

Bugs

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for the funeral and bring all their relatives," she quipped.

DeLeur said she can't walk through her neighborhood near Hanson's because the caterpillars hanging from the trees get in her face.

"I could handle the fuzzy ones. They're not too bad," she said. "It's those wriggly, squiggly ones that I can't take. I've lived here 20 years and can't remember seeing so many all at once."

DeLeur finally gave up and hired a private contractor to spray her yard with the pesticide Sevin for \$75.

"Twenty minutes after he finished, the dead ones started dropping off the trees," DeLeur said. "There were so many that it looked like black snow covering the deck."

Fern Brook residents Beverly and Tom Honeywell have also tried every way they know to get rid of the pesky critters. Nothing helps.

"You can't go outside unless you wear a hat," said Beverly Honeywell. "I got a rash on my neck from them."

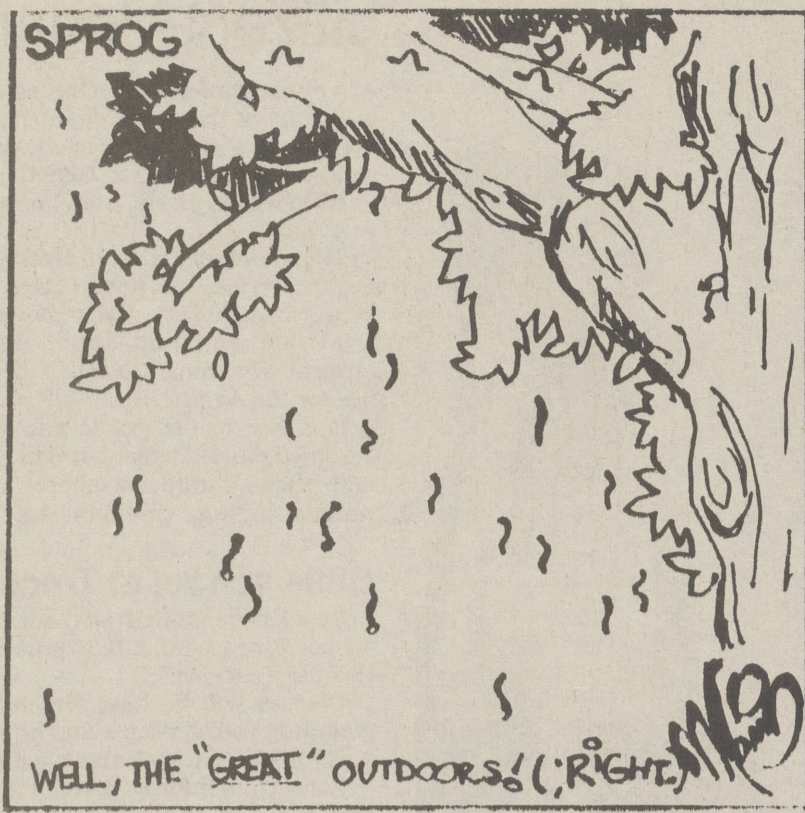
Beverly can't enjoy her hammock, strung between two trees in the side yard, because of the caterpillars. When the grandchildren visit, they can't play outside.

"The caterpillars are hanging from the eaves," said her husband, Tom. "There are so many that they've stained our new aluminum siding and roof."

The Honeywells burned many of the caterpillars' tentlike nests in the spring, but they said it didn't do any good. They think the bugs are parachuting in from other untreated areas.

Everywhere they look, their yard is covered with caterpillars, gossamer tent strands and pieces of half-chewed leaves. Their trees, especially the oaks, are denuded of leaves. Last year the little pests killed their willow tree and have now started eating the pine trees, they said.

Dallas Township resident Sam Morelli said his yard is "loaded" with the pests. "I can't go out and cut the grass because so many of them are hanging off my trees," he said. "Last week they were so bad I couldn't even get into my garage."



Most of the trees of his yard are completely stripped of foliage, leaving only branches and bare leaf stems, caterpillars hanging like bizarre Christmas ornaments from them. His only defense has been swatting and sweeping them with a broom.

Will he try to get into a spraying program next year?

"You bet your life I will!" he said.

Workers from Chamberlain Nursery landscaping a yard on Crestview Drive said the caterpillars are bad everywhere.

"I've seen them all the way out to Sweet Valley and Muhlenburg," said owner Walt Chamberlain. "It's a nightmare for my grass-cutting crew - the darned things are hanging all over the place. The cobwebs stick to your skin."

His four-year-old daughter, Nina, has collected several specimens to see what they'll turn into when they emerge from their cocoons.

He noted the caterpillars love to eat red and sugar maple trees, but haven't yet acquired a taste for Norway maples.

"It's tough for the plants in our nursery stock," he said. "We have to spray them every other day."

The most effective way to handle the pests seems to be the helicopter spray programs, Chamberlain said, but that can create problems, too. The spray kills 60 to 70 percent of the pests, and the survivors reproduce and come back the next year.

The best thing to do, according to District Forester Tony Santoli, is to let them run wild until the population collapses from overpopulation.

The problem has become so severe that Representative Phyllis Mundy has asked the state to give \$5 million to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) to spray infested areas next spring.

The insects have overrun large areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania, both forested and private land, stripping foliage from trees, threatening wildlife habitats and affecting people's recreational activities, Mundy noted. Trees suffering two or more consecutive years of defoliation can die, she added.

