

## Dinner

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Rosaire Giunta, reservations must be made ahead of time. Transportation for those who need it is provided by volunteers from the Luzerne County Transportation Unit, under the supervision of Bill Davis.

"Everyone sits down together and has dinner, just like a family," Ms. Giunta said.

Family members scattered all across the country are planning on coming in to help serve.

Mrs. Lemmond said that her son Charles will come in from Texas, joined by Judy Lemmond. Senator Lemmond's brother, George, flies in from Georgia when he is able to. John and David Lemmond, who are in the service, cannot attend this year.

Mrs. Murphy said that her children Katelin, Emily, Greg, daughter and son-in-law Mary and Jon Wilska, and sister Charlene Mastromatto, with her husband Bob and their daughters Heather and Sarah, will join them to help serve the dinner. Her daughter Jennifer will not be able to make it in from Boulder, CO.

"Our children have grown up with this. It's our family tradition," Mrs. Murphy said.



**CARVING FOR 125** - John Murphy gets plenty of practice preparing turkey for up to 125 guests each Thanksgiving.

## Lake

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"An audit is being conducted and the situation is currently out of my hands," Olszewski said last week.

"If there is a third audit, the state could look into the borough general fund," according to Harveys Lake Council President Richard Boice.

Although the state has audited the two accounts, Mann said that

the borough regularly looks over their municipal accounts. "The borough is required to report the results of these regular audits to the state," Mann said.

Because the audit is part of an ongoing investigation, the State Auditor General's office is unable to comment on the status of the investigation.

"Our office is simply providing technical assistance to the Luzerne County District Attorney's office on this matter," Auditor General Press Secretary Steve Schell said.

Schell would not say if an audit was being conducted on the Harveys Lake Police Department or on specific individuals within the department. He did say that

the investigation into the matter is ongoing and normally the office does not talk about an investigation.

"The only reason we are commenting on this case is because the District Attorney's office said publicly that there will be an investigation in this case," Schell said.

## Rukstalis

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*Steps Before the Queen* is based on the folk game "Mother, may I," in which players ask the leader (mother), "May I take three (or whatever number) steps forward?" The leader will either say "No" or "Yes" and describe the type of steps and the direction to be taken. This game is played all over the world, Rukstalis said.

In *How Many Steps*, Prince Jacob must walk down a long hall whenever he wishes to see his mother, the queen. Before beginning the walk, he must ask her how many steps he may take. It's a long trip.

Since it's unseemly for a queen to shout, the queen whispers the type of steps that Jacob will take to her wizard, who magically flies "Poof!" down the hall to turn Jacob into the creature that the queen has requested.

The wizard turns Jacob into a frog, giraffe, ballerina and duck,

among other creatures. But when he takes a step without first asking the queen's permission, he gets a surprise.

Rukstalis recently read her book and explained how she illustrated it to the second grade classes of Mrs. Janet Lyons and Mrs. Mary Grace Walkowiak at Gate of Heaven School.

Carefully blending colors, she showed the children how to draw the jewels in the queen's crown and make them sparkle.

"How do you draw a ring?" Stacie Amico asked.

Katie Pondo wanted to know how many copies of the book had been made.

John Treven liked the drawings of the queen's castle. "It looked kind of like Beauty and the Beast," he said.

Charles Latona and Maria Bassano liked the part where Prince

Jacob turned into a giraffe.

A graduate of Kutztown University with a commercial art degree, Rukstalis wrote the book at the request of her mother, Mrs. Teresa Rutkowski, who teaches reading in sixth through eighth grades at Gate of Heaven.

"Mom's classes were working on a big book, which they all would work together to write and illustrate, and she needed an example to show them," Rukstalis said.

Rukstalis got her start in art as Sue Hand's first private student, when Hand taught fifth grade at Gate of Heaven.

"Susan was an excellent student, with a great sense of form," Hand recalled. "She noticed details that other kids her age didn't and drew things as they really appeared, which is remarkable for a fourth-grader."

Always willing to try new and challenging projects, Rukstalis spent many hours at Hand's kitchen table perfecting the techniques that she later would use in illustrating *How Many Steps Before the Queen*.

Hand fondly recalled Rukstalis as a junior high school student, running into her art lessons carrying stories that she had written about queens and dragons.

"I would read them and we would talk about how they should be illustrated," Hand said.

When Rukstalis asked Hand to write the foreword to her book, Hand said that she was extremely honored. "You dream a lot of dreams for your students. I'm thrilled to see one come true."

Rukstalis has donated a copy of her book to the school library at Gate of Heaven and will be signing copies sold at Waldenbooks at Wyoming Valley Mall Saturday,

## Miniature

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Mrs. Hughes said. "We're always on the lookout for materials or things that we can use. Other people's trash can be our treasures."

She said that miniature items like lamps, books or chairs, which she can make for less than \$1, can cost more than \$10 at dollhouse shows.

