

# This chariot's made for pet grooming

By JACK HILSHER  
Post Correspondent

Does Fido tremble and shake in fear when you take him to be groomed? If so there is a new Back Mountain business with a solution to Fido's problem. It's Dawn's Grooming Chariot, which can be driven right to your house by expert groomer Dawn Loberg of South Lehigh Street in Trucksville.

And if being that close to home isn't calming enough, Fido can listen to a music tape, or watch Tom and Jerry cartoons on a dobbie-sized screen...those shakes will surely cease.

Miss Loberg's customized white van, only 90 days broken in, was built in Georgia for a mere 28 grand, and there is no mistaking its purpose. Black paw prints - over 100 - are all over the van's shiny exterior.

In the surgically-clean interior is a skid-proof grooming table, washing facilities, high-speed dryer and an imposing assortment of clippers and grooming tools. Only an outside electrical connection is needed, everything else is self-contained in the functional van.

Loberg, 30, explains, "The whole idea is to reduce stress, to make the experience as pleasant as possible. Then too, there is no drive to and from, and no long wait. You can do something else at home."

She adds, "I realize there are at least 25 other groomers in the Yellow Pages, but there is only one other home service like mine. Believe me, when people get a sense of the convenience, there

will be more than enough business for both of us!"

Loberg is encouraged so far by a brisk start. She has experienced that important repeat business already, and can point to some word-of-mouth customers. She intends to cover both Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas, "especially the boondocks!"

Those 25 groomers in the valley apparently all have one thing in common - a firm belief that unusual names attract more customers. There are two "Paw Prints," "Animal" is featured in "Buddies," "Crackers," and "Treats."

"Annie" runs a "Barking Boutique," the "Canine Castle" will "treat your pet like royalty," there is a "Fin & Paw" and a "Groomingdale's," plus the usual "Poodle Parlor," "Hair of the Dog" and in our own Shavertown, a "Gucci Poochie Salon."

When the latter was called "Blue Ribbon" Loberg worked there for years, soaking up techniques. Dawn says, "I believe in on-the-job training, not grooming schools. Pooch owners are fussy and believe - rightfully so - that Westies should look like Westies, not Schnauzers. I know. I've spent years as an apprentice learning all about the different breeds. You don't get to my level by attending a two-week quickie course."

She adds, "I am more proud to be certified by the National Dog Groomers Association than to be flashing a framed school certificate. They were tough. You attend seminars, take written tests, and actually groom a dog and are graded on how you do. Tough, yes, but worth it."



**THERE NOW, ROBBIE** - Dawn Loberg demonstrates how a pooch fits on the grooming table in her "Grooming Chariot." The mobile unit can travel wherever customers live.

The Loberg household is not completely canine, far from it. There are two dogs - "Sugar Bear," an Eskimo Spitz, pure white, fluffy and beautiful, and "Ghost" a poodle mix who always looks bewildered. Then four more names, obviously not canine but feline, "Binky" (who weighed 5 oz. at birth and had to be eye-dropped) "Traffic," (probably because she likes it) "Samantha," who has a sensible name, and "Mouse," yes, because she likes to chase them and even moves like one.

That covey of cats tells of a Loberg sideline...picking up strays and cats scheduled to be put down at the SPCA. She nurses them back to health, dispenses a little free grooming, and then finds homes for them. Another sideline: she is in the Army Reserve. About to be promoted to sergeant. (Drives a tank!)

A vet once answered the question, "What groomer do you recommend," by answering, "I don't. I won't recommend anyone, because pet groomers are like hairdressers...in time you'll get mad at all of them." Owners say, "groomers don't listen. They think they know better and don't follow instructions." They say pets "always come out looking different from the last time. They must like to experiment."

However Dawn Loberg's vet isn't at all reluctant to talk about her. He says, "She's the best. If Dawn can't groom a certain pet then nobody can. She also seems to know almost as much as we do about things like ear infections and fleas. Her advice goes along with the job!"

So when your pet gets shaggy, you might want to try the stay-at-home experience.

## Gun theft

(continued from page 1)

down leads and anticipate making at least one more arrest."

One 15 year-old suspect has "strong feelings about anarchy and against the establishment" and has knowledge of weapons and explosives, Miers said.

"During our investigation we spoke with people who saw the suspects making and detonating pipe-type bombs and other explosive devices, which took out pieces of concrete from an abandoned road in the township," he said. "Our search turned up several common and readily available pyrotechnic devices which, in the right combination, could activate an explosive device."

Police confiscated a decorative terrarium containing at least one marijuana-like plant, a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, a Colt .357 Magnum revolver and a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum revolver, which Miers called the most powerful handgun on the street, with six Black Talon "cop killer" bullets. Police found 50 rounds of ammo for each weapon.

