areas in together and, at the same time, you can have a lot of fun with the kids. And I think they learn more, because it's not formal."

The research involved also teaches students to use a

"If you read about history, it's interesting," Hopfer continued. "But if you live history, it's unreal. It overwhelms you. Because for the first time ever, you can understand why people did what they did."

The highlight of a bucksinner's year is when he attends a rendezvous. Two hundred years ago, he attended once a year, once every four years

— whenever he could. It was his link to civilization, a place to see and be seen, a place to trade for crucial goods such as steel or gunpowder which he couldn't find or make for himself in the wilds.

Today's buckskinners pay tribute to those who came before at these meetings, modeled as closely as possible after the real thing. Some rendezvous, which may last two days, two weeks, or longer, draw thousands of people, all with at least two things in common: a love of history and an intense desire to relive it exactly as it happened. In fact, those who are not in perioddress can get in only at certain times to look around. These visitors are called "pilgrims."

Buckskinners were primarily trappers and beaver was their game. The fashions of the day called for beaver trim, beaver lining, hats, and other uses.

Hopfer and Robbins are hunters also, and are members of the Pennsylvania Federation of Longhunters and the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association. However, they are quick to point out that buckskinners nowadays aren't necessarily hunters and may not not even

Many who own the period longrifles never shoot them except in competition, which is a big part of rendezvous. Contestants may try to put out a candle flame - with the candle hidden under a sack; they may try to split a ball by shooting at an ax blade. They may undergo a sort of survival course where silhouettes of Indians, bears or deer pop up unexpectedly. "Sort of a primitive form of

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FBI drill," Hopfer explained.

There's even a contest to see who can start a fire fastest using flint and steel. Although matches were invented before 1840, they didn't reach the frontier until later, said Hopfer. So, no matches allowed at a rendez-

Both Hopfer and Robbins highly recommend the sport (yes, buckskinning is a sport) for relaxation.

"Anybody that's got a highpressure job, all you have to do is go to a rendezvous for a weekend and you'll lose yourself," said Robbins. "You're back in the 1800's! 'Cause there's nothing there to remind you of 'modern.' Nothing whatsoever.'

Robbins who, in addition to his regular job works as a volunteer fireman and ambulance driver (as does Hopfer) and is a Noxen Township constable, plans to retire in February. Then he'll really make the rounds of the various rendezvous held throughout the country. Recently, his wife Viola went with him to one, fell in love with it, and plans to go again. She would like to have a white buckskin dress a female buckskinner wore and Robbins intends to get her

There's only one fly in the ointment for the local buckskinners and it's the fact that they're having a hard time drumming up area interest. Rendezvous aren't held near the Wyoming Valley area because there's no local club to sponsor them. The men must travel to Harrisburg or farther to attend and mingle with others who share their

"You have to experience it," Hopfer said, trying to explain the local lack of interest. "I think if we had a club going...we could get quite a few more people interested in the sport itself."

Another complication is that the game commissioner won't allow hunting in primitive clothing. The required flourescent orange just isn't part of the outfit. In some places, however, designated primitive hunting areas are available.

For the past two years, the two have attended in full buckskin dress Tunkhannock's "Pioneer Days" and found interest there. But that's only once a year.





School

Hopfer characterizes buck-

skinners as "very open, typi-

cally very outgoing people"

who are willing to help begin-

ners or are eager to swap

He says he's seen newborns

"You're never too young or

to 85-year-olds at rendezvous.

too old for this sport," he

said. "You can never know

enough, or be too ignorant,

Those interested can find a

wealth of information on the

subject in libraries. Robbins

and Hopfer recommend "The

Mountain Man," a movie

starring Charlton Heston and

Brian Keith, as a very

authentic representation of

the buckskinner. So are the

first two installments of

Contest open

Applications are now being

accepted from all over the Key-

stone State for the Miss Penn-

sylvania Teen U.S.A. Pageant to

be staged in Monroeville, Penn-

Pennsylvania Teen U.S.A. pag-

"Centennial," they say.

information and skills.

for this sport."

(Continued from page 1) phenson, Junior High and Guidance Secretary, \$10,730; Jean Wilson, Senior High Secretary, \$15,287; Mary Yankowski, High School Secretary, \$11,956.

CONFIDENTIAL **EMPLOY EES**

(Employees who cannot belong to any bargaining unit) Peggy L. Boyes, Business Manager Secretary, \$12,033; Betty Gensel, Superintendent Secretary, \$19,771; Anne Morgan, Payroll Clerk, \$15,148; Alice Spencer, Assistant Business Manager, \$19,066; Christine Cimokosky, Bookkeeper, \$11,469.

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Dr. David Preston, Superintendent, \$48,600; Anthony Marchakitus, Assistant to Superintendent, \$42,000; Charles James, Elementary Principal, \$36,000; Robert Kunkle, Elementary Principal, \$35,500; John Zaleskas, Senior High Principal, \$39,-600; John Oliver, Junior High Principal, \$38,400; Raymond Bowersox, Business Manager, \$38,600.

sylvania. The three-day event CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL will be presented in the Grand Rita Bulford, Senior High Ballroom of the high rise Office, \$14,456.00; Kathleen Howard Johnson's Hotel on Feb-Covert, Superintendent Secreruary 5, 6 and 7, 1987. The Miss tary and Recording Secretary, \$14,560.00; Elva Elston, Princi-

ley George, Guidance Secre- \$13,027.50; Janice Russell, tary, \$7,663.50; Jean Holcomb, Senior High Office, \$14,976.00; Eleanor James, Elementary Office Principal, \$11,387.00; Emily Jenkins, Junior High Principal, \$14,352.00; Dorothy Komsisky, Junior High Office, \$7,416.00; Beth Ann Morgan, Payroll Clerk, \$14,664.40; Nancy Oliver, Elementary Principal,

Account Technician, \$14,144.00; Roannah Shoemaker, Assistant Superintendent Secretary, \$15,-080.00; Barbara Simms, Guidance, \$10,960.00; George Stolarick, Senior High Guidance, \$16,116.00; Anna Wolensky, Library, \$7,876.38; Sharon Yakabovicz, Switchboard, \$14,040.00.

