

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Rick Yanalunas is a multi-talented man. The owner of Bucky's Auto Body Shop in Trucksville is also a champion wood carver. He is shown in his shop with the carving of a loon which won second place at the Ward Foundation show in Maryland, against world-wide competition.

Carving

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some sort — if he needed bookcases he built them — but six years ago on a Virginia vacation he visited a decoy shop and saw the realism wood carving could provide. "It blew my mind," he recalls.

"When I got back I took a beginners course with Ron Ushing of Plains. He can be reached at 825-9741 and his classes start every fall. That hooked me for good."

Before long Rick started to accumulate ribbons for his carvings; he now has 18. There was also a "2nd Best in Show" and a first place of two "puffins," another photogenic bird; both were at New Jersey shows.

Rick has cause to crow about his success but doesn't. He modestly explains, "You never stop learning and improving your skill with this hobby. It has progressed far beyond a block of white pine and a sharp knife. Today, wood-carving is pure hi-tech, and has gone even beyond the familiar American 'Moto Tool.' There are German high-speed gadgets you wouldn't believe."

He adds, "Even the wood is different. Pine and basswood both have their faults. So do many hardwoods, and they get expensive. I use something called 'Tupelo Gum' mostly. It comes from southern swamps, and I get mine from a little shanty store in Arkansas, run by a man who believe it or not answers to the name Billy Bob!"

Visitors looking at the wooden magic of Rick Yanalunas, according to Rick, always ask the same question without fail: "How long did it take you to do this?" He laughs and says, "Heck, I have no idea; I don't keep any record. If pressed, I may guess about 100 hours."

As though the foregoing wasn't relaxing enough, there is another sideline to this carver which is most unusual. Resting near the stock of blocks awaiting their bird shapes is a string instrument nearing completion...a dulcimer. A rarity. Rick designed and painstakingly built it using several exotic woods — ebony is one in the decoration — and it will be played with two hammers by its

maker. (It must be said, however, that he intends to cheat. There are two strips of paper, one for each hammer, under the strings to identify all the notes.)

Rick's carving hobby dates back to 2500 B.C. when hi-tech wasn't even a dream. Egyptian carvings from around that time are still intact. From then until the 16th century wood carving was sporadic — and scarce — but began flourishing in churches. A man named Grinley Gibbons (1648-1720) was the world's most famous carver, except perhaps for Michaelangelo, and it is said his flowers in wood were marvels. He also once as a lark carved lace patterns in wood.

If our subject were termed a modern-day "Renaissance Man" there wouldn't be any objections. But as for Rick Yanalunas there would be no comment. He is too busy. You see, he also teaches the "Keystone Carvers Club," a beginners class — knives only — at Wyoming Valley Vo-Tech.

Just as well you don't call him loony.

Trial

(continued from page 1)

was okay," Dodson said. "He said he didn't know, that he couldn't move."

The only other testimony was given by chief deputy coroner Joseph M. Shaver, who had pronounced Besteder dead at the scene. Kirkendall didn't testify in his own defense.

His attorney, Basil Russin, asked Tupper to dismiss the charges due to "scanty" evidence.

"We will have a forensic psychiatrist examine all Mr. Kirkendall's medical records," said dis-

trict attorney Peter Paul Olszewski, Jr. "He is presumed legally competent until proven otherwise."

"I'm only second-guessing the defense, but I think they might try to go for a defense of insanity and diminished mental capacity," Miers said. "There are many types of diminished capacity — it will be up to the judge and jury to decide."

Kirkendall could plead insane and mentally incompetent, or out of touch with reality and unable

to assist with his own defense, Miers said. Or he could simply plead insane, which means he doesn't know right from wrong but can assist with his own defense.

The preliminary hearing is the first step in the legal process, which will now head to Luzerne County Criminal Court after the district attorney's office hands down an indictment, Kirkendall is arraigned in county court and the case is added to the trial list, Miers said.

Zoning

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of my building is 115 feet back, where I thought the agricultural area was."

He built his shop in the lower level of the building, with the family's residence on top. Now he has learned it's in the residential zone, where his business isn't allowed.

"It's kind of hard to move my shop from underneath the house," he said. "I would like to build a new building 200 feet from the road in the agricultural section, but money is tight right now."

He had hoped the supervisors would address his problem before enacting the changes in the zoning ordinance, because he wants to obtain a temporary use permit.

"We aren't against people starting up new businesses," said supervisor David Sutton. "A temporary use permit can help people get started, then set up somewhere else after they get established. I'm sure we'll find this situation with other people as time passes."

The ordinance also prohibits expansion of buildings on non-conforming lots of less than half an acre, with no water service and sewers, which affects owners of summer cottages at Lake Silk-

worth.

"Many of these small 1 1/2 room summer cottages have been

expanded beyond their original use, to two-story year-round homes," Sutton said. "It puts a strain on their 'septic systems — there's no place for the sewage to go but into the lake. Some of these places barely qualify for a sand mound, the most basic septic system. The condition of the lake is becoming worse every year. I expect we'll eventually be required to install sewers at the

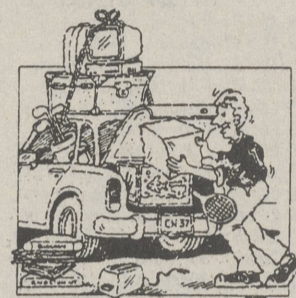
lake."

Many of the cottages are very close together, which can pose safety problems if there's a fire, he added.

Other changes, which Sutton terms "fine-tuning" the ordinance, severely limit the proximity of development to the edge of streams and ponds within the conservation area around the two reservoirs located in the township.

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Camp Meetings

Aug. 4-6 at Orange

Camp Meetings '95" will be held at the Apostolic Faith Tabernacle, Village Road, Orange, Pa.

Schedule of services: Aug. 4, 7 p.m.; Aug. 5 and 6, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. with dinner served at 4:30 p.m.

The theme is "A Time to Rejoice," with old-time gospel singing and instrumentals, followed by Pentecostal preaching.

All services will be held outdoors under the pavilion. Everyone is invited.

Burning banned at Harveys Lake

Harveys Lake Mayor Richard Boice has declared a ban on all burning, effective July 31, until such time as weather conditions permit.

Dallas UM hosts Family Fun Nite Aug. 13

Dallas United Methodist Church will host a Family Ice Cream Gathering and Family Fun Night, August 13, 6-8 p.m. with musical entertainment and face painting. Tickets are available at the door. \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for 12 and under.

Shavertown Fire Co. sells safety devices

Members of the Shavertown Vol. Fire Co. are now taking orders for fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, CO alarms and escape ladders. To order one of these items contact any member of the fire company or call 696-3212 and leave a message, someone will get in contact with you. Proceeds from these sales will go into the general operating fund.

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