

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Electronics hobby kits were fun, educational and useful

I was one of tens of thousands of loyal Heathkit customers who enjoyed the soothing "therapy" of assembling something from parts, using a soldering iron and an easy-to-follow instruction manual, and then experiencing the pride of a true do-it-yourselfer when you plugged it in and it worked. "I built it myself!" we all said.

If there is anything sad about this saga it is that Heath dropped its kit line several years ago and shows no sign of starting up again. Sales were such that kits were no longer profitable, and customers no longer saw the 30% savings in kit products over fully-assembled units, which had continued to come down in price. Furthermore, computers were attracting the technical-minded and siphoning up all the hobbyists' cash.

The best-known kit fan had this comment to make: "Heath's action leaves the amateur, like me, no place to turn." So spoke Barry Goldwater, who used to fly to Benton Harbor twice a year in his private plane to buy kits. The Senator, then 83, who had wired up over 100 kits, said, "It's just that people today are getting terribly lazy, and they don't like to do anything they can pay someone else to do. I think the current generation is certainly missing out."

Just before Hurricane Agnes decided to cover Kingston with water in '72, during the mad rush to pack and get to higher ground (Dallas, of cuss) I remember carrying my stereo outfit upstairs and thinking, "At least this will be safe."

NOT! Old Man Susquehanna River lapped just over both control panels on my amplifier and my tuner, my pride and joy. Neat walnut cabinets, brass trim and knobs. Built 'em myself from kits. And their sound was out-of-this-world.

But don't fret. Dried out much later, both units performed as good as new, delivering rich, clear sound, a much warmer sound than transistor units would ever give. And it is doubtful transistors would have stood the prolonged immersion as these vacuum tube units did.

Mine were the products of the Heath Company in Benton Harbor, Michigan, maker of Heathkits.

Other Heathkit users many times went over the 100 mark. They also say what they assembled decades ago is still in use and working fine. They are all sad that neither Heath nor any of its former competitors make any kits available today.

I wasn't near those large totals, but I did assemble several units and, when I went back for more to my favorite place, the old Shelbourne Corporation on Pennsylvania Avenue in Wilkes-Barre, I remember asking salesman Paul Israel to show me a kit. He said, "Jack, they're gone." I reminded him that only weeks go he had at least a dozen. "I know," he said, "But a dentist in Plymouth bought all. He plans to assemble them and sell them to his patients!"

I suppose those one-hour film processing places have killed the home darkroom, and cheap electronics have killed kits. Sad. I remember one comment from a kit fan, "Every kid should try picking up a little soldering pencil, smelling the smoke and running a blue wire from Point A to Lug B. Then, when he is done, and it works, there is a real glow of accomplishment."

I'll add another comment. There is no comparison between kit-built electronics and assembly-line junk made by teen agers and robots in Taiwan.

Free medical clinic every Friday

The Back Mountain Free Medical Clinic at St. Therese's Church, lower level, corner of Pioneer and Davis St., Shavertown, welcomes all who are need of medical care by competent doctors, nurses and staff.

