jameson Parker and Gerald McRaney, "Blackie's Magic," a recent addition to the network lineup starring Hal Linden and Harry Morgan, and the award-winning "Murder, She Wrote," starring Angela Lansbury and broadcast locally on WDAU-TV, Channel 22, an affiliate of CBS, on Sunday 8 p.m.

Both Esther Gray and Debee Parada are a credit to the area, and most assuredly, have everyone's best wishes for continued success in their young, aspiring careers.

(Debbie Wysocki is the entertainment writer for The Dallas Post. Her column appears weekly.)



Reunion held

Wyoming Seminary's class of 1966 conducted their twentieth reunion at the Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre, in conjunction with the school's Alumni Weekend activities. Those attending are shown here. From left, first row, Guner Gery Burkhard, Arlington, VA; Bliss Arneberg Burton, Dover, NJ; Pamela Seibert Ontko, Gambrills, MD; Jane Parry Rice, White Plains, NY; Ann Droelle Comstock, Dover, NJ; Anne Fisk Wilce, Fayetteville, NC; Lucinda Wolfe Hughes, Elmira, NY; and Alice Engel Ellman, Forty Fort, PA. Second row, Richard Blum, Shavertown, PA; Steven Folds, Miami, FL; Jonathan E. Gray, New York, NY; Paul P. Fosko, Dallas, PA; Ira Unger, Phoenix, AZ; Jessica French Morgan, Dallas, PA; Barbara J. Hauck, Lancaster, PA and Polly Harvey Wielage, Dallas, PA. Third row, Stephen B. Killian, Wilkes-Barre, PA; Henry J. D. Funke, Dallas, PA; John F. Gager, Shavertown, PA; David F. Lacy, Durham, NC; Meredith Moses Maxwell, Lockport, NY; and John E. Person, III, Williamsport, PA. Fourth row, Ronald L. Post, Dallas, PA; Leonard J. Thacher, Woodbridge, VA; Paul R. Freeman, Binghamton, NY; Robert S. Stroud, Bear Creek, PA; Barbara L. Smith, Titusville, PA; John Goobic, III, Carmel, NY; and Marshall D. Rumbaugh, Dallas, PA.



Class meets

Wyoming Seminary's class of 1976 conducted their tenth reunion at the Pinebrook Inn Grove, Dallas, in conjunction with the school's Alumni Weekend activities. Those attending included are shown here. In the front center is Thomas Heffernan, Dallas. From left, first row, Lee Ann Earl-Sedor, Sayre, PA; Carla Gausted Sives, Ambler, PA; Dana C. Pearce, New York, N.Y.; Tracy Innes Riccetti, Forty Fort, PA; Amy Hollander, Philadelphia, PA; Barbara L. Klein, Cincinnati, OH; Janet E. Murray, Hopatcong, N.J.; Jan Alexander Kanarr, Shavertown, PA; Shelley S. Freeman, New York, N.Y.; Sally M. Nork, Natick, MA; Heidi Weber Geiger, Federal Way, WA and Susan Isaacs, King of Prussia, PA. Second row, Mrs. Jane Heffernan, Dallas, PA; Mrs. John DeWitt, John P. DeWitt, III, Dallas, PA; Scott E. Henry, Kingston, PA; Michael J. McGrath, Spring City, PA; Terrance M. Hora, Dallas, PA; David I. Kluger, Brookline, MA; Robert F. Malkemes, Brighton, MA; Stephen L. Seagrave-Daly, Philadelphia, PA; and Thomas M. Haller, Elkton, MD. Those who attended but do not appear: Adam Mark Hildebrand, II, Meredith, NH and Jeffrey A. Norris, Pittston, PA.

Robbins finishes degree

Dr. Joanna Leonard Robbins, 173 Woodbine Rd., Shavertown, recently completed her doctoral studies in education at Temple University in Philadelphia. Degrees were conferred at the graduation ceremony at the Civic Center in Philadelphia on Thursday, May 29.

Dr. Robbins is a graduate of St. Mary's Assumption and St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art at Georgian Court College in Lakewood, New Jersey and a Masters of Science in Psychology from Marywood College in Scranton.

Dr. Robbins completed her dissertation in April following a seven month experimental study examining the effect of training in the writing process on the development of verbal skills in elementary school children. Two hundred and sixty eight elementary students in the Pittston Area School District were involved in the investigation. Dr. Robbins is presently employed in the Pittston Area Middle School and is one of two Pittston Area applicants for the NASA Teacher in Space Program.



DR. JOANNA L. ROBBINS



Dinner held

Shown here are some members of Cub Scout Pack 241 at the pack's annual Blue and Gold Dinner held recently. From left, first row, John Presper, Jason McDade, and Chris Rice. Second row, Jeff Phardes, and Holt Andrus.



