

Marsha Howes will tell how to trace 'roots'

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

It is not unusual in today's society to have an opportunity to learn something about our 'roots' (ancestors), those individuals whose hand-me-down traits influence our genetic and environmental patterns, strong points, talents and other characteristics.

So it is also with our aunts, uncles and cousins who are scattered in all areas of our nation due to following career choices over the years.

Persons interested in discovering more about their family roots and their relatives can learn how to begin by attending the 'Roots and Reunions' program sponsored by the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley, Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m. at Scheffer Hall, Wilkes College.

The day's program will be a panel discussion moderated by the Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan and will include practical ways to trace family roots and to organize family reunions.

Among several Back Mountain residents on the panel will be Marsha Howes of Dallas, who not only planned and organized a family reunion two years ago, but began at that time to trace her ancestors and discover the impact they have had on her life.

Marsha grew up in Colorado and Wyoming, later moving to Lancaster and surrounding area. Ten years ago she moved to the local area from Dauphin County. Since her roots were in the Midwest, Marsha decided that the reunion should be held in Colorado. She selected as her choice the YMCA camp of the Rockies in Estus, Park, Colorado, which specializes in reunions and providing housing accommodations.

Eighty-six family members from all sections of the country as well as from Saudi Arabia attended the reunion. They ranged in age from 21 to 70. Marsha was pleased with the success of the two-day event and suggests to others that in order to hold a successful reunion, plans must be started three years in advance.

Marsha communicated with her chosen reunion site, corresponded with family members, collected the necessary deposit from each, made the reservations and sent a detailed list of accommodations and available activities to each member.

The initial step taken by Marsha was to contact the key members in

were very much the same as those of her mother and other female members of the family. She used her notes to do an independent writing project at Wilkes College where she is a student. It was not just a story, but related the impact of ancestors on women.

Marsha found that most of the families were the same. Her concern today is that women's stories get lost and only the men's stories are told. Interested in women's issues since 1960, she found that many women did not realize that there was a woman's movement as early as 1848.

She could identify with her own family. Her stepgrandmother was the daughter of a sharecropper and when her dad died, her mother had three or four children. Her grandmother took in ironing, did laundry and went to other farms doing butchering in order to provide for the children.

Marsha said that what she learned at the reunion has strengthened her plans to make the most of promoting women's interests. During those two days, she learned the older generation didn't relate to the women's movement but did understand the conditions and were aware of the burden on women then. Some of the younger relatives were ardent feminists, some were career women and others happy to be homemakers.

Marsha is the wife of William Hakkari, has a daughter of her own and three stepchildren. She believes that it is important that stepchildren understand their roots so they better understand themselves, just as she plans that her own daughter will know her roots.

Marsha was associated with the Stepfamilies Association in 1985 when she had all of the children. Now has only her own daughter lives at home.

Marsha's mother's family came to America from Germany and settled in Lancaster County but later moved to Missouri where they lived for more than 100 years.

Marsha is writing a story about the women in her family starting in 1885 in Missouri and continuing it through the 1950's. She now has to finish it from then until the present. She relied on her father's genealogy-birthdates, deaths, children and other bits and pieces of information from stories.

"Searching your roots is time-consuming," Marsha explained. "Research is the basis of discussion."

Now a senior at Wilkes College, Marsha was one of the founding women of Wyoming Valley's Women's Network and coordinated the annual event the first two years. When returning to school, she found she had to give up that task. She is also a previous member of the Planned Parenthood Board and went through Leadership Wilkes-Barre. She is also a member of Luzerne County Women's Commission.

If women of the area are interested in doing a little 'root digging' of their own, they should be certain to attend 'Roots and Reunions', where they should enjoy Marsha Howes' experiences as well as those of Dallas resident Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy, Gov. Casey's wife Ellen, and several others.

It promises to be an informative and interesting day.



Marsha Howes

her mother's family and ask each of them to contact others in each of their families. Marsha's mother is one of 14 children, so there were plenty of people to be reached. After she heard from each member, Marsha sent them information about the event. She reserved the reunion site a year ahead, but advises that this be done earlier than that if possible.

During the two-day reunion, Marsha interviewed 17 female members of the family to learn how their lives differed from their own mothers. She obtained a wide range of answers with only a few of them the saying theirs was the same.

When she returned home with her interviews on tape, Marsha recognized that many of her traits



100th ANNIVERSARY - Rev. Michael Bealla, pastor of Dallas United Methodist Church, stands in front of the doors to the sanctuary. The church will celebrate its 100th Anniversary beginning with special events May 28 through June 4. (C.M. Denmon Photo)

Dallas church plans for 100th anniversary

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The work of the 100th Anniversary Committee of Dallas United Methodist Church will see the fruits of their labor soon.

The group has been working for several months planning the 100th anniversary of mission and ministry of the church, which was built and consecrated in 1889. Initial work began in 1888 with the laying of the foundation and cornerstone.

The church history dates farther back for about 30 years as 'class meetings' were held and an original sanctuary once stood on Center Hill Road at the corner of Lake Street.

Anniversary Week celebration is to begin May 28 during morning worship and continue through the week until Sunday, June 4, ending in a major worship celebration. Various events including a Hymn Sing, History Night and a church birthday party will be among the week's activities.

All persons are encouraged to attend.

The anniversary committee members includes Rev. Michael Bealla, pastor; Irene and Bruce Davies, Margaret and Bill Baker, Marjorie Brown, Helen Coombs, Shirley Breymeier, Barbara Goldsmith, Shirley Goode, Mary Rese, Ned Podehl, Priscilla Liput, Linda Vozniak, Emmajean Pittman and Sue Wenner.

