

Adventure

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A long way from anywhere. Shirley Forney posed by a signpost in Antarctica in January.

better prepared than most, having previously taken a dose of Dramamine." The passengers were forewarned of the turbulence common where the currents of the warmer Pacific and Atlantic Oceans converge with the cold waters of the Southern Seas. Nonetheless, some were caught off guard when they were thrown out of bed at 2 a.m. by the tumultuous waves.

"Not surprisingly," chuckled Shirley, "only about 20 people showed up for lunch that day." And she was one of them.

As Shirley continued her "trip of a lifetime" as she calls it, her perseverance was rewarded. "I saw my first iceberg at about 7 p.m. on January 18," she said. "It was still visible in this portion of the hemisphere, which has almost 24 hours of daylight this time of year."

The passengers had a standing joke about icebergs, Shirley said: "Instead of ice cubes, we had 'bergie bits' in our drinks, ice which was 15,000 years old."

The group was able to make several landings on various Antarctic islands, not always according to itinerary, but rather, when the temperamental waters were accommodating. "Once we even landed before breakfast because the water was good," she said.

Travel to and from the Ioffe was accomplished by using Zodiacs, smaller boats which held 10 people plus a driver. As Shirley explained, the Russian crew taught them the proper footing to get in and out of the vessels, and how to grip each other's wrists in a sailor hold for security. Shirley soon fully realized the value of her investment in a waterproof, windproof parka, waterproof pants, knee-high boots and waterproof gloves.

"I really should get some more use out of all that warm clothing. Maybe Alaska..."

Shirley Forney
Elderhostel adventurer

At their first landing on Half Moon Island, the guests were greeted by delightful chin strap penguins bustling about on the rocky beach and bobbing like porpoises around the boats. However, Shirley was quick to mention, the amusing sight of these cute little guys was overshadowed by the pungent odor of their nesting conditions blanketing the rocky formations comprising the shore line.

The next stop, Deception Island, about three hours away, offered an almost prehistoric atmosphere featuring a caldera, formed by a collapsing volcano summit. The crater, filled with steaming water fueled by Pendulum Cove Hot Springs, offered an unexpected swimming opportunity for those inclined to strip off as much as 17 layers of protective clothing.

As the ship wended its way through the Shetland Islands, the group was awed by the beautiful calm and quiet of Paradise Bay, home of the blue-eyed shag bird. The only thing louder than the vibrant greens of the sparse moss and lichens was the occasional sharp boom of ice cracking off a distant glacier.

"We received briefings from the crew before landings. We were told where we were allowed to go

and what not to do," Shirley said briskly. The expeditioners stepped warily, careful not to destroy any of the precious vegetation surviving on the barren landscape, as they were conducting low-impact tours, leaving the island as much as possible in the condition they found it.

Several of their visits included islands used as scientific research stations manned by the military and their families from various foreign nations. At Frei-Marsh Station, they toured the small Chilean school, church, and gymnasium, which at times during the winter, had to be accessed by a tunnel through the snow. Before departing, the crew generously donated crates of fresh fruits and vegetables to the stationed families who would not see another boat for weeks.

"In between stops," said Shirley, "they kept us busy all the time. We were completely immersed in Antarctica. There were slide shows, lectures, videos and movies on Antarctic explorers, wildlife, birds, and history—even the once great whaling industry."

Some passengers themselves offered interesting entertainment, according to Shirley, who was particularly intrigued by a retired banker turned author. "He wrote a book on the spoils of World War II—including valuable items Americans took out of Europe. His work also covered the former Koningsberg, Germany, now modern Kaliningrad, Russia where the crew is from. That's how it tied into our trip."

One woman from Hawaii gave an impromptu lecture on Charles

Wilkes, one of the lesser known Antarctic explorers.

And yet another tourist sketched pen and ink drawing of various Antarctic landscapes and wildlife which she then sold to the others as a memento of their journey.

Shirley gathered these and other memories for the trip home, as well as her first whale-sighting. "We saw three sperm whales on the way back, closer to Cape Horn. The captain then took us about a mile from Cape Horn, so we could say we saw the famous South American landmark."

Shirley's adventure didn't stop after the ship returned to port. The sisters were able to enjoy a night of Argentinean entertainment while staying Buenos Aires, which included, she said, "a tango show, bolo performers, and mate tea, a typical Argentinean drink served in a decorated hollow gourd."

The next day, before the flight home, they toured an Argentinean ranch where they were served a feast of grilled meats and watched cowboys display their horsemanship skills during the ring races.

