

Anne Holmes will pedal for Habitat

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Anne Holmes of Shavertown plans to spend 47 days behind bars (that's handlebars) to benefit "Habitat for Humanity."

From May 9 through June 25, she will see the United States from the seat of her 21-speed bike as a participant in "Pedal for Power," a 3,200 mile bicycle ride from Los Angeles to Boston that will raise funds for "Habitat."

"This ride is the fulfillment of a dream for me," she explained. "I have always wanted to bike across the country, but couldn't motivate myself unless my efforts would also make a difference to others." She feels that riding with "Pedal for Power" will help her achieve both goals.

The ten-year bicycling veteran became involved with "Habitat for Humanity" seven years ago when her brother gave a donation in her honor to the organization. She is presently a site volunteer for Wyoming Valley's chapter, which recently built a home in Lake Township and is now constructing a second in Plymouth.

"As I learned more about Habitat, I realized that the lack of affordable housing in America is a growing crisis," Anne said. "I began to feel very frustrated by our nation's inability to provide this basic need to all its citizens."

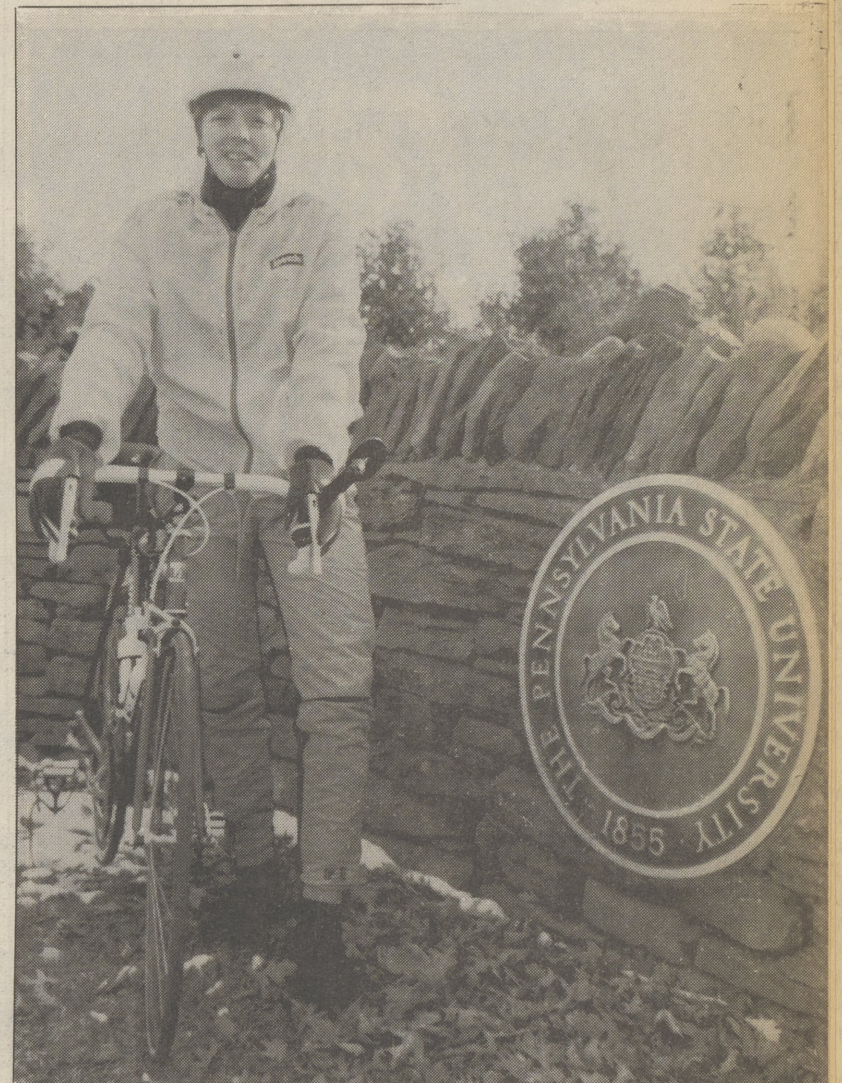
Anne must raise \$5,000 in pledges and funding so that her long, difficult hours of training and pedaling will not be in vain. So far the response has been slow.

Although she will pay for her airfare and part of the food and fundraising expenses herself, other general trip expenses will be covered by \$1,000 of her pledges. The balance of the funds will be evenly split between Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity and the trip sponsors, the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Foundation of the League of American Wheelmen.

