

Louise Brown

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The Browns' concerns about possible prejudice when they first moved to Lehman were soon dispelled, she recalled.

Out for a ride with a lady friend, her car became stuck in a ditch.

While Al Lamoreux and a friend pulled their car out, Mrs. Marion Major invited them into her home for a cup of tea.

"I knew immediately that I would be comfortable here," she said. "My neighbors have been very good to me."

A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduate of Battle Creek College and Cornell University, Mrs. Brown managed the cafeteria at the old Lehman High School and later the cafeteria at the former Natona Mills, now Native Textiles, in Dallas Township.

Her late husband, Leroy, was the butler for the F.M. Kirby family, managing their home at 202 South River Street, which later became Wilkes University's Kirby Hall.

"He started there when he was 18," Mrs. Brown recalled. "His uniform was a tuxedo. He had to learn everything on the job - there wasn't any formal butlers' school. Lee had tremendous respect for Mr. Kirby. If he knew that the old Kirby store in Wilkes-Barre had closed, he would have had a fit about it!"

Mrs. Brown's talent for handwork helped many Wyoming Valley residents cleaning up after the 1972 Hurricane Agnes flood.

Helen Lamb, owner of a lamp shop in Dallas, sent customers who needed their flood-damaged silk lampshades recovered to Mrs. Brown.

"There was always more work than I could do," she said. "I never advertised - people passed my name along to their friends."

Her most challenging lampshade restoration was a Victorian lamp from Greystone, the F.M. Kirby home at Glen Summit now owned by the Episcopal church.

"The original shade of rose, characteristic of the era, wasn't made any more," she said. "I really had to look around to duplicate it."

After learning old-fashioned rug hooking from neighbor Nell Williams and chair caning from close friend Judy Dawe, Mrs. Brown set up "The Coop," where she and Mrs. Dawe taught crafts in the remodeled second floor of an old chicken coop behind her home.

"We had our own little crafts commune there," she joked.

She also taught crafts classes at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA and at Newberry Estate.

Old-fashioned hooked rugs were made from long, narrow woolen strips woven through burlap with an instrument similar to a crochet hook, using differ-

ent shades of wool to create special effects in the design.

"We used to have to cut our wool by hand," she said. "We always said that when your wool is cut, your rug is half done."

Her current project has a lovely floral pattern, while another rug with a patriotic motif, made for the 1976 United States Bicentennial, won a first prize at the Bloomsburg Fair.

Mrs. Brown's talents also include restoration of old chair seats, weaving canes, rush and splints to create complex patterns.

Her creative hand has reached out to Prince of Peace Church, where she and Leroy renewed their vows for their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Brown has donated craft items to the fair there. The church's pastor, Rev. Prater, has one of her needlepoint pictures on his office wall.

Another example of Mrs. Brown's art is a block of an ethnic quilt, now hanging in the Oosterhout Library in Wilkes-Barre, made by the Embroidery Guild.

"I was asked to do the African-American block," she said. "I stitched a beautiful African mask to symbolize our heritage."

For many years Mrs. Brown loved flower gardening and was a member of the West Side Garden Club.

"When they had shows in Scranton, I judged the floral arrangements and Leroy judged the roses. He loved roses," she said.

Mrs. Brown's sisters, Edna DeLyons and Winifred Jones, also talented handwork artists, lived with her in Lehman until they passed away. She treasures a needlepoint picture and a crocheted and embroidered afghan, two of their many projects.

"They didn't need a doctor or medicine," she said. "Their work was their doctor."

Mrs. Brown's daughter, Victoria, lives in Wilkes-Barre, while her two grandchildren, Pauli (Patricia Pauline) and Ryan Price, live in New York and New Jersey respectively.

Pauli learned rug hooking from her grandmother. She also does quilting and pillow lace and learned knitting while studying in Germany.

"Isn't this cozy?" she said, showing off a beautifully knitted blue mohair shawl which Pauli made.

Mrs. Brown's many friends from the area plan to gather March 8 at Prince of Peace Church to help her celebrate her 90th birthday.

Reflecting on nearly 60 years of living in Lehman Township, she said, "It's a friendly community. My neighbors have been very good to me."



NEW OFFICERS - Dallas Fire and Ambulance's newly installed officers are, front row, Thomas Doughton, Jr., Asst. Fire Chief; Barbara Zeglin, Ambulance Chief; Jennifer Gay, Asst. Ambulance Chief; Brett Slocum, Fire Chief; second row, Francis Barry, Jr., Director; Lynn Sheehan, Sr., Secretary; Robert Richardson, President and Bob Besecker, Director. Absent from photo: Tim Carroll, Vice President and Paul Labar, Treasurer.

