

# Cultural development is now big business in Northeastern PA

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

An amazing change has come over Northeastern Pennsylvania. With a burst of excitement and enthusiasm, cultural development has become big business in the region. While the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts may be the latest and outstanding feature on the cultural landscape of Northeastern Pennsylvania, it is only the part of a continuing thread of cultural opportunity which prevails throughout the region. The Kirby Center has resulted in over 250 days of great variety in performing acts in which adults and children have been entertained by some of the greatest performers in the nation. Who would have dreamed a short time ago that Scott Hamilton, one of the greatest figure skaters of all time, would bring his show to Wilkes-Barre at the Kirby? And who would have thought that one of the outstanding entertainers of this or any other generation, Bill Crosby, would be coming to the Kirby.

The greatest cultural renaissance which promises to engulf the entire region, however, is the continuing presence of new ideas and new projects which will enhance the way in which outsiders will view the Northeastern Pennsylvania landscape. For example, the Masonic Temple in Scranton will undergo a multi-million dollar renovation which will make it a continuing attraction for such headliner shows as Les Miserables. The Broadway Theater of Northeastern Pennsylvania continues to bring outstanding attractions to the people of the region. The 10,200 seat Lackawanna County Multi Purpose Stadium not only features a 73-game schedule for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons, but

will host performances by entertainers who can utilize the facility at the foot of Montage Mountain.

In the Poconos, study continues on the possible location of a major Pennsylvania Arts Center in the Poconos either at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area or at another location within this recreational playground of the Megalopolis. Furthermore, outstanding recreational attractions such as the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Steamtown National Park, the 13 State Parks which dot the landscape of Northeastern Pennsylvania and a wide range of other cultural and recreational features stand as testimony to the new Northeast which Northeastern Pennsylvania represents.

Furthermore, other plans are being considered for concepts such as convention centers, performing arts facilities, and the tremendous growth which has occurred within the higher educational community such as the art galleries located at Marywood College, University of Scranton, College Misericordia, the Sordani Art Gallery at Wilkes University, and much more. It is these treasures along with the art and cultural organizations such as the Everhart Museum which makes the region an outstanding mecca of cultural diversity.

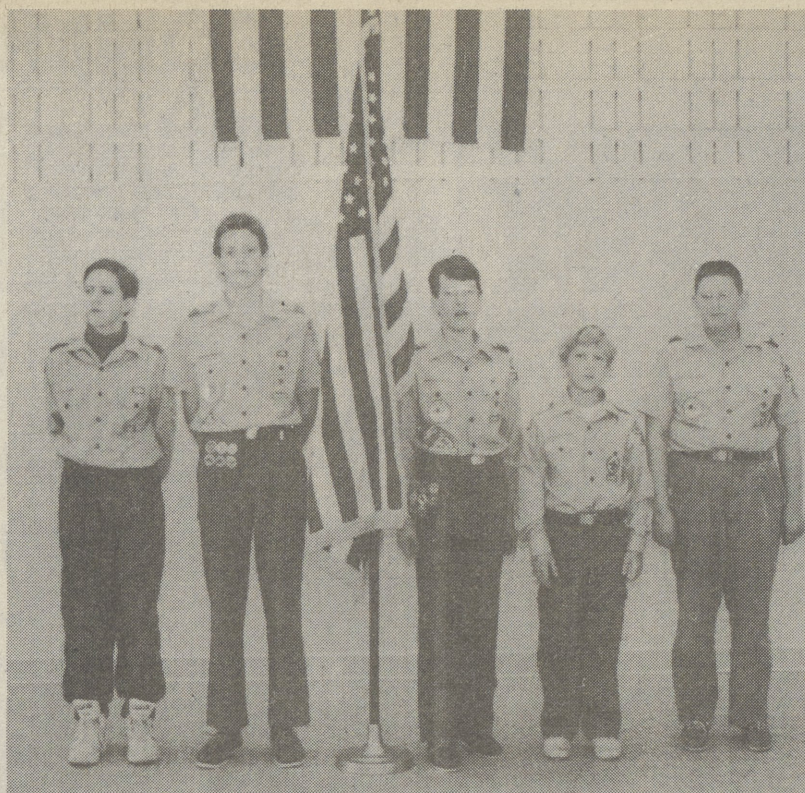
Northeastern Pennsylvania is not known widely for its cultural programs or facilities. When looked upon as a region, however, the astonishing array of facilities and programs adds tremendously to the ability of the region to attract new economic growth and to encourage expansions of businesses and industries. While this cannot

be quantified, it is very likely that the richness of diversity makes the region more attractive for its quality of life than otherwise would be the case in relation to economic development. The growth of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, the expansion of Scranton Public Theatre, the development of the Montage Summer Festival, and a wide variety of other cultural resources enables the region to be competitive in a cultural sense with other regions of the nation.

