

Flood notes

(continued from page 1)

water from residents' basements.

- College Misericordia housed about 175 students from Wilkes University, according to dean of students Sr. Jean Mesaros, RSM, who had received a call shortly before midnight Friday from Wilkes's dean of students Jane Lampe Groh.

The college housed the students in the Anderson sports center, where they sacked out on the floor of the lobby, watched television in the Cougar's Den, played board games, tried to study or shot hoops on one end of the basketball court.

The college made sure the evacuated students had good hot meals from the cafeteria and snacks, Sr. Mesaros said.

- Before the media released the list of evacuation shelters, two families who had been evacuees in 1972 showed up at the college. "Even though we weren't a designated Red Cross evacuation shelter, we let them stay because they had been here before," Sr. Mesaros said.



Joe Hayer, Shavertown, manned the checkout at Insalaco's Market in Shavertown Saturday morning. A student at Wilkes University, he had helped classmates more to College Misericordia from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. before heading to work.



Dallas High School food service workers Sharon Holdredge and Marguerite Fry manned a slicer while preparing supper for about 150 flood evacuees who took shelter at the school Saturday.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Evacuees

(continued from page 1)

Maureen Banks, RN, Saturday's evacuation was a replay of the 1972 Hurricane Agnes flood, when she was a student nurse at College Misericordia. The college housed a maternity ward and patients from the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in 1972.

"I saw the flood reports on television this morning and came up here to help out," she said simply.

Working flood duty this weekend was much simpler than 24 years ago, Banks said. Set up in a classroom, the infirmary housed three elderly homebound women requiring constant nursing care. Nurses had to improvise supplies and the Red Cross cots were small, making it difficult to turn the patients.

"During Hurricane Agnes we worked wherever we were needed," Banks recalled. "You had to improvise a lot, that's when natural childbirth really took hold in the area - there was no other choice, no anesthetics."

Back in the school's kitchen area, food service director Jackie Shaver, bleary-eyed from pumping water from her basement most of Friday night, worked with exhausted cafeteria workers, most of whom had been up helping move relatives all night.

After receiving a telephone call about the evacuation from business manager Charlotte Williams at 2 a.m. Saturday, Shaver raided the school's supplies to make breakfast.

"I have a great staff," said Shaver, who was in first grade during the 1972 flood. "The evacuees are calling us 'the Back Mountain Marriott'."

"It's just like southern hospitality back here."
Flood evacuee at Dallas High

The main challenges were making sure everyone gets the proper nutrition, taking care of evacuees on special diets and keeping her staff refreshed. Shaver had to send out to The Meadows for some Ensure liquid food supplement for her elderly patients.

"You don't get any special training for this type of situation," she said. "Food service always involves pressure and a time element. This isn't too different. Fortunately, before I worked in schools I worked in a hospital, so I'm familiar with some of the special diets."

She planned to keep someone on duty in the kitchen all night in case someone needed a drink or a snack.

Working on an hour's sleep in the past two days, Bev Neiman slapped slices of ham into a baking pan. "I deal a good hand," she wisecracked.

She and her husband, Dave, had been up all night moving an uncle from his home in Forty Fort. On their way back to Dallas they stopped to pick up their son, David, who had asked to come along to the school to help out.

Young Dave said he planned to apply his hours in the kitchen towards his community service requirement for his Eagle Scout award.

Amidst the bantering, Bev called, "You're getting punchy! Go home and get some sleep!" to Bernie Simon, also up all night, helping her daughter in Swyersville.

Sharon and Don Holdredge, Marguerite Fry and Judy Hodakowski rounded out the team of "the Back Mountain Marriott."

Assistant superintendent Dr. Gil Griffiths killed two birds with one stone. He evacuated his wife,



Rushing waters along Lower Demunds Road at ENCON nearly swallowed up the custom duck house that usually sits well off from the stream.

Janey, and son, Barry, to the shelter from their Kingston home, pressing young Barry into service as a security person at the school.

"Gerry Wycallis, Mark Kraynak and I got the staff here at 3 a.m. to fire up the boilers and prepare the buildings," he said. "The Red Cross is using the middle school cafeteria as a staging area for supplies - cots, cleaning materials, bedding and other items. If necessary, we could also use it to house evacuees, as was done in 1972."

Giffiths narrowly missed the Agnes flood, but his wife's father, brother and uncle were in it, he said.

"We don't know when the crest will be or how much damage to expect, so we're prepared to house people here for at least two nights if necessary," he added. "It's the school's response to help the community, all the volunteers have worked hard to accommodate the evacuees' needs - medical, social and humanitarian."

For superintendent Gerald Wycallis, 1996 was a replay of 1972, when he was an elementary school principal in the district.

"That experience was helpful," he said. "The district has a set of disaster plans designed to handle floods, nuclear emergencies at the Berwick plant - just about any-

thing. There aren't too many things we haven't been exposed to."

An important lesson he learned from 1972 was to keep meticulous track of all the supplies the school used, so the Red Cross could reimburse the district for them later.

The district will pay the custodial and food service staff, for which the Red Cross may reimburse it a portion, but the teachers worked as volunteers.

"I think we're pretty well organized," Wycallis said. "There has been tremendous cooperation between the volunteers, staff and the Red Cross. Things have run very smoothly."

Although many others helped, Wycallis listed board members Ernest Ashbridge, Tom Landon and Maureen Banks; business manager Charlotte Williams; buildings and grounds supervisor Mark Kraynak; middle school principal Tony Martinelli; home and school visitor Joan Mackowski; teachers Mary Alice Frederick, Larry Griffin, John Doerfler, Donald Hopkins, Jack Wega and Kathy Wega and students Joel Withers, Kyle Wega, Ricky Davenport, Barry Griffiths, Pat Hagen and Ami Bealla as volunteers.



Shavertown firefighter Matt Pelak took a rare break from a 12-hour shift pumping flood water from residents' basements Friday night.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE



Shavertown assistant fire chief Tony Kaiser added another request for a pumper to a long list at "Command Central" at the fire hall Friday. Firefighters pulled marathon shifts Friday and Saturday pumping out residents' basements after more than two inches of rain and massive snowmelt inundated the area.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE



Shavertown firefighters Jim Sidorek and Joe Yonckik repaired a portable pump Friday night while pulling back-to-back shifts pumping flood waters from people's basements.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Brothers Mercantile

Homemade Kielbasi Fresh or Smoked

Italian Sausage Sweet, Hot

Order Your
SuperBowl
Platters Now!



WEEKLY SPECIALS

Smoked Kielbasi \$2.⁵⁹ lb.

Choose from 4 different SuperBowl
Platter Packages starting at \$18.⁹⁵

Brothers Mercantile

2116 Lower Demunds Rd., Dallas, PA

Call ahead for
speedy pick-up

formerly Moore's Store
675-4647

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 - 9 • Sat. 8-8 • Sun. 8-2

Creating a New Future!

Special Friends Ice Festival featuring the 1996 National Ice Carving Championships is the place to be on February 9, 10 & 11 at Lackawanna County Stadium.

Hosted by the C.A.D. Foundation for Special Children, the event features 3 spectacular ice carving competitions with over 150 sculptures and the fabulous Ice Palace. Plus, plenty of food and merchandise vendors for everyone.

Proceeds raised from the event will be for the benefit of St. Joseph's Center, Scranton. Help create a new future for St. Joseph's Center.

February 9, 10 & 11
Lackawanna
County Stadium



• C.A.D. Foundation for Special Children •
Creating a New Future for St. Joseph's Center

