

The Bloomingdale United Meth-

odist Church is one of the oldest churches in Luzerne County. According to the County's records, the church building itself was erected in 1846 as the Bloomingdale Methodist Episcopal Church. (However, according to the account of L.T. Seward, Esq., the date was 1848.)

But the history of the church goes back further than either of these dates. The church got its start in 1796 when an itinerant preacher began meeting with seven people in a log schoolhouse (the old Wolfe School House) near where the church now stands.

Throughout its history the church has been part of different Methodist circuits. When it was still a "class meeting" it was taken into the Wyoming Circuit by Rev. Ephraim Chambers in 1800. After that it was part of the Harveyville

Hill, The Rock (at Oakdale) and Muhlenburg. Today the Bloom-ingdale Church and the Hunlock Creek Church are together.

The Bloomingdale United Methodist Church has been known for both its ice cream socials and its graveyard. (Hopefully the one has not led to the other!) Everyone who is familiar with the area knows of the long white building where the ice cream socials are held. This building, next to the church, is just as important to the life of the people as the church building. And those who are not afraid to give a hint about their age will tell you that at one time the whole building sat upon large pillars so that those who came to the socials in their horse and buggy could park underneath and escape any inclement weather.

Yet the Bloomingdale Church Charge. In 1869 it became the might also be known for its down cently fallen upon the Bloom-Bloomingdale Charge with other to earth, helpful people. This help-ingdale Church. We have all heard

from nation of Germany. In the summer of 1989 Nadja Hanke and her fiance Josef Kunze were visiting the family of Richard and Lois Cragle. Nadja had been an exchange student living with the Cragles some year's earlier. While here, they decided to get married at the Bloomingdale Church. Nadja wrote about how the church helped people in trouble such as when someone's house burned down. She continued,

"I loved the ice cream socials because these people really worked for holding the community together. And then our wedding was something special because everybody tried to make it a beautiful day for us and they didn't even know Josef. Things like these are what I understand as acting like Christians."

However, hard times have re-

people say, "It's been so long since I've gone to church, that if I did go, the roof would fall in. Well, one of those persons must have been to our church, because the roof started falling in.

For about three months worship services were held at the social hall. The roof has finally been fixed and we are back in the church. But there are other repair works needed on this 145 year old building, the total of all being over \$10,000.

This is a lot of money for a very small rural church. We have already received help from not only our church members but friends in the community for which we are grateful. If anyone else would like to help us, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Donations, made payable to The Bloomingdale United Methodist Church, may be sent to Judy Williams, R.R. 1, Box 263, Hunlock Creek, Pa. 18621.

> Rev. Wm. Lukesh Hunlock Creek, Pa.

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Jrges United States to shake off chains of oil 'market'

energy policy in the March 13 is-

and that at least 100,000 human of pride" is the result of a shallow pride of true economic and politi-Mr. Bartizek's call for a "real" beings died in horrible ways. Because of the "Gulf War", a until Mr. Bush and Congress frees cal freedom.

sue is an extremely well considered plea for reason in a nation that seems to have misplaced its sensibilities.

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In lieu of simple conservation and continued research for alternative energy, the United States continues its pursuit of cheap oil through reliance and total dependence on the unreliable and highly volatile "Market."

It was in our attempt to regulate the marketplace, i.e. the Mideast, that a half million young Americans were placed in harm's way

of dollars has been forced upon not only Americans, but nearly the entire world. How much simpler it would have been to have spent those billions of desperately needed dollars on research and funding of already available clean energy technology; solar, geo-thermal, wind, hydro, etc.

As Mr. Bartizek wrote: "The rush of pride at having defeated a weak opponent will soon pass; the results of an ambitious energy policy would compound endlessly.

I would only add that the "rush

heavy financial burden of billions us of our enslavement to oil and violence, we will never feel the real

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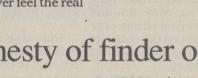
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