Since each area home built by Habitat costs about \$20,000, Anne's effort to raise funding through her favorite sport is greatly appreciated, according to Rev. Ken Carter, spokesman for Wyoming Valley's chapter of Habitat.

Rev. Carter said that the homes are built with 100% donated labor; all materials are either donated or obtained at cost. Under the Habitat program, the family who will live in the home must invest 500 hours of labor ("sweat equity") as a down payment.

When the home is completed,



BIKING FOR HUMANITY - Anne Holmes of Shavertown is preparing to bicycle 3,200 miles across the United States to raise funds for Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

the family purchases the home at cost from Habitat and volunteers labor on the next home under construction. Their monthly payments to Habitat are used to purchase materials for upcoming construction projects.

How you can help

Anne Holmes needs both corporate and individual sponsors for her ride to benefit Habitat for Humanity. To donate or to pledge an amount per mile, contact her at 675-7285.

To donate labor to Habitat for Humanity, contact Rev. Ken Carter at Central United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre, at 822-7246.

"Volunteers from the community and various trade unions, including Pipefitters/Painters Local 524, IBEW (electrical work-

ers) Local 163, Sheet Metal Workers Local 44 and the Painters and Allied Trades Local 41 have been a great help. It's exciting to see the home grow as our people work together every Saturday," Rev. Carter said.

Anne Holmes now must juggle a busy schedule, including her regular job as a health and physical education teacher at Penn State's Lehman campus, volunteering with Habitat and training for the grueling 47-day bicycle ride. Training includes aerobic workouts, weight training and exercise on a stationary bicycle.

When the weather breaks she will also bicycle between 20 and 40 miles each day during the week and 50 to 100 miles on weekends.

"When I'm out on the ride with the other cyclists and start to get tired, knowing that my community is supporting me and that Habitat is counting on me will keep me going."



Replacement

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a skeleton staff.

"By keeping school open, we were able to meet the state's requirements for legal school days," Hills explained. "Striking teachers can only receive back pay for days when school is closed. Legal days don't count. This gave us some leverage in the bargaining process."

Hills also said that closing school due to a strike could be interpreted as a lockout, which would have enhanced the teachers' position.

Finding enough replacement teachers on short notice was a challenge, Hills said. Replacement teachers traveled up to 40 miles to work. "The teachers' association had evidently called all of the substitutes who lived closer and told them not to report for work," he said.

The first day of the strike, middle school and high school students were sent home, while five or six replacement teachers kept the elementary schools open for a full day.

"The older students could pretty much take care of themselves at home alone, but we were concerned for the safety of the younger ones," Hills said.

As schools were staffed by re-

placement teachers, they reopened. But some high school classes could not be run because teachers were not available for them.

Upper Dauphin Education Association president Barbara Lenker said that the strike affected 108 teachers. "We were negotiating the entire time," she said. "We worked without a contract in good faith until we felt that negotiations were going nowhere."

There had been only five negotiation sessions between January and September, 1991, Mrs. Lenker added. The teachers' association announced daily that the negotiating team was available for meetings 24 hours a day.

Five days after all Upper Dauphin schools reopened with replacement teachers, a basic contract was hammered out and teachers returned to work. "But the entire school year has been disrupted," Mrs. Lenker said. "The four different levels are operating under four different school calendars. And the contract has not been signed, as of February 10; we're still working out contract language."

She added that once a basic contract has been accepted by both sides, further strikes are prohib-

ited under Pennsylvania law.

Upper Dauphin's teachers had originally asked for a one-year contract with a \$5,200 raise. They agreed to a three-year contract with a \$2,900 raise the first year, \$3,000 the second year and \$2,800 the third year, Dr. Hills said.

"Upper Dauphin's teachers are among the lowest paid in the state," Hills said. "Our average salary is \$32,000."

Franklin said that Tri-Valley's teachers agreed to return to work as a sign of good faith. Negotiations went into fact-finding; both sides accepted the fact-finder's report. A new contract was accepted a week after the report was released.

Teachers in Tri-Valley received a \$2,400 raise the first year, \$2,900 the second and \$2,800 the third.

Franklin began working as superintendent at Tri-Valley in July, right in the middle of negotiations.

The president of Tri-Valley Education Association was unavailable for comment.