Police also seized an Intratek .22 caliber semi-automatic machine pistol with a half-full banana clip capable of holding 30 bullets, a "bucket of bullets" containing 1,500 rounds of .22 caliber ammo, several videos and a survival-type knife with an eight-inch blade.

Two of the guns, stuffed in bookbags and hidden on the dike by Toby's Creek, were recovered in Edwardsville May 11 at 9 p.m.,

Miers said.

A discrepancy in the amount of ammo reported stolen and the amount of ammo recovered has led police to believe the boys had fired the guns, he added.

Police are also investigating allegations of possible gang activity and terroristic threats made by at least one suspect, including such statements as "I'll kill you all," "I'll blow up your car," and "I'll blow up your house," he added. "We define a gang as a group of individuals that comes together to commit crimes or terrorize the community," Miers said. "Using that definition, this is a gang."

Police have recently been investigating the activities of Back Mountain groups calling themselves 187 (referring to the section in the California penal code which covers murder), GLP, Third-World Knights and West Side Crips, but Miers refused to connect Friday's arrests to any specific group.

"They aren't well-organized enough to be branches of the inner-city gangs," he said. Miers also expects the investigation to ultimately take police outside Wyoming Valley.

"It's astonishing that the Pennsylvania Uniform Crimes Code doesn't give a clear definition of a bomb for prosecution and minors can't be prosecuted under existing federal bomb and explosive statutes," Miers said. "They leave juvenile prosecution in these cases up to the states."

## Firecut Rd. to be upgraded

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**KINGSTON TOWNSHIP** - Residents of Firecut Road, a dirt road at the top of Bunker Hill near the power line, received word from the supervisors at the regular May 10 meeting that the road will soon be upgraded.

A \$99,000 county grant will pay for drainage work and some upgrading, once the majority of the residents' incomes are verified as low or moderate-income, according to Randall Glidden.

The job has been estimated at about \$160,000, but we'll do as much as we can," Glidden said. Once the paperwork and an engineering study are completed, work is scheduled to begin in September.

The Firecut Road project replaced earlier plans to upgrade Heller's Grove and Meadowcrest Drive.

The supervisors also directed township manager Jeff Box to obtain an engineer's estimate of

necessary repairs for Pioneer Ave., which is presently a state road.

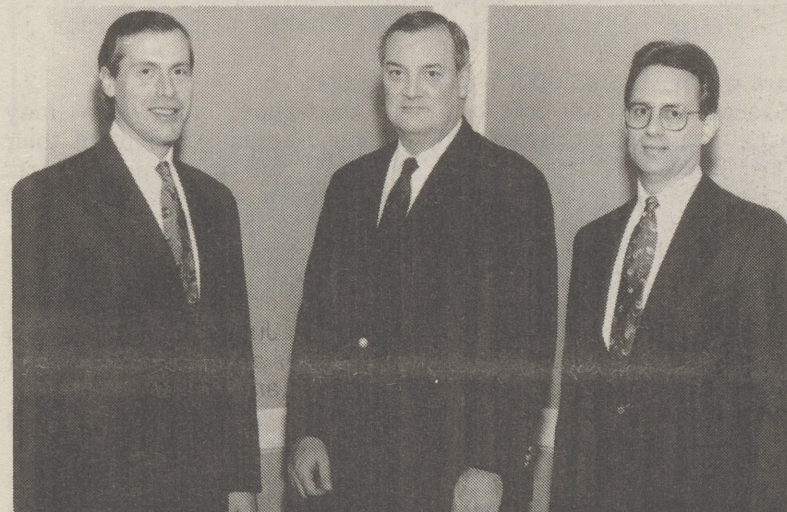
The township plans to negotiate with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for a turnback of Pioneer Ave. to the township, which would then be responsible for its maintenance from the Dallas Township line at Druid Hills to its end at Route 309.

"We can do a much better job on it than PennDOT has," Box said.

The supervisors unanimously accepted the final plans for Phase II of the Echo Valley Mobile Home Park expansion, which will add 28 double-wide homes on the side of the hill facing Harris Hill Road.

Construction will begin as soon as possible, according to owner Michael Kester.

Other road paving projects scheduled for this summer are sections of North Lehigh Street, Krispin, Hilltop and Church (in Carverton) roads and Brook and School streets, estimated to cost \$50,000.



### Wilkes-Barre Partnership's 1995 officers

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership, Inc. recently elected its 1995 officers: Joseph L. Persico, Esq. (Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald), Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board; William Sordoni (Sordoni Enterprises), Partnership Chairman of the Board; and Robert Matley (First Heritage Bank) Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund Chairman of the Board. Absent from photo is R. Denny Schmidt (First Fidelity Bank), Committee for Economic Growth Chairman of the Board.

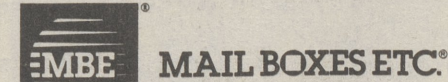
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