# Bloody 100th

(continued from page 1)

lin by American heavy bombers. General Curtis LeMay called it a "turning point" in the deadly air assualt on Germany.

In typical "governmentese" his citation to the 100th read: "The success of your bombing operations testifies indisputably to the meticulous care which the missions have been planned and executed and to the discipline, skill and gallantry of your combat and ground personnel. Commended alike are the officers and men now present for duty and those whose absence is keenly regretted. To you and to them are due eternal praise and gratitude for heroic accomplishment in battles well fought, worthy of the highest traditions of the Army of the United States."

The reputation of the 100th as a hard luck outfit was justified. It lost its first crew to enemy aircraft on a practice mission before it was even operational. It lost six crews and a whole squadron over Frankfurt. When a bombardier was shot down and arrived at Stalag Luft III, a German POW camp, he supposedly asked some prisoners, "Are any of you from the 100th?" And the answer came back, "We all are.'

In spite of all that, the 100th had the finest record of bombardment in the war, and its crews were the most frequently decorated. Its ground crews repeatedly won commendations for getting flak-shattered aircraft back into the air; they once sent aloft 10 successive missions in only 18 days. But the jinx rep was so widespread that replacement crews prayed they would not be assigned to the "Bloody 100th!"

Bayer explains his bike downfall by referring to the great size of his base - "everyone took bikes everywhere, like to the mess hall. That's where I was heading full

When a new prisoner arrived at camp, he asked if anyone was from the 100th. "We all are," they said.

like hell on a bike. They were." So it became a liquid diet for Staff Sergeant Bayer (he had his rating back by then) until his jaw healed. Then, after one more uneventful mission, his time was up and it was homeward bound and dis-charge, after 3 1/2 years in serv-

Five days later he ended a 4-year period of going steady by marrying Miss Brunhilde Lauterman of Wilkes-Barre, who was "Brunnie" to family and friends. Bud says, "I guess I was in a daze. At first I though the MPs had collared me but it was only Brunnie!" Slim and attractive still, Brunnie laughed and said calmly, "don't put that in the paper."

The Bayers have two sons, Robert Jr., general manager for U.S. Seal, who also has two sons, Brian and Michael. His brother Scott, a bachelor, is sales engineer for Quality Metals.

Bud Bayer in civilian life was an optician before retiring, having spent 43 years wih the Dr. Brown organization in Wilkes-Barre. He is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and in the American Legion. He is also a volunteer at the Vets Hosptial, being a deputy rep in their "VAVS" or Volunteer Services.

When asked if he got any recognition or kept any records of the number of fighters downed by his tail gun, he replied, "Yeah, at first. But you had to report all the details and undergo a real interrogation. It was too much trouble so

9 a.m.-11 a.m. Sept. 16, Dallas Township Municipal Building

A gatheringe of GFU's assembled in Grave Brytagne Do herebye admytte untoe theyre brotherhoode one ROBERT & PAYER one\_ 

**B**now alle men by your presentes that ye

HE SURE WAS - Bud Bayer and other surviving members of the 100th Bomb Group were presented with this certificate to commemorate 21 successful missions. At the lower left corner, attached with sealing wax and an air force stamp, are two pieces of tinfoil...the actual "chaff" dropped from Allied planes to fool German radar.

**Q:** Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week? A: Only in The Dallas Post

(continued from page 1) during the competition and answers to the judges' questions. The young woman judged fair-

