

## Anderson afield

### Loss of 'prairie potholes' has meant fewer ducks

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

As the duck hunting season gets underway here and across the country, the number of mallards, pintails, and blue-winged teal is at its lowest point in history. The cause of the decline affects people as well as ducks. It affects their pocket-books, their drinking water, their quality of life.

To understand this situation, it is necessary to turn back to the retreat of the last glacier, 10,000 years ago. As the glacier melted and retreated northward, huge chunks of ice broke off. These icebergs weighed enough to make dents in the soil of the Great Plains. As the ice melted, these depressions filled with water, forming what we call prairie potholes.

The prairies pothole region extends from Minnesota west to Montana, from Iowa north across the Dakotas into central Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; covering some 300,000 square miles. When first settled, the prairie potholes annually produced enough waterfowl to darken the sky. The Indians and white settlers killed a few, but had not effect on the waterfowl resource.

Then came the white man's plow and trouble began for the ducks, buffalo, and prairie chickens. The plow was followed by the ditching machine, bulldozer and dragline. The prairie farmer figured he was waging some sort of holy war against nature; that those wet spots were the enemy of mankind, so all the people should pay for draining them.

Guess what! Engineers in the Army, the Department of Agriculture, Interior agreed that draining the prairies, at taxpayers' expense, was, indeed, a noble cause! If the farmer did spend his own money to drain his land, it was tax deductible. In other words, we paid him to destroy the great North American waterfowl resource. Furthermore, subsidies guaranteed him that, regardless of the market supply and demand, we would pay him a set price per bushel for his corn, wheat, and other grains.

When his plow was drawn by horses, if he had a pond in his wheatfield, he plowed around it. Today he can plow it up and contribute to the huge surplus of corn, for which we've run out of storage space, and it's temporarily piled in the streets of some small Minnesota towns.

Some ponds and small lakes have not been drained, but in a severe drought, such as 1988, the land is cultivated right to the water's edge. This eliminates all the vegetation in which a duck might hide her nest. Or if there is a narrow strip of cover, the foxes, skunks, and raccoons comb through it in quest of groceries.

We've been having severe droughts on the prairies for hundreds of years, but when the rains came back, so did the ducks. But now, for the first time, due to the loss of vegetation, the land is not in position to bounce back.

At long last, the effect on people is being recognized. President Bush says, "No net loss of wetlands". Under pressure from

duck hunters and conservation groups such as the National Audubon Society, Congress finally passed the "Swampbuster Act" which says if a landowner drains a pond, he loses his government subsidies. Of course, the senators from the Dakotas are howling about this, and some farmers in North Dakota continue to drain and draw subsidies, knowing they probably won't get caught.

Fifty years ago, there were millions of those tiny reservoirs which caught and held rainwater where it fell. Now the rain goes into the drainage ditch, into the creek, into the river, then into the Mississippi Valley. And every year, somewhere in the Valley, there is a disastrous flood. When the President declares it a "disaster area", who pays for the damage? We do.

In addition, those potholes and marshes allowed water to percolate into the soil and recharge the underground aquifers. We are now pumping water out of the underground reservoirs much faster than it's being replaced. Parts of the Ogallala Aquifer, for example, are being pumped out at 10-15 feet per year and being recharged at less than one inch.

The ducks that depend on the prairie potholes are in trouble. And, for the same reason, so are you.

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.



**LIFE SAVING-** Margaret Davis instructs a CPR class at her Dallas Home on Sunday evening. Nine people were certified in the life-saving procedure. Davis is trying to send a message to the public to "get certified". Persons CPR Certified at this classes were Mildred Fowler, Frank Ide, Debbie Ide, James W. Davis Jr., Tina Davis, Teddy Hughes Jr., and Dallas Borough Police Officers James Martin and Billy Norris. Recertified was Laura Tracy. (Photo by Scott A. Davis)

## Dallas instructor stresses learning CPR

When a human being's heart and breathing stop, the person is experiencing what is known as cardiac arrest. Contrary to popular belief, however, this person is not immediately clinically dead.

When an individual goes into cardiac arrest, an internal time clock begins to tick away, each tick brings that person closer to irreversible, clinical death.

Although a person could theoretically be revived if medical attention is provided within 10 minutes, according to Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services, for a person to revive without considerable brain damage, steps must be taken within four minutes.

The action that needs to be taken are collectively known as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, better known as CPR.

In the Back Mountain, the average response time for an ambulance to arrive on the scene of an emergency is five to ten minutes. That may be too late for a cardiac arrest victim.

If a witness to cardiac arrest could begin CPR immediately, the sufferer's chance of survival is dramatically increased. That is the message volunteer CPR instructor Margaret Davis of Dallas is trying to send to the public.

Davis is an Emergency Medical Technician who runs with the Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance. She runs over 400 emergency ambulance calls every year. Earlier this year, she became a CPR instructor.

"There is no reason that anyone does not know CPR," Davis said Monday. "That is how easy it is." She explained that if more people would learn how to perform CPR,

many more people would survive cardiac arrest.

"I think the public is very aware of CPR," Davis stressed. "I think more people would do CPR if they were more educated about such things as contracting diseases."

Davis said that when she gives a CPR class, "there are always a few students who fear blowing into the mannequin (used to simulate a cardiac arrest patient) because they fear they will contract a disease from a previous student."

Davis said there is no need to worry about disease transmission. "People are not aware that after each session, the mannequins are taken apart and cleaned inside and out," she pointed out.