It has become abundantly clear that economic competition in the United States has a close and startling relationship to how industrialists and decision makers view the quality of life in given regions of the nation. As Northeastern Pennsylvania has picked up high rankings in ratings by independent researchers such as Money Magazine and Rand McNally, quality of life issues have become more dramatic and meaningful. While the region's cultural rankings have not always been as high what some people believe they should be, more are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of the arts and associated recreational features in Northeastern Pennsylvania. If a study were completed on the economic impact of the arts in the region, it would lead to conclusions which would show the demonstrated importance of the arts to the overall economy as well as quality of life.

Approximately two years ago, a relatively strong effort was undertaken to bring together a number of arts organizations and interested arts advocates in a project designed to develop a regional booklet on the importance of the arts to the region. While this project never got off the ground, it makes as much sense today as it did then. Furthermore, for quite a few years in the 1970s and early '80s, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Arts Alliance was a functioning non-profit corporation designed to promote the arts in a regional sense. While this organization is currently defunct, it would be an appropriate time in the 1990s to reconstitute a regional organization designed to focus attention on the arts in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.



**Special Olympians ends training program**  
AREA P of Pennsylvania Special Olympics (PASO) sponsored a Swim Meet at Kistler Pool, recently. The annual event culminated a year round training program for most of the participants. From the winners at this local event, the following swimmers qualified to participate at PASO Summer Games to be held at Penn State June 7-10 in their respective events: Tracey Tribendis, Elizabeth Thomas, Jeanne Stranch, Molly Schappert, Caryl Jacobs, Heather Horvath, Sheri Hamersley, Mary Jo Evans, Thomas Casey, Patrick Cleary, Matthew Jones, Eric MacDonald, Robert Simms, Christopher Spence, Mark Spence and Andrew Zambo. Special Olympics is a year round sports training and competition program designed for persons with mental retardation, ages 8 and over, to improve fitness, meet new people, learn sports skills and experience the joy of winning through sports. The local Special Olympics Committee sponsors numerous event and training sessions throughout the year. For more details regarding opportunities as a participant or a volunteer, please contact the Deutsch Institute at (717) 675-1465. Institute are members of Dallas Boy Scout Troop #281: Ninja Patrol who were color guard for opening ceremonies. From left to right are Tim Raub, David Townsend, Patrol Leader; Craig Bowersox, David Erley, Eric St. Clair, Assistant Patrol Leader.

## Wilkes-Barre area fair set July 12-22

The fair is a wholesome family event with something for everyone regardless of their age. It features family entertainment with livestock and food contests as well as rides and shows and games. New stage shows will be held in the Miller Genuine Draft Entertainment Center and everyone is sure to have a great time at the 11 day event.

Ernest H. Cowen, Manager of Agriculture & Community Relations for the Second Annual Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Area Fair announced today that Church Bulletins will be used as free admission tickets to the fair on Sunday, July 15 from noon to 3 p.m. "It's our way to work with the churches and maybe help boost the Summer church attendance a little," said Cowen. "Traditionally church attendance slacks off a little over the Summer due to vacations and enjoyment of the out-of-doors. This may give people an additional incentive to plan for a day of family fun starting with Church and ending with a great time at the fair."

Bulletins will be accepted at the fair entrance instead of money for the first three hours of the fair until 3 p.m. Each person needs to bring in their own bulletin. One person per bulletin. All religions are invited to participate. Synagogue bulletins will also be accepted on Sunday.

The Fair will be held July 12-22 at Pocono Downs, Rt. 315, Wilkes-Barre. Admission is \$2.50 per person, under 6 free. Open daily 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon.

## Blood drive at Trucksville Methodist Church July 10

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on July 10 at the Trucksville United Methodist Church and the public is urged to help out.

"I believe this is the way that we can respond to the needs of people," said Rev. Paul Shilabeer, pastor of the church. "In my travels around the area hospitals I have seen the need for blood and this is one way we are going to help."

