### Miracle-

(continued from page 1)

"The first red-letter day for us was the first time that Josh cried while having blood work," Becky said. "We felt badly that he had to be stuck with needles, but were thrilled that for the first time in his life, Josh had reacted appropriately to a painful experience."

Josh faced seemingly insurmountable odds - his lungs had been scarred from the oxygen treatments necessary at his birth, slowing his mental and physical development.

During his first two years he regularly battled infections, respiratory failure, pneumonia and severe asthma attacks which left him dependent on an oxygen ventilator.

His many trips to Geisinger set a new hospital record - more than 1,000 total days as an inpatient.

While fighting for his life during one of his stays in the pediatric intensive care unit, Josh officially became Becky's and Tom's

Becky's first act as his legal mother was to give permission to have his trachaeostomy tube redone so that he could be put on an oxygen ventilator.

"Josh really needed the ventilator because he was using so much of his energy simply breathing that he wasn't growing," Becky said. "We gave his body some time to catch up.'

After his third birthday he was finally allowed to come home, although he still had to use the ventilator to breathe. The ventilator has now been replaced by a portable oxygen machine, which he is gradually being weaned from.

"Thinking of what Josh went through, and what the family went through, at the beginning it really is a miracle," Becky Kupstas said.

Becky made the 120-mile round trip to Danville every day for two

Kingston Township police are

investigating a fire which two

patrolmen discovered in the build-

ing housing a storage room and

lavatories at the Center Street

recreation park at 11 p.m. April

Patrolmen Wade Curtis and

Robert Weiss called the Shaver-

town and Trucksville fire compa-

nies after finding smoke billowing

out from under the eaves of the

building, according to the police

Most of the damage was con-

Kingston Township rec

center damaged by fire

"It's great to be the miracle child. The doctors made me better."

> Josh Kupstas Children's Miracle Network poster child

months to learn how to care for

The family's two older children, Jeff and Beth, had been involved in their parents' decision to take in foster children and were very supportive, learning how to give their younger brother his medi-

cine and help with his treatments.
"Josh has been dead four times," Becky Kupstas said. "Once, when he was really sick and his doctors didn't know what to do, the only thing that I could think of was to scream at him, You can't die! Too many people love you!' And he pulled through." Later, Josh casually mentioned

to his mother, "I was with the angels. I was with Gabriel."

We had never told him who Gabriel was," she said.

Today the sunny seven-yearold loves macaroni and cheese and Spaghetti-O's, "making up stories" on his computer and playing Nintendo, which Jeff taught him.

"I like Super Mario 3 and Ninja Turtles in Time," Josh grinned.
"He's quick," Jeff said. "He's got great coordination - he picked

up Nintendo in no time.' Josh's varied tastes in music range from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nirvana and Danzig to Frank Sinatra and '70's music. One of his prize possessions is a

Marky Mark autographed T-shirt. His ultimate goal is to attend a

fined to the storage area, where

some PVC pipes melted from the

heat, police said. Very few materi-

skylights open to vent the build-

Damage was estimated at \$1,500 to \$2,000, police said.

Pennsylvania State Police fire

marshal's office has been called

in to assist the investigation.

investigating the incident.

Trooper Andy Petros of the

Sergeant Michael Moravec is

Firefighters had to break the

als were in the storage room.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

RELAXING WITH THE FAMILY - Seven-year-old Josh Kupstas enjoys a quiet moment with his parents, Tom and Becky Kupstas, his brother, Jeff and sister, Beth. Josh was recently named the poster child for Geisinger Hospital's Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

rock concert and stand in the

"He gets into my room and turns up my stereo's bass and volume all the way," Beth laughed. "I find my rock tapes in the weirdest places in the house.'

In addition to Jeff and Beth, Josh has an older brother and younger sister by birth, whom he has met and played with.

In his home schooling sessions he has learned to do math, write

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his name and use his computer.

Josh also dresses himself, picks up his toys, empties the silverware from the dishwasher and helps his mom dust.

When Becky cooks, Josh is her taster. And he knows how to heat his beloved Spaghetti-O's in the microwave.

Of the family's four dogs and two cats, Josh's best buddy is Zack, a white shepherd mix.

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Zack lay under the kitchen table, a watchful eye on Josh as he happily chattered with a reporter about a possible future trip to Disney World, home of Mickey and Goofy, courtesy of Make-a-

"It's great to be the miracle child," he bubbled. "The doctors made me better.'

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He isn't fazed at all by his upcoming duties as the miracle child: opening a pro-am golf tournament, being present at the Miracle Kids' Lunch, an appearance on WNEP-TV and being the official starter of a motorcycle race from Geisinger-Wyoming Valley to Knoebel's Grove.

"Yes!" he grinned, giving the thumbs up sign, when asked if he was looking forward to the motor-

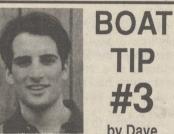
'We don't know how much Josh' will be able to accomplish," Becky said. "We know that he will be handicapped for the rest of his life - but he won't be crippled. He will live his live to the fullest, using all of the gifts that God has given

Josh has already surpassed all of his doctors' expectations, Becky said. They never expected him to be able to walk, and really weren't sure what he would be able to do.

"Why am I the miracle child?" he asked a reporter.

His father answered, "Because" when everybody else gave up on you, we didn't. You're a real

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by Dave

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612 Shipping Address: 45 Main Road, Dallas PA 18612 Office hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Published weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc. \$18 per year in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA); \$20 elsewhere in PA, NY or NJ; \$22 all other states. Second-class postage paid at Dallas PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366,

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