New officers installed by Dallas Fire & Ambulance

Dallas Fire & Ambulance installed its newly elected officers for 1994 at a dinner, February 19.

Brett Slocum is the new Fire Chief, replacing former Chief Bob Besecker. Slocum is a 17 year veteran of the department and previously served as Assistant Fire Chief.

Thomas Doughton, Jr., will now serve as the Assistant Fire Chief.

Barbara Zeglin is the Ambulance Chief, replacing former Ambulance Chief Lynn Sheehan, Jr. Jennifer Gay is the Ambulance Assistant Chief.

Other elected officers for the year are Robert Richardson, President; Tim Carroll, Vice President; Lynn Sheehan, Sr., Secretary; Paul Labar, Treasurer; Bob Besecker and Francis Barry, Jr., Directors.

Prison water

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of our intent to withdraw water." The Susquehanna River Basin Commission disagrees.

"We have the power to say yea or nay," said SRBC press officer Rich Kairo. "Under the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, which Pennsylvania signed, they must obtain our approval before pumping more water. We can fine violators or take them to court. If we feel that there are possible problems with surrounding wells, we can limit their pumping."

Kairo said that if future problems between SCID's wells and neighbors' water supplies were to arise, the Commission could impose further limits on SCID.

A decision on the Department of Corrections' application has been postponed for further study until May, Kairo said.

"I wouldn't expect the commonwealth to defy one of our orders," he said. "Probably the press aide had the wrong impression."

According to the six-month study done in 1993 by Dr. Timothy Bechtel of Enviroscan, Inc., continuing to use all three of the prison's wells could lower water levels in three neighboring private wells.

During a drought, water levels in seven to 10 nearby homeowners' wells could be affected, Bechtel had said.

Despite several requests, SCID has never released the names of these homeowners to area legislators, the Jackson Township supervisors or the SCID Citizens Advisory Committee.

Prison officials also disagree with the water study's suggestion that the prison use one well and the pipeline, which they say was installed for emergency use only.

"When we originally obtained the funding for the water line, we understood that it was to be used daily, not just as a backup system," Jarolin said. "This money was hard come by."

"This is absolutely ludicrous!"

Hasay said. "They're tap dancing on this issue. I am very angry - it seems that the Department of Corrections is spending more money fighting the use of the water line than it's worth. If the prison population is supposed to be decreasing, why do they need another 50,000 gallons of water a day?"

Hasay said that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission will review all public testimony and letters from state and township officials before it decides whether or not to allow the prison to pump more water from its wells.

The legislators plan a special meeting with the Department of Corrections to discuss the application.

Area students are on PSU dean's list

The following area students qualified for the dean's list at Penn State for the fall semester, earning an average of 3.50 or better:

Dallas: Beth A. Bednarek, Cindi J. Delinsky, John V. Gregg, Paul C. Hoppa, Joseph J. Hudak, Megan L. Kozemchak, Lynnell A. Krasner, Thomas P. Myers, Melinda C. Narkiewicz, Jeana S. Oh, Jeffrey A. Polachek, Ann P. Scheff, Myron Suchodolski.

Harveys Lake: Stephen E. Clark, Marie Colleen R. Hosey, Daryl M. Olsen, Jeri N. Searfoss.

Hunlock Creek: Carrie A. Miner, Jennifer S. Pugh.

Shavertown: Michael H. Caldwell, Lisa D. Davenport, Sara M. Karlowicz, Christopher J. Lincoski, John T. Lincoski, Philip Navola, David M. Potichko, Michael A. Rakos, Benjamin Wallace.

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195/75R14 \$47⁹⁵

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205/75R15 \$50⁹⁵

215/75R15 \$51⁹⁵

225/75R15 \$53⁹⁵

Kelly Tires SAFARI AWR

\$59⁹⁵

205/75R14 LT SL \$67⁹⁵

205/75R15 LT SL \$69⁹⁵

215/75R15 LT SL \$73⁹⁵

235/75R15 LT SL \$80⁹⁵

350R15 LFC \$108⁹⁵

1050R15 LAC \$119⁹⁵

225/75R16 LT LRD \$108⁹⁵

245/75R16 LT LRD \$132⁹⁵

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