Professional sprayers say the best time to spray for caterpillars is late April or early May, just after they have hatched and begun to eat. Their pesticide of choice, BT, is a bacterium which affects only caterpillars.

The trick is to catch them early, before they reach a certain size and become too strong for the BT to affect them, sprayers say. Then sprayers must use Sevin or other pesticides which also can affect beneficial insects.

The most destructive of the pests are the gypsy moth, which eats just about anything in sight, and the relatively new elm spanworm, which feeds primarily on walnut, oak, elm, ash and hickory trees. Several years ago the elm spanworms were attracted to Northeastern Pennsylvania by its bright city lights.

Tent caterpillars feed on oak, birch, apple, box elder, poplar, cherry, willow and aspen trees, in whose branches they make their weblike white nests.

The caterpillars usually become moths, which congregate around bright lights, starting in mid or late June.

Flea mart at Sweet Valley July 8

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Sweet Valley Fire Co. will hold its monthly Flea Market July 8, at the Fire Hall, Main Road, Sweet Valley. Doors open at 9 a.m.

To reserve a table or space call 477-3417 or 256-7944. Food will be available.

The Auxiliary also needs Betty Crocker Bonus Points from the General Mills product boxes. They can be given to any auxiliary member or send them to Joy Wickard, RR, Box 1351, Sweet Valley, PA 18656.

Arts at Hayfield Aug. 27

The 11th annual Arts at Hayfield Summer Festival, the largest craft show in the Back Mountain, is scheduled for August 27 on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre in Lehman.

Nearly 100 juried artists and crafters, along with musical entertainment, children's activities, and lots of food are just some of the highlights of the day long event.

For information, contact the campus at 675-2171.

Sewage

(continued from page 1)

change for.

Cornell wants the zoning changed from agricultural to business so he can set up a miniature golf course and a racetrack for go-carts. The go-carts, replicas of Winston Cup race cars, race against the clock through the course, Grabowski said.

The zoning board will act on Cornell's request June 26.

In response to a request by Tom Hartz of Cease Terrace, the supervisors said they would put up road signs in his neighborhood.

"The signs are removed almost as fast as we put them up, but we'll try to get them up on your road soon," Ide said.

Cragle also told the supervisors he will discuss the township's account with Berkheimer Associates, which collects resi-

dents' earned income tax payments, which he says are coming in late.

"I don't know if Berkheimer is receiving the money late or if they're holding on to it and using it for 90 days before paying us," Cragle said.

Berkheimer is supposed to pay the township whenever its account with them reaches \$4,000, according to their bond agreement, but is sending the township checks for much larger amounts only a few days apart, he added.

The bond is similar to insurance which will replace up to \$4,000 in the township's account if anything should happen to the company, Cragle said. He will report to the supervisors as soon as he meets with a Berkheimer representative.

New project means 100 jobs at Kingston Metals

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Kingston Metal Specialties, owned by Dallas resident Jeffrey S. Dickson, announced its plans to add 100 new jobs to its workforce Monday.

One of the country's leading sheet metal and stamping suppliers, Kingston Metal will manufacture cabinets for outdoor units which are mounted on the tops of buildings, mountains and other high places to transmit personal communications (cellular phone) signals, according to vice president of finance William Pfeiffer.

"This is a whole new market opening up," he said. "These transmitters are set on a different frequency band than today's cellular phones, giving customers better security and clearer transmissions than they have today. This technology will make our

present cellular phones obsolete within the next few years."

Kingston Metals will soon begin to recruit skilled employees for plant management, manufacturing management, engineering, quality assurance, purchasing, traffic/shipping, fabricating, welding, utility work, general production and powder coating assembly.

The company employs approximately 30 Back Mountain residents, Pfeiffer said. The wages range from \$7 to \$12 per hour, with an average of about \$9, with health insurance, profit sharing and other benefits, he added.

The company was founded in 1954 by the late William Dickson of Dallas. It has expanded from its original quarters in a Quonset hut at the Forty Fort airport to plants in Kingston and Luzerne, PA, and Columbia, South Carolina and Huntsville, Alabama.

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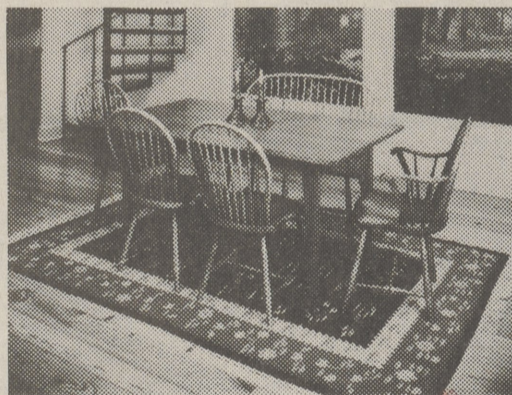
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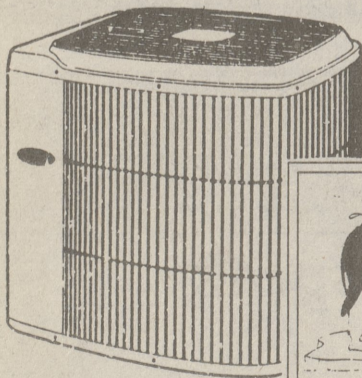
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