Shilabeer said that his church tries to hold a blood drive once a

year. He also praised the work done by the Red Cross in this effort. "There are some agencies that use money to get the blood. They pay those who give blood and then sell it to those who need it. The Red Cross doesn't work that way; they are here to help those who need it and I am firmly convinced this is the way to go."

The blood bank will be open for donations from noon until 6:00 p.m. at the church.

## Alumni Association honors Viola Brace

The Nursing Alumni Association of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital recently honored its oldest member, Viola Brace, of Dallas. Mrs. Brace is a graduate of the Nesbitt School of Nursing, class of 1917.

Alumni members celebrated Mrs. Brace's 95th birthday at a dinner meeting with her daughter, Irene Davies. Mrs. Davies is also an Alumni member, class of 1942, and resides in Dallas. Pictured from left are Nesbitt Memorial Hospital Nursing Alumni Association members, Irene Davies, Viola Brace and Nancy Kline, president.



## Back Mountain briefs

### Eastern star to hold bus trip to ice show

The Building Association of the Order of Eastern Star is sponsoring a bus trip to Langtree to see the "Champagne on Ice" Show, August 5. Cost of the trip is \$42 which includes dinner at 4 p.m. and the ice show at 5:30 p.m. A 50 percent deposit is required when a reservation is made.

For additional information or for reservations, call 675-6472. Bus service if by the John Murray Bus Lines.

### Flea Market & Craft Sale set for August 11

A Flea Market and Craft Sale will be held in the Eastern Star Building behind the Acme Market, Foster Street, and Woodlawn Avenue, August 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spaces are available at \$10 each. Among the items to be sold are books, plants, crafts, jewelry, bric-a-brac, collectibles, baked goods, and various other items.

Lunch will be available including homemade pies.

For information regarding spaces and reservations call 675-1367.

### Vet center moves

The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center moved its office to 2 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming on June 28. The center has also announced that its office at the Kingston Township Municipal Building has been discontinued. Veterans needing assistance may call the main office at 1-800-432-9735.

## Property transfers

Property transfers recorded at the Luzerne County Court House from June 21, 1990 to June 25, 1990. Prices are extrapolated from transfer taxes paid. Money transfers are exempt from tax, so no amounts are shown.

Gene A. Crane to Lary Gronchick, 75 Green St., Edwardsville, property 17.35 acres, Lehman Twp., \$25,000.

Gary Masters to Richard Fiore, RR 3, Box 99, Harveys Lake, property Outlet Dr., Lake Twp., \$4,500.

Antonio Grimaldi to John J. Perfetto, 18 Knobhill Rd., Trucksville, property Kingston Twp., \$223,000.

Kelly Realty Inc. to Jack L. Burke, 3 Deer Meadow Dr., Dallas, property Deer Meadow Dr., Dallas, \$303,892.

Victoria R. Dorrance to Leonard A. Dorrance, Country Club Apts. #302, Dallas, property Upper Demunds Rd., Dallas Twp.

Est. Elizabeth J. Toole to Michael B. Edwards, 121 E. Bennett St., Kingston, property Ll, 2, Mount Airy Dr., Mount Airy Terrace, Kingston Twp., \$20,000.

Francis Willard Cornell Jr. to Francis Willard Cornell Jr., property Rte. 118, 5.78 acres, Lehman Twp.

Wm. Joseph Kreisler to Wm. Harry Smith, RR 1, Box 485, Applewood Manor, Dallas, property Ferguson Ave., Dallas Twp., \$24,000.

Anderson Building Co. to Craig A. Tupper, agent, 22 Downing Rd., Orchard View, Dallas, property Westminister Dr., Dallas Twp., \$24,000.

J.A. Moreck Const., Inc., to Master Builders Unlimited Inc., 260 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming, property Manor Dr., Kingston Twp., \$16,500.

Terry Jones to Thomas Quinn, 47 E. Saylor St., Plains, property Rte. 415, 2 parcels, Harveys Lake, \$35,000.

Virginia Roan to Virginia Roan, Pole 170, Harveys Lake, property Public Highway (Lake front), Harveys Lake.

Estate Mary Ann Clemson, Joseph E. Clemson, Jr., Extr., to Green Briar Homeowner's Assoc., Inc. 9 Woodside Dr., Dallas, property Dallas Twp., \$1,000.

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