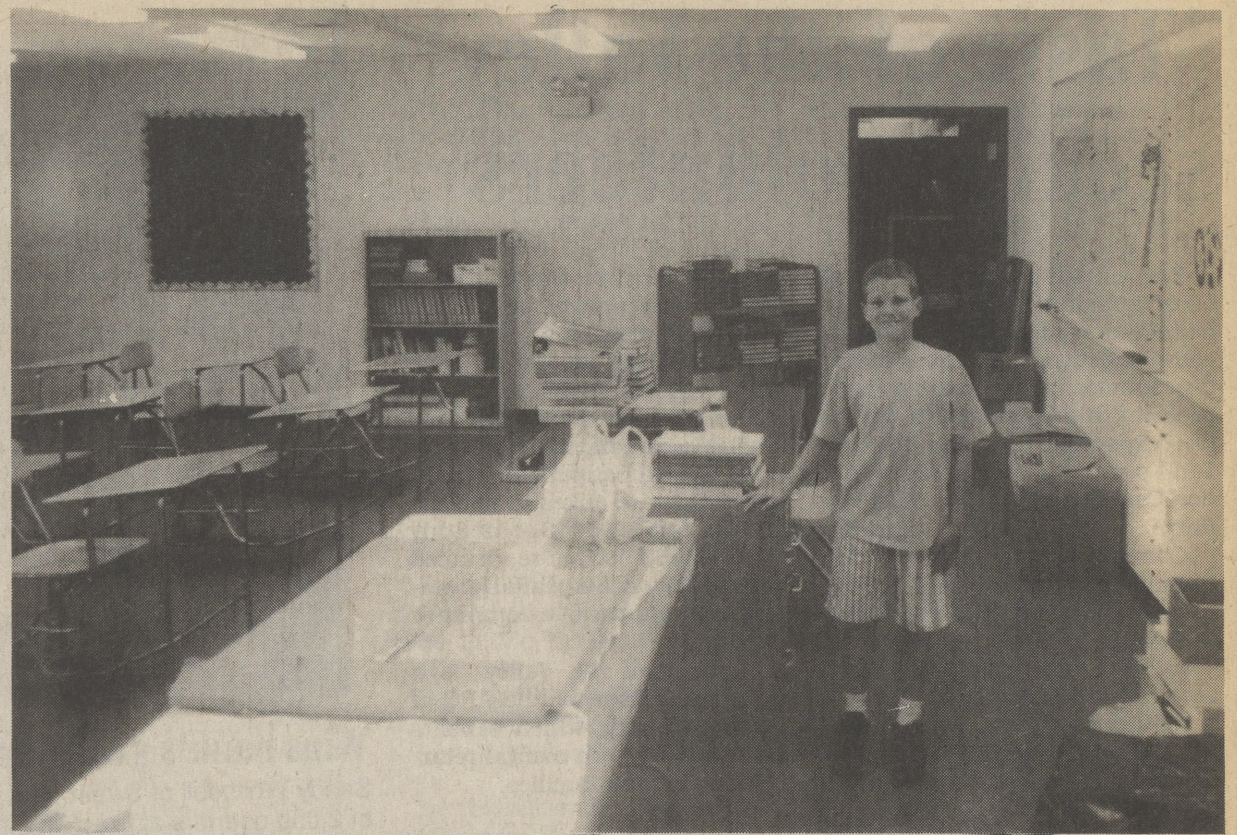
If uninsured or underinsured we care to help. Come Fridays, time: 6:30 p.m. Confidentiality assured.

The Play Station

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Ideal two-day beginning program for your preschooler
Morning & Afternoon sessions • Safe & Loving environment for your 3-5 yr. old • PA Certified Teachers with small classes
• Modern and well equipped • Very unique facility incorporating the Arts

Call 696-4755
Carverton Rd., Turcksville



Josh Wysocki, 10, son of Lake-Lehman Middle Level secretary Susan Wysocki, showed off the school's brand-new modular building, which replace a 20-year-old similar structure.

Modular building ready for opening day

By JOHN SANSEVERE
Post Correspondent

Special education pupils and the seventh grade study skills classes at the Lake-Lehman middle level building will share a new two-room modular addition recently leased for five years for \$57,834, or \$964 a month.

The building is 72 feet long and 23 feet, 6 inches wide, accommodating no more than 40 pupils at a time.

"These are temporary buildings," said principal Robert Roberts, adding that special education pupils will have a place to call their own in the new building.

The special pupils are assimilated into mainstream classes by an inclusion program. This allows those with special needs to benefit by interacting with mainstream pupils.

Special education pupils can access the school's 27 Apple

Macintosh computers equipped with various learning programs through computer terminals in the modular building.

Lake-Lehman school board donated the old junior high modular building to the Back Mountain Fireman's Association, to train with by an unanimous vote on August 15.

The old modular had served the school from 1972 until last year.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BE IN A POSEIDON POOL?

BUY NOW...SWIM NOW!

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION!

GOOD STARTER POOL!

