



YOUNG ENTERTAINERS - The Peacemakers Chorus directed by Dallas Elementary music teacher Ms. Marilyn O'Connell entertain with Christmas Carols in front of Dallas Borough Building after trimming the newly-planted tree in front of the building. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

'Peacemakers' bring joy to many hearts

The Peacemakers from the Dallas Elementary School have been kept busy during the Christmas season singing throughout the community.

They are pictured above trimming the tree in front of the Dallas Borough Building with yellow ribbons and red, white and blue ribbons. They sang some Christmas songs while quickly filling up the tree with the very significant bows. They were treated with some hot chocolate and rice krispy squares. The Peacemakers are a select

group chosen out of their music classes from grades 2 through 5. They rehearse before school begins and have sung this year at the Meadows Nursing Home, Meadows Apartments, Hi-Meadows. They also sang for Bon-Ton's Open House, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wyoming, the PM Church in Plymouth and for the M.S. Society. They have sung for the retired nuns at Mercy Center and at Wesley Village. They also entertained for the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital School of Nurs-

ing Alumni and finally for their parents and friends at the Dallas Elementary School.

Their choral director is Mrs. Marilyn O'Connell. They have been privileged to have a student teacher from Wilkes University, Ms. Carol Farmer, with them who has been a wonderful and able assistant.

Through their program of song and dance, they hope to, as they say at the end of each program, put a smile on your face and a song in your heart."

Christmas is for the children first

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Christmas is the children's season. The giving of gifts to children at Christmas time was begun by the Wise Men of the East who came bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Bethlehem where the Christ child lay in a manger.

It is easy to think of Christmas as a holiday time, a time to shop in crowded stores, wrapping Christmas packages for adults and children, addressing cards, and grown-ups and children both anticipating the gifts they will find under the Christmas tree.

It is easy to forget what Christmas commemorates. The spirit of Christmas should be the spirit of

Back Mountain glimpses

By Charot M. Denmon

world-wide love, of peace, goodwill to all mankind. It should mark the anniversary of a new year, putting aside vengeance and hatred, to have mercy for others.

We too often forget the message which the Heavenly host brought to earth 2,000 years ago a message of love and joy. It is a pleasure to exchange gifts among friends and loved ones, gifts that show our thought and consideration for the moments shared with another.

The greatest joy of Christmas, however, should come from the children, and great joy for the

gifts we give to them. The children's love and enthusiasm brings joy to the giver. Whether we are happy or sad, as grownups we owe it to the commemoration of Christmas, to the peace, love and joy the children bring, and we should see that every child enjoys the true spirit of Christmas.

Christmas is for children, who are pure in heart and mind, and looking forward to the spirit of Christmas with its carols, lights, trees, and gifts no matter how small.

Christmas

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pyseed rolls, and many other sweets. The family opens their gifts Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day have a regular dinner of their choice.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shaw (Joyce) and Anne Pickering came to the United States from England where they celebrated Christmas differently than do Americans.

"In England on Christmas Eve we would go out for dinner and celebrate the evening," explained Anne. "On Christmas Day we celebrated with our family, then Dec. 26 was known as 'Boxing Day'. We would go out into the woods and burn boxes years and years ago

but now they have the fox chase with their horses and hounds. We also have big soccer games on Boxing Day," Anne said.

That evening for their supper they would have "Bubble and Squeak," the leftovers from Christmas Day. The would put all the leftovers with the exception of the meat in a fry and fry it up but eat the meat cold. They would also have pickle onions.

The Shaws and Anne explained that Christmas Day is a family day when the entree would be chicken, and always plum pudding. In the plum pudding is hidden a ha crown or silver pieces.

The family would eat dinner about 2 p.m. and about 6 p.m., they would have tea and a sandwich and always English Trifle which is a sponge cake soaked in sherry, then covered with juice or fruit, custard, cream and nuts or whatever else one desires.

"We go to church on Christmas Day," said Joyce Shaw. "Although there is a service Christmas Eve if one prefers going then. We will observe many of our traditions but we don't go out Christmas Eve because we discovered most families in America stay home on Christmas Eve and most every business is closed."

Family

(continued from page 1)

asked the Lehman Township zoning hearing board for a variance on the lot to build a home. A variance was needed because the lot was undersized according to township ordinances.