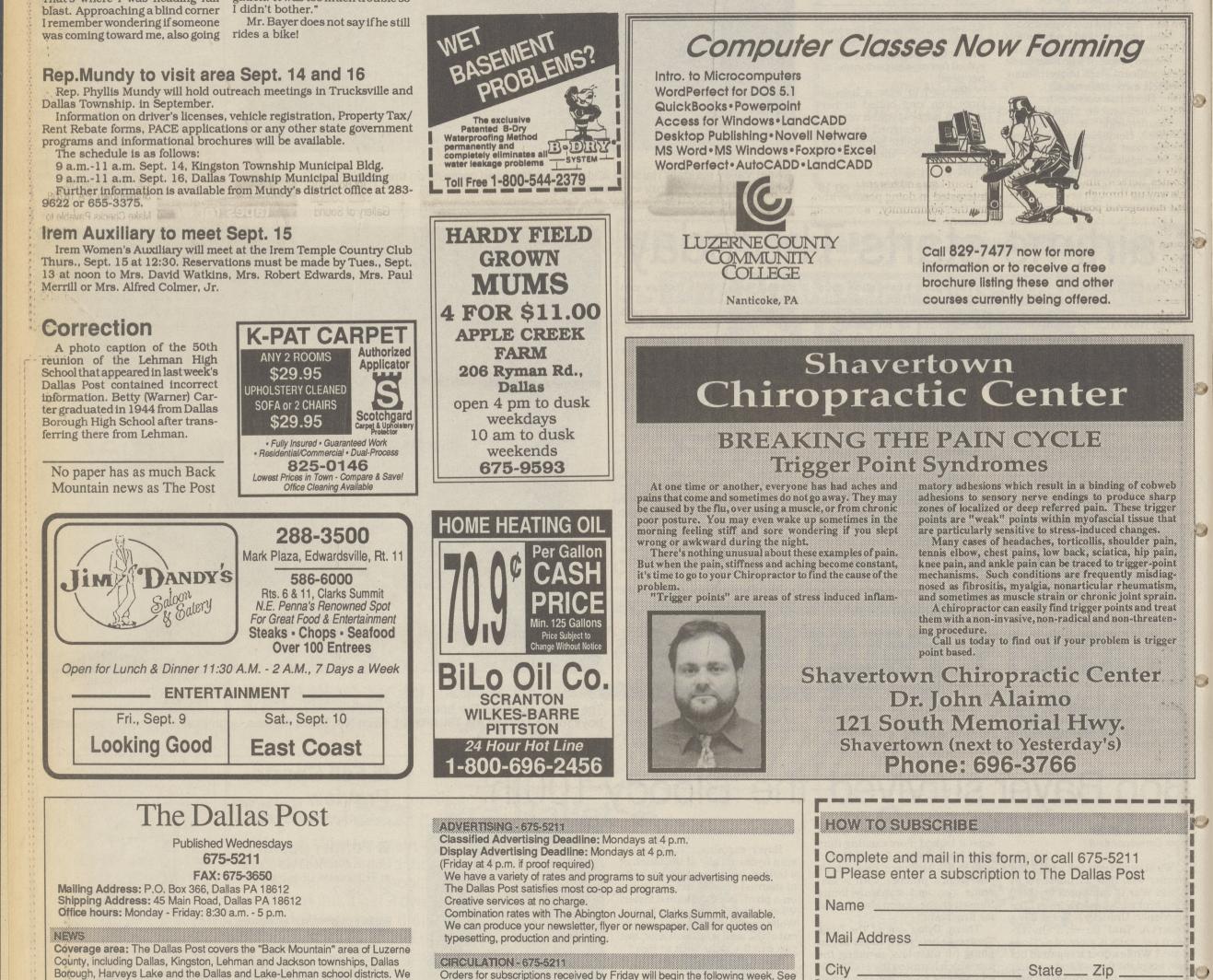
Fair-

est of the Fair, who will receive roses and a \$500 U.S. savings bond, will represent Luzerne County in the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen competition, held next January in Hershey.

The Fair Queen, Teen and Prin-cess competitions have been rescheduled to the weekend to accommodate contestants who might be out of town at school during the week.

## Fair highlights

Wed., Sept. 7 4 p.m. - Fairgrounds open to public 6 p.m. - Midway opens 8 p.m.- J. T. Maxwell band Thurs., Sept. 8 4 p.m. - Fairgrounds open 5 p.m. - Midway opens. All rides \$7, 5-9 p.m. 8 p.m. - Da Yoopers first show 9:15 p.m. - Da Yoopers 2nd show Fri., Sept. 9 4 p.m. - Fairgrounds open 5 p.m. - Lake-Lehman band show. Midway opens. 6 p.m. - Livestock dressup show 7 p.m. - Jimmy Sturr polka band 9 p.m. - Jimmy Sturr polka band Sat., Sept. 10 Noon - Fairgrounds open 1 p.m. - Midway opens. Horseshoe pitching tournament. 3 p.m. - Major Performing Arts show 4 p.m. - Fair Queen competition 6 p.m.- Barnes karate demo. 7:30 p.m. - Alison Wonderband 9:30 p.m. - Alison Wonderband Sun., Sept. 11 Noon - Fairgrounds open Noon-3 p.m. - Teen/Princess event 1 p.m. - Midway opens All rides \$7, 1-5 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - Jacobs Brothers gospel singers 5 p.m. - Barnes karate demo. 7:30 p.m. - The Boxtops



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