\$149⁹⁹

12' X 36"
• Aluminum Top Rails
• Winterized Liner

DONNIE
ROUND COPPER BEARING STEEL POOL
• 6" Fully Supported Top Rails • Massive Vertical Uprights
• 20 Gauge Virgin Vinyl Liner

12' x 48"	\$449	21' x 48"	\$699
15' x 48"	\$499	24' x 48"	\$799
18' x 48"	\$599	27' x 48"	\$949

FREE \$1200 VALUE

- Tapered Hard Foam Thermal Cover
- Factory Installed Ozonator Generator
- Floating Solar Cover
- Underwater Mood Light
- Spa Chemical Pkg.

\$1,200 VALUE ON SELECTED SPAS

Pearl
6 Person Spa With Lounger
84" x 94" x 30"
\$2999

Georgetta
6 Person Spa with Lounger, Bucket & Double Bench Seating
• Top Side Command Console
• Underwater Lighting
• w/Mood Lenses
• Removable Pillow Headrests
• Stainless Steel Hand Rails & Towel Racks
• Ozonator Ready
\$3999

Salvatorian
6 Person Spa with Double Lounger
• Top Side Command Center
• Stainless Steel Hand Rails & Towel Racks
• Underwater Lighting
• w/Mood Lenses
• Removable Pillow Headrests
\$4999

LORENZO
COPPER BEARING STEEL POOL
• 20 Gauge Virgin Vinyl Liner
• Fully Extruded Aluminum Frame
• 6" Top Rails • Massive Uprights
• "Galvalume" Corrosion Fighting Wall Finish

\$1299 \$1499

LIMITED TIME NO FEE!

Cover All Your Needs With One Stroke

The kid's room. The living room. The bathroom. The playroom. Wherever there's room for improvement, see Franklin First for a tax deductible* home equity loan. Call us at 717-821-7103** for a quick response, affordable monthly payments and a lot more room in your home improvement budget. For the money you need, Franklin First has got you covered.

Get the security of fixed monthly payments at today's low rates.

HOME EQUITY LOAN

8.25% APR*

Subsidiary of ONBANCorp, Inc.

*Terms, rates and conditions subject to change without notice. **60 monthly payments of \$20.39 per \$1,000 borrowed. Property insurance required. Offer not valid for existing Franklin First home equity loan customers, nor combined with other promotional offers. †Consult your tax advisor. **Or toll free 1-800-262-1210.

Deposits federally insured to \$100,000. Member FDIC

WINTER COVER SALE!

BUY EARLY & SAVE!

ROUND WINTER COVERS

POOL SIZE	DELUXE	SUPERIOR
12' x 12'	\$19.99	\$29.99
15' x 15'	\$29.99	\$43.99
18' x 18'	\$39.99	\$57.99
21' x 21'	\$49.99	\$71.99
24' x 24'	\$59.99	\$89.99
27' x 27'	\$79.99	\$111.99

FREE WINTER CHEMICALS

ON SELECTED COVERS

RECTANGULAR INGROUND WINTER COVERS

POOL SIZE	DELUXE	SUPERIOR
12' x 24'	\$63.99	\$99.99
14' x 28'	\$89.99	\$129.99
16' x 24'	\$78.99	\$129.99
16' x 32'	\$99.99	\$139.99
18' x 36'	\$123.99	\$169.99
20' x 40'	\$146.99	\$179.99
25' x 50'	\$229.99	\$279.99
30' x 50'	\$269.99	\$299.99

POSEIDON POOL 'N SPA FACTORY OUTLET

IS YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL YOUR ABOVE GROUND, INGROUND & SPA SUPPLIES

- DIVING BOARDS • HEATERS • VACUUMS
- SLIDES • TOYS • GAMES • LIGHTS
- PARTS • FILTERS • PUMPS • MOTORS
- CARTRIDGES • LADDERS • LINERS
- COVERS • CHEMICALS • AND MORE

LUZERNE 369 Main St. 283-5005
Mon.-Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4

DICKSON CITY
Rt. 6, Scr./Car. Hwy. 383-3444
Mon.-Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4

MT. TOP 280 Crestwood Rd. 474-2226
Mon.-Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4