Religious services

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS (across from Chapel Lawn Cemetery on Harveys Lake Memorial Highway.) Phone 675-3723. Pastor Dale S. Brown. SUNDAY, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 11 a.m. Morning Worship, (Jr. Church and Nursery); 6 p.m. Family Bible Hour. WEDNESDAY, 6-8 p.m. AWANA Club (ages 3 through 6th grade). THURSDAY, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. Phone 675-0122. Rev. Michael A. Bealla, Pastor. SUNDAY, 10:30 a.m. Church School, 9 a.m.

THE FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH - Hildebrandt Road, Dallas Phone - 675-6426. Pastor, Rev. Dwight Hodne; Assistant Pastor - Minister of Youth, Rev. John Butch Jr. - SUNDAY, 9 a.m. Morning Worship, also a Junior & Beginners Church; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m., Informality & ministering to one another sets this service apart. Nursery is provided for all services; WEDNESDAY, 7:30 p.m., Prayer and Worship; THURSDAY, 9:15 a.m., Women's Bible Study with nursery provided; 7 - 8:30 p.m., F.C.Y.F. weekly youth meeting with in-depth Bible Study.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH - 340 Carverton Rd., Truckville. Pastor Tim Tanner. SUNDAY, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; WEDNESDAY, Family night, 7 p.m.

GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH - Machell Ave., Dallas. Phone, 675-2121. Pastor, William Cusick; Assistant Pastor, Michael Sullivan. Mass Schedule: SATURDAY, 5 p.m.; SUNDAY, 7, 8:30, 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m.; MONDAY, Novena Devotions and Mass, 7:30 p.m.; Rosary at 7:15 p.m. CONFESSION; Saturday, 4 - 4:50 p.m.

HUNTSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - (1 block west of Huntsville Reservoir Dam, RD 4, Box 197, Dallas. Phone 675-0611). Pastor Cliff Jones. SUNDAY, Worship service 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 11 a.m.

IDETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Pastor, Rev. Michael Shambora; Layleader, Mr. Henry Bergstrasser. 10 a.m., Church Worship; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

JACKSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Pastor, Rev. Michael Shambora. 8:45 a.m. Church Worship; 8:45 a.m. Sunday School.

KUNKLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - RD 1, (Kunkle) Dallas. Phone 675-0556. Pastor, Rev. Michael Willis. SUNDAY Church service starts at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes for all ages 10:45 a.m.

LEHMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Pastor, Rev. Michael Shambora. Layleader Mr. Don Weidner; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 11:15 a.m. Church Worship.

PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Main St., Dallas. Phone 675-1723. The Rev. John S. Prater, Rector. SUNDAY, Holy Communion, 8 a.m., Holy Communion, 10 a.m., 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday; Morning Prayer, 10 a.m.; Church School 10 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. Phone 675-3859. Pastor, Rev. Harold R. Baer, Jr. Service of Worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Church School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.

ST. THERESE'S CHURCH - 64 Davis St., Shavertown. Phone 696-1144. Pastor, Rev. Joseph F. Meighan; Deacon, James P. Feerick. DAILY MASS, 8:30 a.m. SATURDAY, 4:30 p.m.; SUNDAY, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.; Holy Day, Vigil 7:30 p.m.; CONFESSIONS: Daily at 8:15 a.m.; Saturday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Rectory hours, M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 163 N. Pioneer Ave., corner of West Center St., Shavertown. Phone 675-3616. Pastors, Rev. James A. Wert, Rev. Harriet L. Santos. SATURDAY: 5:30 p.m., Chapel Service. SUNDAY 9 a.m. Chapel Service; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, classes for all ages. Mary Lou Swingle, Superintendent; 11 a.m. Worship Service (child care at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.); 6 p.m. Children's Choir rehearsal. WEDNESDAY, 10 a.m.

New Life Prayer and Bible Study for young women; 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal for adults; 7:30 p.m. Video Bible Study of John's Gospel. THURSDAY: 10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Video Bible Study of John's Gospel.

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Church St., Dallas. Pastor, Rev. Andrew Pillarella. Phone: 675-3131. SUNDAY: Church School for all ages, youth choir rehearsal; 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m., Superintendent, Mary Chappell; Morning worship at 11 a.m. (Nursery provided). TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL - Monday thru Thursday, 9-11:30 a.m.; 11:30-2 p.m.

TRUCKVILLE FREE METHODIST CHURCH, 370 Carverton Road, Truckville, Pastor Rev. Warren W. Hoover, Telephone 696-2535. SUNDAY: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Family night service at 6:30 p.m. with adult Bible Study; with Pastor and Christian Life Club for children and preschool children. WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m., Christian Growth Service.

TRUCKVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Church Rd., Truckville. Phone 696-3897. Pastor, Rev. Shillabeer. SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m. and 11 s.m. morning service; Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship; 10:30 a.m.; THURSDAY, 10 a.m. Bible Study.

VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH, Independent" Rt. 292, RD 5., Box 691, Tunkhannock (in Vernon), Pastor, James A. Cummings, Phone 333-4935. SUNDAY, Worship Service 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:45 a.m., Evening Service 7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, Midweek Bible Study, 7 p.m. THURSDAY Good News Club, 4:30 p.m.; Agape Youth Fellowship, 7 p.m.

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owner could not keep her because the landlord said "No". Call 825-4111.