During a strike, each side tends to blame the other for causing it. But strikes are not all one-sided, Mrs. Lenker said. "We will accept part of the blame, but not all of it."

Library news

Library circulates 87,218 books in 1991

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library held its annual meeting for the year of 1991 in the reference room. The statistic for the year included a total book inventory of 57,775, with 1,196 books added in 1991 and 1,218 withdrawn. Total circulation for the year was 87,218; 49,204 adult and 38,014 juvenile titles. There were 4,604 reference questions answered and interlibrary loan transactions totaled 381. Book Club books circulated 3,341, new borrowers joining the library were 1,431 and re-registrations totaled 3,156. Total active borrowers at year end were 12,286. Volunteers donated 2,946 hours of their time to the library.

The library has an on-going program of offering wheel chairs, crutches, walkers, canes, and other necessary equipment for the invalid; for public use. These items may be borrowed from the library. The equipment is maintained by the Dallas Rotary Club.

New books at the library: "Kiss

by Ed McBain is a novel of the 87th Precinct. The protagonist of this new story is the whole squad room of the 87th Precinct, the suspense is gripping, the complex, interwoven tale of cops, suspects, and victims provides "the kind of all-around entertainment that movies used to provide, but seldom do anymore." The action in Kiss begins with the problem of Martin Bowles, a successful businessman whose wife, Emma, suddenly discovers that her life is in danger—and is relieved when her husband hires Denker, an out-of-town bodyguard, to protect her. The story is razor-sharp suspense and excitement.

"Outrageous!" by Charles Barkley and Roy S. Johnson is the story of the fine life and flagrant good times of basketball's irresistible force. It is Barkley's own look at the experiences and exploits that have kept him at the center of so much controversy. In his characteristic no-holds barred fashion, Barkley gives his own views on

finer; rebounding; life on the road and on being a role model. He is, after all, the gregarious forward for the Philadelphia 76ers; and at the age of 28, has reached a level of athletic excellence that no one believed he was capable of achieving; and no one in sports has more fun than "Sir Charles".

A new Book Club book is "Elephant Song" by Wilbur Smith; a novel that combines breathtaking realism with thrilling suspense, it is a journey deep into the heart of a wild, magnificent continent populated by species that are threatened with extinction by the destructive hand of man. Anthropologist Kelly Kinnear is forced into a violent confrontation with the shareholders of the most powerful conglomerate in the city of London, warning them of the destruction of an African country and of a people, The Bambuti, she has come to love. It is a story of a tough determined man and a dedicated woman who fight against greed, evil and corruption.

HL committee holds summer slogan contest

A special committee formed under the auspices of the Harveys Lake Protective Association has been meeting to develop an agenda of summer long activities for the lake.

The committee envisions a summer long series of events perhaps culminating with a Mardi-Gras type event and/or the Labor Day fireworks display which has been sponsored by the Protective Association in recent years.

While no specific events have been adopted at this early date, the committee has had suggestions such as: a water skiing exhibition, antique or classic car show,

the sponsorship of benefit dance(s), kite flying on the lake, boat regatta, magic shows, puppet shows, face painting, hot air balloon rides, and parasailing along with the sponsorship of other existing events by affiliation with other groups in order to derive mutual benefit through combined publicity efforts.

The committee has spent a considerable amount of time debating the possible names for its program and it has been decided that public involvement in the name development process would be the best approach; therefore this news release has been pre-

pared with the hope that the local news media will assist in making the following described contest a great success:

Possible names should be sent to: Association Contest, c/o Sunset Marine, RR-1, Box 501, Harveys Lake, Pa. 18618-9788.

Grand prize is a dinner for two with a choice of the menu at Damien's Lakeside Restaurant.

Some ideas for names discussed include, "Endless Summer at Harveys Lake"; "H.L. all Summer Long"; "H.L. The Place to Be"; "Hot Summer at H.L."

The contest ends February 29.

Luzerne County Fair buildings are available for rent

The Luzerne County Fair has buildings available for rent.

The Red Ambrose Building can be rented for \$400 a day. The smaller arts and crafts and horticulture buildings can be rented for

exhibition area can be rented for \$200 a day.

Non-member clubs can also rent the horse show area complete with lighting for \$350 a day, or \$150 for during the day without lights.

grounds include a sportsman's show May 16, 17, and 18, and a radio hamfest show July 5.

The next meeting of the Fair Board will be February 19, at 8 p.m. at Damien's Restaurant,

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