When a hearing on the variance was held, the Starks objected to the proposal because they felt that the water would not be able to be rerouted properly. Many hours of discussion took place at the meeting and eventually the variance was approved but with two stipulations: 1)...That if the builder causes contamination of the well, he accepts responsibility with the burden of proof upon the homeowners' association, and 2)...That damage caused by spillover of storm water or drainage on neighboring properties that he accepts responsibility of this with the burden of proof upon the homeowners' association."

The work on the property was completed and it was sold to the Poepperlings. The couple found out about the situation during a hard rainstorm in October. "I got a call at my mother's and was told that our driveway was washed out," said Ann Poepperling. "Then all of a sudden things started happening and people came out of the woodworks to tell us about the agreement."

The couple said they contacted Zimmerman about the problem and were told that he did what the township wanted so it was not his problem.

Zimmerman feels that it is up to the township to come up with a solution. "Everyone feels it is a township problem," he said on Tuesday. "I've tried to work with them but we get nowhere."

According to the agreement, Zimmerman was told to build a swale for the water to runoff. A ditch has been dug, however, it is on township property.

The township has tried to take action on filling the ditch but that is as far as it will go on the situation. Township supervisors have sent a letter to Zimmerman requesting that the ditch be removed. At a meeting earlier this month, solicitor Joseph Van Jura said that so far no work has been done on the property and that another letter will be sent to Zimmerman.

Zimmerman said that he already filled in the ditch but the force of the rainwater washed it out again. "I thought the problem was solved, and under normal circumstances it would be," he said. "The ditch was filled with 2-B stone and the supervisors stood right there and watched me do it, so I don't know why they say I haven't done it right."

Both the Poepperlings and the Starks were at the meeting and asked that the supervisors do something about the runoff situation, but the board refused citing the stipulations put on by the zoning hearing board when the variance was approved.

"It says here that the burden of proof is on the homeowners' association," said Solicitor David Sutton. "We can't get involved because the agreement says that the builder assumes responsibility and the homeowners' association has the burden of proof."

The Starks feel that the board must get involved in the situation because the ditch is on township property and they say that the water runoff begins farther up the road on township land.

"The water doesn't come from the Poepperlings or that pipe, it comes from the township," said Phillip Stark.

The supervisors argue that the runoff problem is between the builder and the homeowners' association. "We would like to help but it is right here in black and white," said Sutton referring to the agreement. "Our hands are tied."

But there is no homeowners association at Town and Country Manor. The only association is a water association in which the residents are members.

Both the Poepperlings and the Starks have gone to attorneys about the situation and both were told to try to settle the matter out of court.

"We don't have a lot of money like some people who can afford to have attorneys do a lot of work," said Stark. "We want the township and the builder to get together and work something out."

Mrs. Stark said that it was the township and the builder who came up with the agreement so both parties should work towards a settlement. "We weren't really sat-

isfied with the decision but what choice did we have," she said. "At least we had those conditions."

All the controversy surrounding the property has the young couple upset about the whole situation. "We have a four-month old baby and a new house and we haven't had a chance to enjoy either one because of all this," said Dwayne Poepperling. "We thought we were doing the right thing by going to the township and through all the right channels, but nothing is being done."

The longer it takes to correct the problem, the worse it is getting, however. With recent rain and snowfall, the runoff is continuing daily and parts of the two properties are being eroded away.

One concern for both couples is that the erosion is near septic tanks and contamination could occur. "We were worried about this when the discussion on this began. Now our worries seem to be coming true," said Nancy Stark.

The Starks, who have lived in their house for more than 20 years, also say that stones and other debris that were put in the ditch to help the flow of the water are now in their yard.

"We didn't have the damage in the '72 flood that we have now," said Phillip Stark.

Besides their septic tank the Poepperlings also have to worry about their driveway. The water, as it flows, has washed out the driveway and the couple has to work constantly to keep it together.

"It is all just frustrating. I don't know who to believe anymore," said Dwayne Poepperling. "I don't know what to think anymore. It seems like our money is good but their work isn't."

Zimmerman says that the whole situation is hard for everyone, especially the homeowners. "I feel sorry for the Poepperlings and the Starks because they both got the brunt of the culvert pipe right in their yards," he said.

"I am doing everything in my power to get things corrected but it looks like nothing is going to be settled until it hits court," he added.

Both couples say they are in contact with the water association and are going to keep searching for the best solution to the problem.

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