

# Anderson afield Trespassing sheep may endanger wildlife habitat

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

In addition to Democrats and Republicans, western sheepherders are high on the list of threats to the wild plants and animals that make life worth while for a growing number of people. Consider the case of Ganados del Valle, a northern New Mexico sheep grazing cooperative. They recently invaded the state's Humphries Wildlife Management Area with about 2,000 domestic sheep. The move was in direct defiance of warnings from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. According to a friends of mine in New Mexico, it is a clear case of criminal trespass.

The sheep used the area for five days before the Game Department issued a formal citation. Governor Gary Carruthers then ordered the sheep moved to nearby Heron Lake State Park. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (often called "wreck-lamation") has been in the business of destroying natural streams, good agricultural land, and wildlife habitat for decades. All at taxpayers' expense. When one of their projects destroys wildlife habitat, Bu Rec is required to purchase other land to offset the loss. The bureau had purchased the Heron Lake State Park area to offset the loss of big game habitat caused by one of their projects. In order to save the Governor from considerable embarrassment, Bu Rec quickly issued a grazing permit. Obviously, face-saving for a governor is more important to them than wildlife for which the land was purchased with taxpayers' money.

Ganados del Valle depends on leased lands for summer grazing. When its lease with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe was cancelled, it claimed to have no place to graze its sheep even though the Game Department had furnished them list of private lands available for grazing in that area. Ganados asked to graze 3 wildlife management areas, claiming it would improve existing habitat for Rocky Mountain elk! The only trouble is, when sheep move in, elk move out. So the Game Department refused this generous offer, but Ganados trespassed anyway. After all, why

should a few elk, that belong to all the people, get in the way of a flock of sheep that belongs to a politically powerful friend of the governor and U.S. Secretary of the Interior? Ganados has reportedly applied political pressure on the Governor and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to turn the Humphries Wildlife Management Area into sheep range.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initially supported the State Game Department, agreeing that sheep grazing is not consistent with the purpose for which the wildlife management areas were purchased.

Now it will be interesting to see the outcome because, after 8 years of being kicked around by the Reagan administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a new Director, John Turner, from Wyoming. Turner is well trained and has a good conservation record in the Wyoming legislature.

The Humphries Wildlife Management Area was bought with funds derived from hunting license sales and, under the Pittman-Robertson Act, from excise taxes collected on sporting arms and ammunition.

By law, land purchased with Pittman-Robertson funds and hunting licenses must be managed for wildlife conservation. So New Mexico conservationists, both hunters and nonhunters, are adamantly opposed to sheep grazing on the area and said as much at a meeting called by Governor Carruthers to resolve the issue. Carruthers, in order to straddle the fence, has ordered some research to determine if sheep grazing will improve habitat for elk. Of course we already have 5 years of research on this very problem and proved that sheep and elk are like oil and water. If he gets away with this, what will happen to the 4 million acres of wildlife habitat purchased with federal funds (yours and mine) in all 50 states, including your own?

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



### Crestwood committee visits computer lab

Members of the Crestwood School District's computer committee recently visited the state of the art JOSTENS INTEGRATED LEARNING LAB at the Dallas Middle School. Integrated learning labs are a relatively new concept in computer education. They involve grades K-9 in the curriculum areas of reading, language arts and mathematics. The Dallas School District has three such labs in operation at the Dallas Elem. School, Westmoreland Elem. and Dallas Middle School. Pictured, seated from left, Mr. Ted Geffert, assistant superintendent; Ms. Carol Munson, Ms. Margaret Fraind. Standing, Mr. Al Knechel, Jostens' representative; Ms. Paula Madd, Mr. Gilbert Griffiths, Dallas Middle School principal; Mr. Steven Beres, Rice Elementary principal; Ms. Rae Menninger, Mr. Jack Wega, Dallas computer coordinator; Mr. Richard Soper.

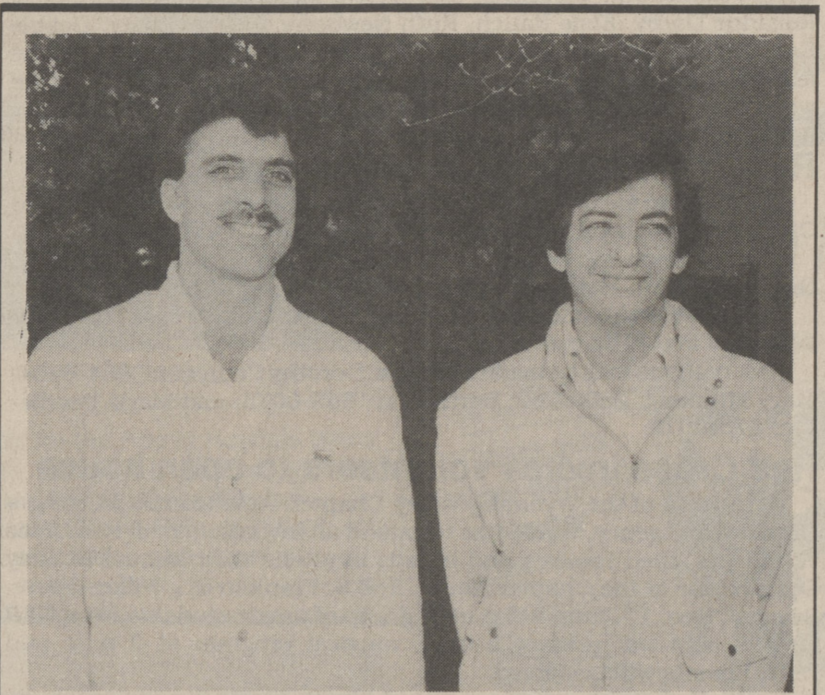
# Merchants buys bank branch in Sweet Valley