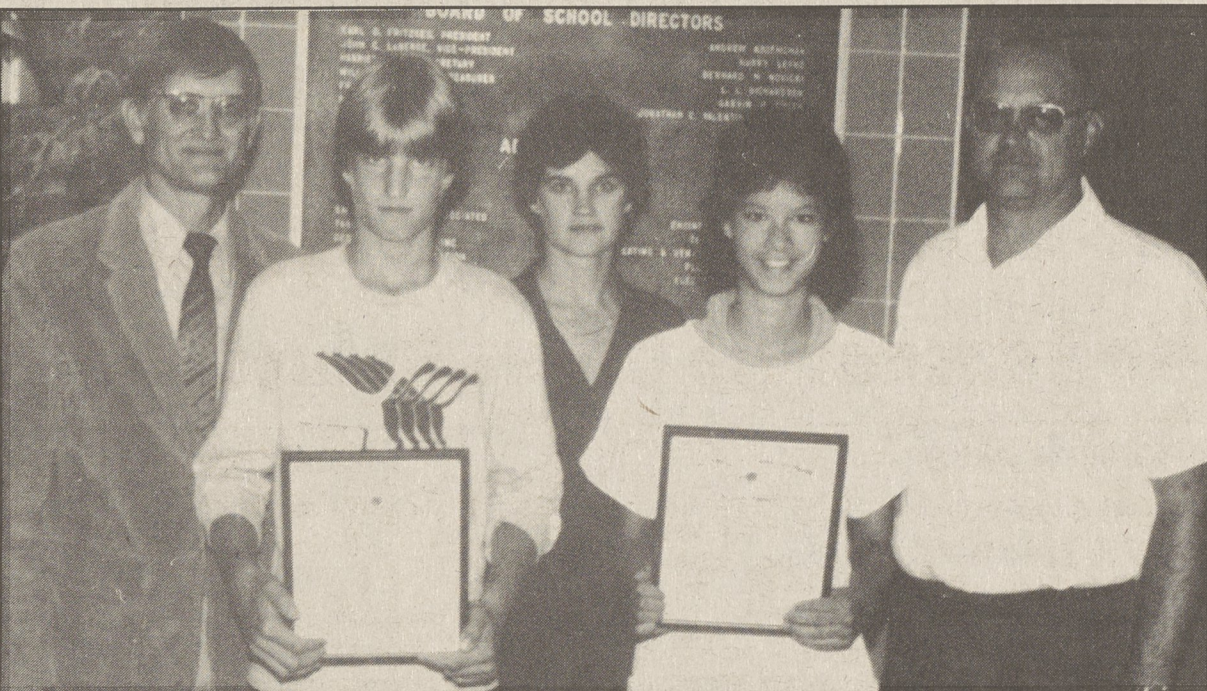
Pack leaders

shown here are leaders of Cub Scout Pack 241 at the pack's recent Blue and Gold Dinner. From left, Mark Hozempa, Cubmaster; John Grutkowski, assistant cubmaster; Mary Chappell, Bob Bellos, Cub Scout Council Director; and Frank Poplaski, committee chairman.



New members

Abram Nesbitt, III, president, Nesbitt Hospital Foundation, has announced five new members have recently been appointed to the foundation board of directors. The newly named members are shown, from left, Bruce Slocum, president, Slocum Insurance Agency, Dallas; Dr. George DeCurtis, first vice president, Nesbitt Medical Staff; Dr. Wallace Stettler, president, Wyoming Seminary, Kingston; Abram Nesbitt III; Betsy B. Condon, director of community relations, Wilkes College; Frank Orloski, Sr., president, Orloski's Service Stations, Inc., Wilkes-Barre; Donald Jennings, president and chairman of the board, Hanover Bank of Pa., Wilkes-Barre; and Kevin Ross, assistant administrator, Nesbitt Memorial Hospital.



Awards presented

The Dallas Junior High School Student Council recently conducted its annual awards assembly. Students received recognition for their achievements in the areas of academics, athletics, fine arts, school service organizations, perfect attendance and typing proficiency. American Legion awards were presented to Darren Michael and Jennifer Steuben. Pictured are the American Legion award recipients and their parents. From left, Mr. Michael; Darren Michael, award recipient; Mrs. Michael, Jennifer Steuben, award recipient and Mr. Steuben.



Students cited

The above sixth grade students recently received academic awards at Lake-Noxen Elementary School. These awards were given to the outstanding student in five different subject areas. From left, Robert S. Kunkle, Principal; Karen Sichler, Social Studies award; Greg Dobash, Science award; Billy Hoover, Computer Science award; and Karen Stefanowicz, Language Arts and Mathematics awards.