School menus

DALLAS SCHOOLS Nov. 19 - 26

WEDNESDAY - Thanksgiving dinner--roast Tom turkey wfreshly made stuffing, honey glazed sweet potatoes, whipped potatoes-gravy, buttered corn, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie w-whipped topping, choice of milk or juice.

THURSDAY - Pasta in zesty meat sauce w-fresh made bread or Wimpie on soft roll, Italian green beans, applesauce, choice of milk or juice. (Sr. High Thanksgiving buffet).

FRIDAY - Super slice of pepperoni pizza or grilled cheese sandwich, chicken rice soup wveggies, carrot-celery sticks, choice of milk or juice. Bonus: Black Forest cherry cake.

MONDAY - Sweet sausage hoagie w-peppers-onions, or Cheeseburger on roll w-lettuce, crisp tater tots, mixed fruit cookie

Bonus: Jumbo peanut butter

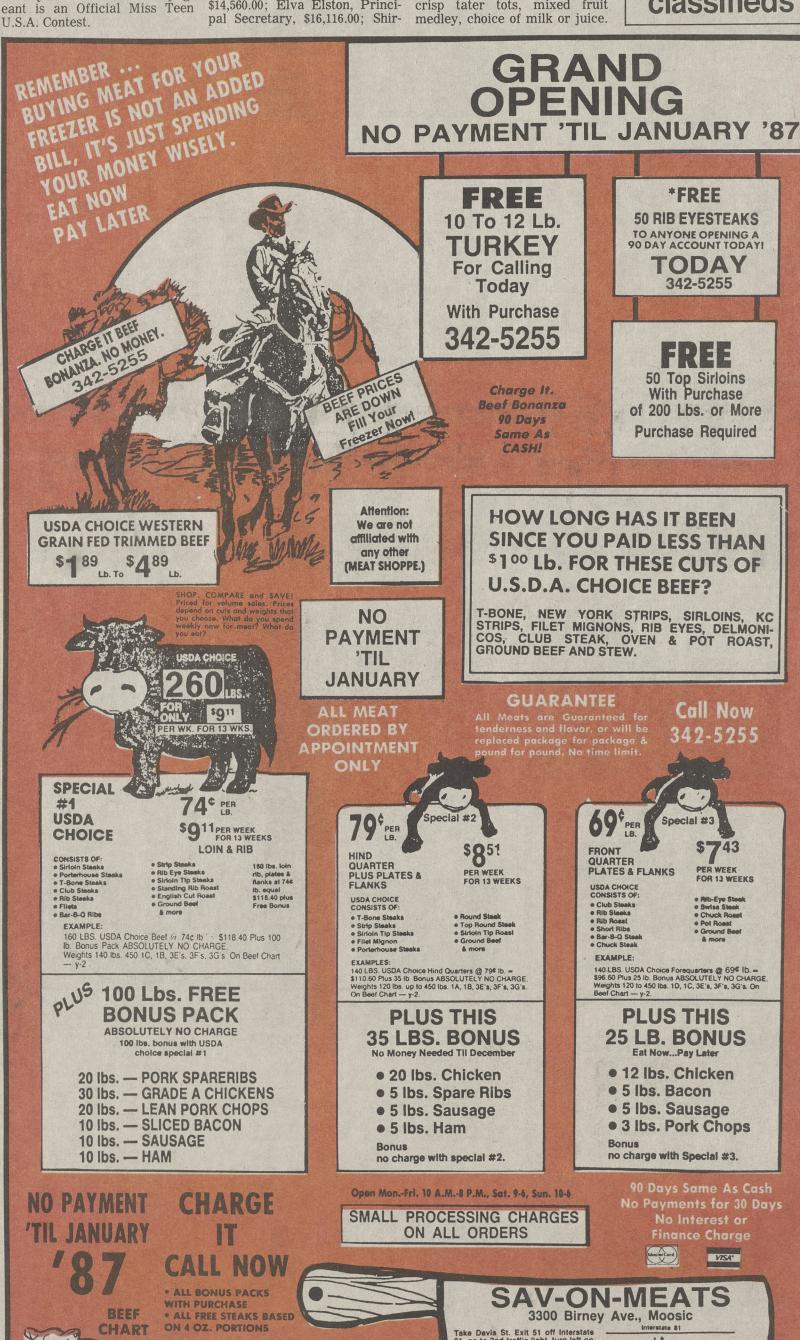
TUESDAY - Mexican taco filled w-beef-lettuce-cheese or Frankfurter on roll w-cheese sauce (optional), beef noodle vegetable soup, pineapple topped w-coconut, choice of milk or juice.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOLS Nov. 24 - 28

MONDAY - Toasted cheese sandwich, pickle chips, tomato soup-saltines, peaches, donut, milk.

TUESDAY - Sloppy Joe on bun, hash brown potato, buttered corn, ice cream, milk.

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