As the interview ended, Shirley closed her scrapbook and gathered her souvenirs, glancing over her shoulder toward the closet where her parka and Gore-tex

pants hung forlornly, just waiting to be used again.

"I really should get some more use out of all that warm clothing," she mused, shaking her head. Then her eyes twinkled as she came up with an idea: "Maybe Alaska..." she said with a smile.

The Post has more local news

Scouts find town government tougher than they thought

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — Five Boy Scouts from Troop 693 attended the regular February 20 council meeting to meet a requirement for their Citizen and Community merit badge.

"There's a lot more to running a borough than I thought," said Brian Balla after the meeting.

Ray Honeywell was impressed with the appointment of a second crossing guard for the Lake-Noxen Elementary School, with the wages to be split between the borough and Lake-Lehman school district.

"It's the school's responsibility to help keep the students safe," he said.

"The borough must find ways to be more responsive to the school bus programs," added Matt Hinton.

Tim Balla and Stephen Honeywell were concerned that the Harveys Lake Fire and Ambulance Company needs money to help pay for a used tanker which it recently put into service to replace one damaged in an accident last year.

Councilman George Andrews reported that a recent arson fire which heavily damaged the J. P. Mascaro and Sons recycling center has forced the borough to take its recyclables to Lackawanna County.

All recyclables are now being taken to Lackawanna Recycling in Dickson City while the borough explores other options, Andrews said.

"It takes us half a day just to get them up there and unloaded," he said.

The only other local recycling center is Solomon, which charges \$20 per ton and wants a five-year contract with the borough, which council members said they are reluctant to enter into.

The borough recently received a \$1,592 recycling performance

"There's a lot more to running a borough than I thought."

Brian Balla
Boy Scout, Troop 693

grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Andrews reported. The DEP pays the borough \$5 for every ton of eligible recyclable materials and \$100 for every ton of recyclables it removes from the waste stream.

The council authorized Harveys Lake Fire and Ambulance chief Frank Latinski to work with the borough engineer to get the borough reclassified for fire insurance rates.

"The rates are based on the fire company's ability to bring in enough water to fight the fire, the availability of the lake as a permanent water source and the proximity and performance of the dry hydrants," he said. "We want to help our people save some money on their rates."

In other business, the council authorized the borough engineer to check the ditches on Grandview Ave, which have caused water to run into several residents' yards and homes, and commended the road department for its work during the recent snowfall and flooding.

The council appointed Donna Yackim as a second crossing guard at the Lake-Noxen school at an hourly wage of \$5.51, to be split with the school district, and accepted a bid from Wilson Construction for \$211 to buy the borough's old computer. William Wilson abstained from voting on the computer bid because he owns Wilson Construction.

Codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes announced that all contractors and subcontractors who do work in the borough must obtain permits for \$100.

Borough

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Offset Paperback will be installed this year. "Hopefully it will be completed by the end of the summer or Labor Day," he said.

Roberts also said the police department is co-sponsoring the Officer Phil safety program for kindergarten through second grade students in the Dallas School District. The program teaches children the concepts of safety.

It was also announced that Spring Street will be closed for the following hours due to the Gate of Heaven bazaar: June 21 and 22, 6 to 11 p.m., and June 23, 4 to 9 p.m.

Borough Manager Milton Lutsey reported that he will be meeting with Luzerne County Special Services to determine the need for elm worm spraying. He added that he will "most likely sign a contract" with an aircraft spraying agency.

"The state has not put the borough on the list for gypsy moth spraying," Lutsey said, and neighborhoods will most likely have to coordinate collection efforts themselves if they feel gypsy moth spraying is necessary.

Lutsey also gave credit to council member Ted Wright, who announced that the Dallas Borough Emergency Management Plan had been revised and updated as of January, 1996.