Fred Hughes always carries a tape measure, so that he can accurately sketch whatever catches his eye: shingles, furniture, gingerbread house trim, shutters or candlesticks.

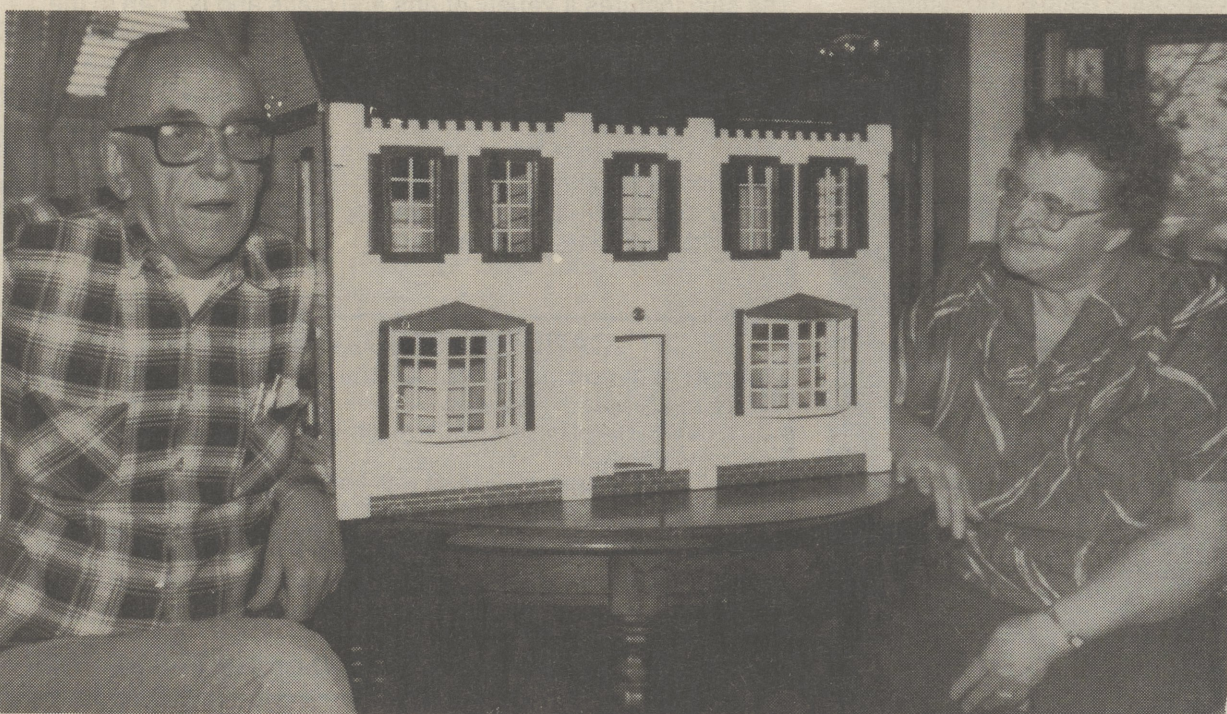
"I get really excited about miniature homes. It's quite a challenge to make things perfectly to scale," he said.

Mrs. Hughes added that all she needs is a little imagination to transform Q-tip sticks into candles, beads into lamps or dishes of fabric and wallpaper scraps into attractive carpets and wall coverings.

Their Victorian mansion, which will be on display at the show, is completely furnished with period pieces, a working grandfather clock and a cat with her own bag of Puss 'n Boots in the kitchen. Delicate wrought-iron tops the tower, while gingerbread trim adorns the front porch eaves.

The mansion is decorated for a formal Christmas party, with a full-size lighted tree, wreaths and cakes that look good enough to eat, although they're less than an inch tall.

The hobby has become a family affair, with two daughters, Jeane Booher of Ohio and Cynthia Miller of Dallas Township, involved. Jeane recently contributed a croquet set and set of dishes for the Victorian home, while Cynthia is one of "Dream Homes in Miniature's" 13 members. Cynthia's five-year-old daughter, Becky, already has her first dollhouse, made by her



**MINIATURE DREAM HOME** - Fred and Lois Hughes of Dallas Township display the Georgian colonial dollhouse that they built, which will be chanced off at the Christmas dollhouse show November 28-29 at Penn State in Lehman. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

grandfather.

As in the past, "Dream Homes in Miniature" is sponsoring the doll house show to benefit a charitable organization, this year the Luzerne County Special Olympics.

"We chose the Special Olympics because they are a great service to the community," Lois Hughes said. "Our grandson, Stephen Miller, has won several medals and ribbons as a runner in the competition." "He's my angel," Fred added.

Stephen Miller has been selected to present the Luzerne County Special Olympics with the check from "Dream Homes in Miniature's" dollhouse show proceeds.

The Christmas dollhouse show is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the ballroom of Hagedorn House at the Penn State campus in Lehman. Adult admission is \$2.00; children's admission is 50¢.

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