Davis also said she believes more people would learn CPR if more training sessions were made available to the public. "It is important to make the public aware that there are local instructors willing to hold CPR classes," Davis said. She explained that anyone wishing to contact a local instructor can do so by calling the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

Davis thinks CPR "should be a

requirement in Junior and Senior high schools." She said that lower grade level students may not be physically capable of performing CPR. She explained that although young children can be taught how to perform CPR, their smaller bodies may not be strong enough to do the necessary chest compressions.

Davis said the public should know that CPR classes do not have to be formal. "You can set up an informal class through instructors. You do not need a group," she said. Davis has performed training sessions involving one student in the past. She said a session could involve one student to over 25 students.

The average class length for CPR, according to Davis, could be from four hours to three days depending on how in-depth the class wants to go. The basic CPR class is one evening.

Anyone interested in attending or forming a CPR training session can contact the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or call Margaret Davis at 675-2746.

## Christian book and gift store opens

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff writer

Gifts From Above, a new Christian Book Store, the only one of its kind in the Back Mountain, opened for business following its Grand Opening, Saturday, Nov. 4. The store is located off Route 415, Dallas, on Gerald Avenue.

Gifts From Above, owned by Albert and Roberta Klein, is a Christian Book Store and more, with a wide variety of items for all Christian shoppers.

Customers will find a selection of Christian wedding bands, video rentals and in the near future, a room for viewing the videos.

There are a multi-variety of Bibles, a music department, a children's books area as well as cards, stationery and gifts.

A popular and unique feature for children is Noah's Ark built by Walter Bartlett, who stopped in one day and volunteered his time to construct the ark as well as the checkout counter.

Gifts From Above also has a full line of Sunday School supplies available from pre-school through adults; and all types of novelty items including children and adults tee shirts.

There is a reading space with tables and chairs for the children to sit and look through books after going through the ark.

Gifts From Above will be open Monday through Saturday.



**NOAH'S ARK** - Roberta Klein, Nathaniel Klein and Walter Bartlett stand in front of the ark that is the centerpiece for Gifts from Above, a new Christian bookstore in Dallas. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)

## Church improvements to be dedicated

New entrance steps and a walk at the Idetown United Methodist Church will be dedicated on November 19 by the Rev. Michael Shambora. The project was completely funded by donations from family members of the late Mrs. Maude E. Antrim and Raymond Davenport.

Willis and Loy Ide of Oakhill, detown and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Antrim, Jr. of Wellsboro, Pa., are donating the new entrance to the church in memory of the late Mrs.

Antrim. Mrs. Gertrude Davenport of Walton Place, Harveys Lake, is donating the new entranceway in

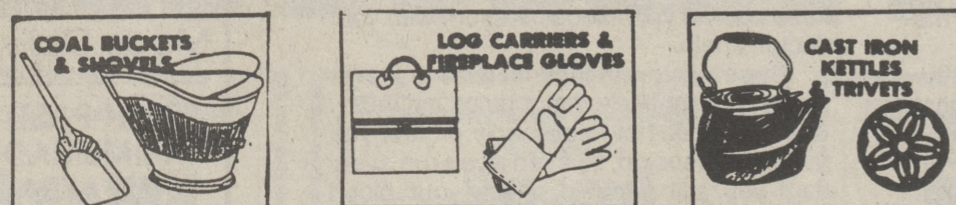
memory of her late husband, Raymond Davenport. The Idetown church will note its 125th anniversary in 1990.

## Last day to miss KT tax penalty

Kingston Township Tax Collector, Janice Castellani, reminds residents that 1989 School District tax bills will be collected at Face Value until Wednesday, Nov.

15. After that all bills will be due at Penalty Value with final collections for the year being made Friday, December 15.

## Christmas Gift Ideas



DELEUR'S 675-2266

**"Back to Basics"**  
INC.  
R.D. 1, Kunkle  
Dallas, PA

PORCELAIN ENAMELLED CAST IRON STEAMERS

FIREPROOF HEARTH CARPETS

BROOMS

Open Sunday 12 - 4 P.M.

VISA

MasterCard

BELLOWS



FIREPLACE TOOL SETS

"A penny saved is two pence clear." Benjamin Franklin

## Smart savers know 3 ways to make their money grow.

If you're looking for a way to earn competitive rates but keep your options open, look at these choices with Account ForKeeps.

If you think interest rates will rise, choose the one-year option. At any time, you can convert your one-year option to a three- or five-year option at then current interest rates.

If today's high three- and five-year rates better meet your needs, lock them in with other advantages. Such as tax-deferred earnings throughout the term of your annuity. A variety of tax-preferred income options at maturity. And safety of principal guaranteed by Xerox Life.

Find out more about how Account ForKeeps, a tax-deferred single premium annuity, provides the flexibility and features smart savers are demanding. Call today.

**8.35%\***  
Current Rate

For 5 contract years

**8.00%\***  
Current Rate

For 3 contract years

**8.00%\***  
Current Rate

For 1 contract year

\*Current rates are subject to change without notice. Minimum premium is \$10,000. Federal tax penalties may apply to withdrawals by owners who are younger than 59½. Please consult your tax adviser. Account ForKeeps is offered by Xerox Financial Services Life on Policy Series XLC 7001-0 (Individual) and by Xerox Financial Life Insurance Company on Policy Form Series XLC 7001-OCA.

**FAS First Affiliated Securities, Inc.**

A SUBSIDIARY OF BEKHOR INTERNATIONAL GROUP INC

**GAGER AND ASSOCIATES**

JOHN F. GAGER

REGISTERED INVESTMENT BROKER

(717) 675-7200 • FAX (717) 675-0747

Box L, Hidden Acres Offices,

Route, 415 Dallas, PA 18612

Yes! I want to make my money grow.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_