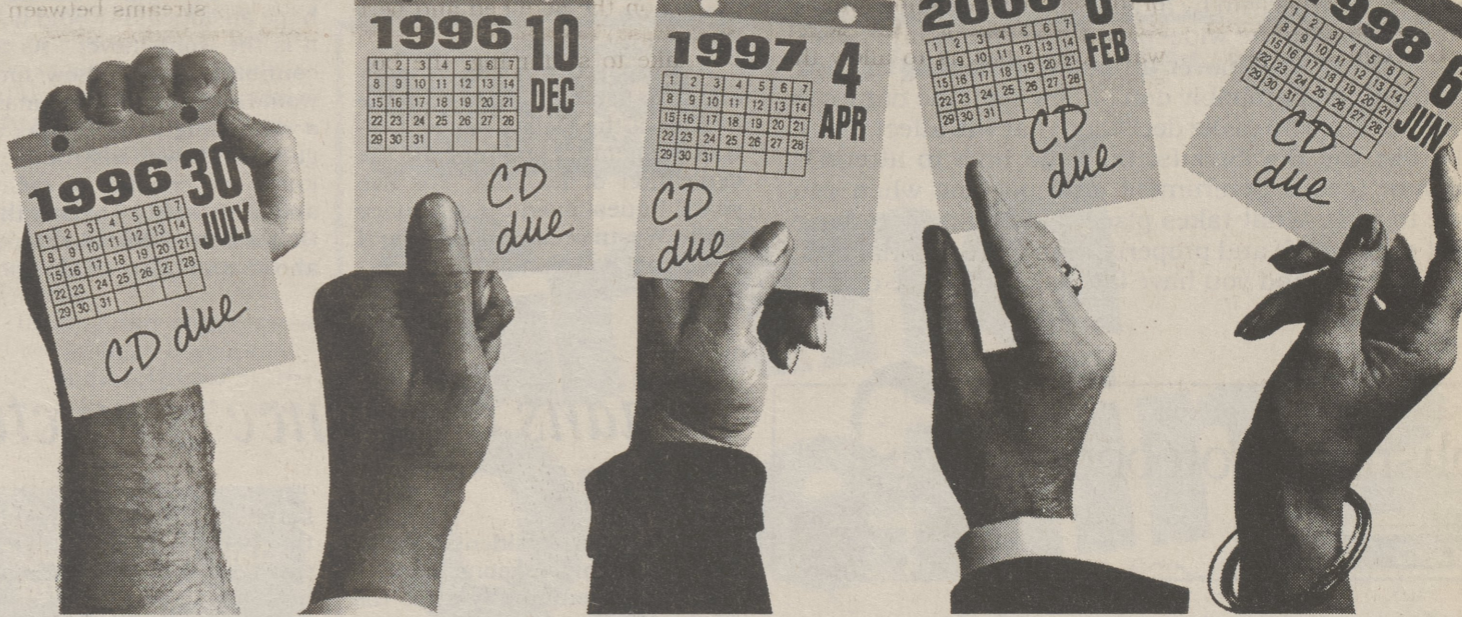
Joe Stec, of Mill St., asked that the creek which runs across the width of his property be dredged to eliminate water which now runs through his back yard. "With the recent flooding, the original creek bed is now filled with stone," he said. Stec added that he had once obtained a permit from DER to put up stone along the sides of the creek bed, but that dredging is not something he can do by himself.

Council president Patricia Peiffer asked Lutsey to contact DER and ask them to come out and look at the situation.

Stec also complained that he has trouble getting out of Mill Street at certain times due to the influx of traffic to the new Wendy's restaurant. He asked council to install a "Do Not Block Intersection" sign, but council refused, saying that must come through the state.

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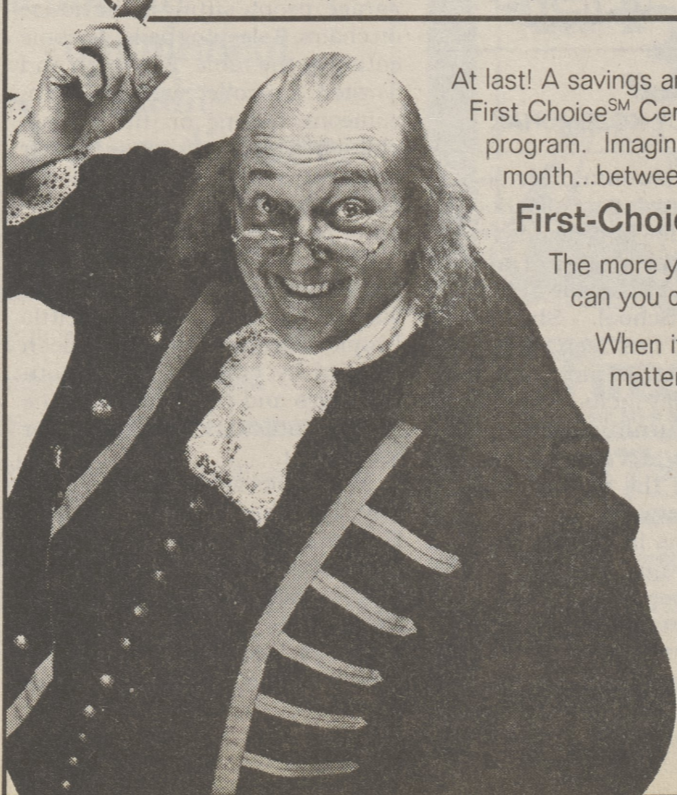


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