Harold J. Rose, Jr., Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Merchants Bank North today announced the purchase of the Sweet Valley office of the Columbia County Farmers National Bank, headquartered in Orangeville, Pa. The purchase is subject to approval by various regulatory authorities and is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 1990. Located on Main Road and the Road to Broadway, near the intersection of Routes 118 and 29 in northwest Luzerne County, the office offers the convenience of drive-up banking and ample customer parking.

Bank North network to 20 offices throughout Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Wayne and Pike counties. According to Senior Vice President of Marketing William Leandri, "Merchants Bank is pleased with the addition of the Sweet Valley office. The population of this area is growing quickly and the new office will lie midway between Merchants Bank's Shickshinny and Dallas Township offices. We look forward to providing the Sweet Valley community with a wide variety of banking products with an emphasis on personal customer service."

Merchants Bank North is an affiliate of Merchants Bancorp. Inc. with assets exceeding 750 million dollars.

The addition of the Sweet Valley office will expand the Merchants



CANDLE CHAIRMEN - Joe Rubbico, left, and Ralph Barber are leading the Back Mountain Jaycees sand candle sale effort this year.

# Jaycees selling sand candles again this year

The Back Mountain Jaycees will once again this year be "lighting the way to the holidays" with their Christmas Eve sand candle sale. The sale will take place at Insalaco's Supermarket in the Country Club Shopping Center in Dallas from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 9 and 10. Back Mountain Jaycees chairing this year's sand candle sale are Joe Rubbico and Ralph Barber.

The cost is \$2.50 a dozen. To assure availability, advance orders are now being taken by calling 675-4782. All proceeds

will benefit the Back Mountain Jaycees' projects being held during the Christmas season. These projects include the "Underprivileged Children's Shopping Spree," "Children's Santa Claus Visits," and the annual visits and gifts given to the local nursing homes.

The Back Mountain Jaycees are a community oriented leadership training organization open to men and women from 21 to 40 years of age. The Jaycees meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Castle Inn, Route 415, Dallas at 8 p.m.



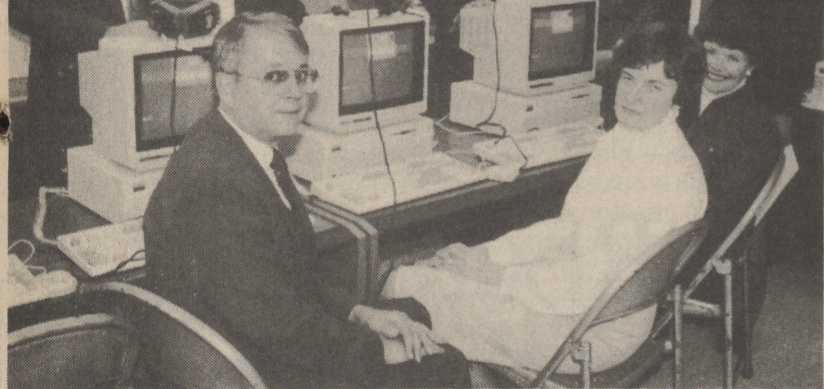
### Ginocchetti wins mask coloring contest

McCrory's store located in the Back Mountain Shopping Center, Shavertown, held a "Create Your Own Mask" coloring contest for local children recently. Five-year-old Vincent Ginocchetti of Trucksville won the random drawing last week and received a giant teddy bear. Pictured from left to right are Bonnie Spudis, office cashier; Vincent and his new teddy bear; and Marge Marek, store authorizer.



### Pictures with Santa

Harveys Lake Women's Service Club will sponsor a "Picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus" Saturday, Dec. 2, 1 to 3 p.m. at Hoss Garden Entrance, Harveys Lake, and again, Dec. 9, 1 to 3 p.m., at Rave's Garden Center, Shavertown. Cost is \$2.50 per photo, no personal cameras permitted. All proceeds will benefit community projects. From left, seated, Karen Boback, co-chairman; Carole Edwards, Mary Jude Swanson, club president; Debbie Elgaway; standing, Lex Hall, Lorraine Truska, Joyce Birt, Shirley Crawford and Joanna Jones, co-chairman.



# Medical center seeks board nominations

The Board of Directors of the Exeter Township Medical Center in Falls, at their recent meeting, discussed additional services for the Medical Center such as an Adult Day Care Center or a Dental Clinic.

After hearing a report from Diane Bartoli, director of the Plains Adult Day Care Center, who gave licensing requirements and expenses for operating such a facility, the Board voted not to consider the service because of the expense and encumbrances. The Board will study the need for a dental clinic.

The Board also renominated incumbent Board Directors whose terms expire, January 1, 1990 but will accept other nominations from citizens of the five townships served by the Medical Center.

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