

# Trees: Families grow 'em, pick 'em

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Six-year-old Nick Onzik couldn't make up his mind.

After looking at thousands of beautiful Christmas trees, he was having a tough time deciding which was the right one to take home.

This was his first year helping to select the family's Christmas tree and he wanted to bring home a good one for his older brothers, Mitchell, Paul and Tom, to enjoy.

Trudging in the crisp December wind through endless rows of perfect trees, he eliminated the short ones, the skinny ones and those with "holes" in about 20 minutes.

His mother, Charlene, wanted a tree with branches strong enough to hold her collection of wooden ornaments.

"How about this one?" suggested his father, Tom, pointing to a seven-foot tall blue spruce.

After consulting with his mother, who said the tree didn't have any flaw or gaps, Nick decided the spruce was it.

It even smelled nice.

"Timber!" his father joked as he sawed away at the trunk.

The Onzik family was one of many to flock to area tree farms like Sutton's on Outlet Road in Lehman Township December 11 to find the perfect holiday tree.

Operated for the past nine years by Dick and Esther Sutton on their former dairy farm, it's home to several thousand beautifully shaped Christmas trees—Douglas fir, Scotch pine, blue spruce and Norway spruce.

The Douglas fir and blue spruce are the most popular, Esther Sutton said. Most people want seven or eight-footers.

"Growing Christmas trees involves more work than people think," she said. "In the summer we keep the weeds around the trees cut back and spray for bugs. The trees don't grow into perfect shapes—we have to prune them."

During the short selling season, the family pitches in, driving visitors up the hill in two four-wheel drive pickup trucks to cut trees down, cutting trees for those who didn't bring a saw and baling them for customers.

Son-in-law Don Casterline, sporting an orange coat and warm



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE – Shavertown residents Nick Onzik, 6, and his father, Tom, cut their Christmas tree December 11 at Sutton's Tree Farm in Lehman.

*"The trees don't grow into perfect shapes – we have to prune them."*

Eshter Sutton  
Tree farm owner

coonskin cap, lent a hand loading customers' trees onto their cars.

Another popular tree farm is Moore's on Lower Demunds Road in Dallas Township, where customers may either cut or dig their fresh trees.

Operated for about 90 years by three generations of the Thomas Moore family, the farm has Colorado blue spruce, soft (long needle) pine, Northern spruce and Fraser pine, a novelty type tree with lime-green needles. The spruce trees are the most popular.

Tom Moore, III, and his wife, Jacqui, do most of the work caring for the trees—spraying, pruning and trimming the weeds.

They must also plant several thousand trees each year to maintain their supply.

"I'll pass the farm on to my son, Tom IV, when he gets older, if he's interested," Moore said.

Tom IV is only a little guy, so he'll have plenty of time to make up his mind.

Caring for a freshly-cut Christmas tree is very easy, Esther Sutton said.

"Put it in a bucket of fresh water as soon as you get it home," she said. "Don't let it stand outside. If you're not going to trim it right away, store it in a garage, basement or sheltered area in plain water."



JUST A LITTLE OFF THE BACK, PLEASE – Tom Moore III prunes a Colorado blue spruce at his family's tree farm in Dallas Township.

# Time is of the essence for Dallas Twp. truck purchase

By JACK HILSHER  
Post Correspondent

At the Dallas Township supervisors meeting on December 6, all that could be heard for awhile were questions like these: "How about the hydraulics?" and "What was that fuel capacity?" and "How is the snow plow activated?"

The thing causing that cross-examination was a bid opening. The township needs a new dump truck, and it needs it before winter sets in. Without it, snow removal with a rented truck would torpedo the '95 budget.

Glenn Howell opened three bids with these results: Ertley Motorworld, Wilkes-Barre - \$31,458 and a 150-day delivery; Barber Ford West Pittston - \$32,625 and 120-day delivery; Bradco, Towanda - \$33,789 and 30 days.

After more discussion and more questions like those above, it became obvious that, technical specs all being equal, an early delivery assumed prime importance. Supervisor Frank Wagner

said, "There is no question in my mind but that we shouldn't even consider taking delivery after the snow season is over."

Accordingly a motion to accept the Bradco bid was made by Wagner and seconded by Howell, Chairman Phil Walter called for a vote which was unanimous and the motion carried.

In another development, township engineer Tom Doughton of Pasonick Engineering in Wilkes-Barre announced progress was made on negotiations with Luzerne County's Community Development Office.

There, manager John Matusek recently informed Doughton that the township has been approved for funding to raze two fire-damaged homes. These properties are in the Roushey Plot area and have long been an eyesore to neighbors.

Doughton will arrange for bids after January 1, next year to comply with LCCDO regulations.

Next regular meeting will be December 20, at 7:30 p.m.

# Permits for four new homes issued in Kingston Township

Kingston Township recorded 50 permits for zoning and building purposes in November, collecting \$8,049 in fees. The total value of projects was \$1,068,227, the bulk coming from four permits for construction of new homes.

These permits for new homes were issued: 945 Lantern Hill Rd., value \$217,140; 1295 Timber

Grove Rd., value \$303,325; 269 Bunker Hill Rd., value \$224,730; 121 Ondish Rd., value \$200,035.

The largest addition/remodeling permits were: 225 Manor Dr., in-ground pool, value \$17,000; 47 E. Franklin St., porch, value \$11,000; 350 Clover Lane, value \$20,500; 213 Holly St., exterior repairs, value \$15,320.

# Jackson Twp. seeks emergency coordinator

Jackson Township is seeking applicants for the position of volunteer emergency management coordinator.

A background or experience in hazardous materials (HAZMAT), or fire/ambulance services is helpful but not required.

Applicants should call township secretary Henry Zbiek between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays at 675-8371 before December 21.

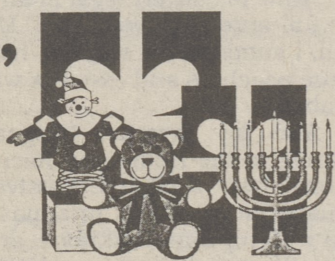
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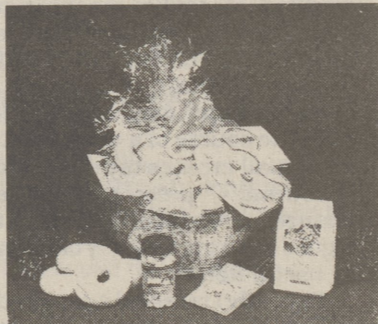
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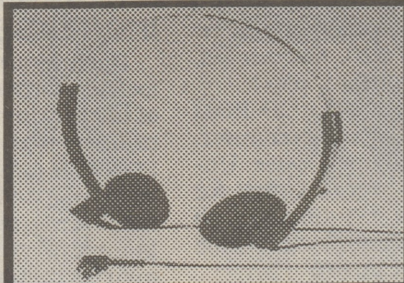
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