

Sight

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no trip - and some grateful thanks to specific organizations, hoping we don't miss any.

He mentioned the Tunkhannock Kiwanis Club, Lake Silkworth Lions Club, Twin Cities Lions Club, East End Primitive Church in Wilkes-Barre, Harveys Lake Lions Club, Wilkes-Barre Lions Club, Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind, Commonwealth Telephone, Gate of Heaven School, Our Lady of Victory Church and Mehoopany Methodist Church.

According to Dr. Goodwin, the hugely successful collection went on during the holiday season, when as he says, "People usually are busy with other things on their minds. It didn't seem to matter. It was an unusual day when we did not have four or five folks dropping off glasses."

Goodwin wishes each donor could see some of the results, particularly in the children. One girl kept looking around her, with and without her new glasses, and marveling out loud about the forest trees and leaves in the wind: "Look! They're moving!" she exclaimed.

"Look! They're moving!"

Young Trinidadian girl
About leaves on the trees, after receiving her glasses

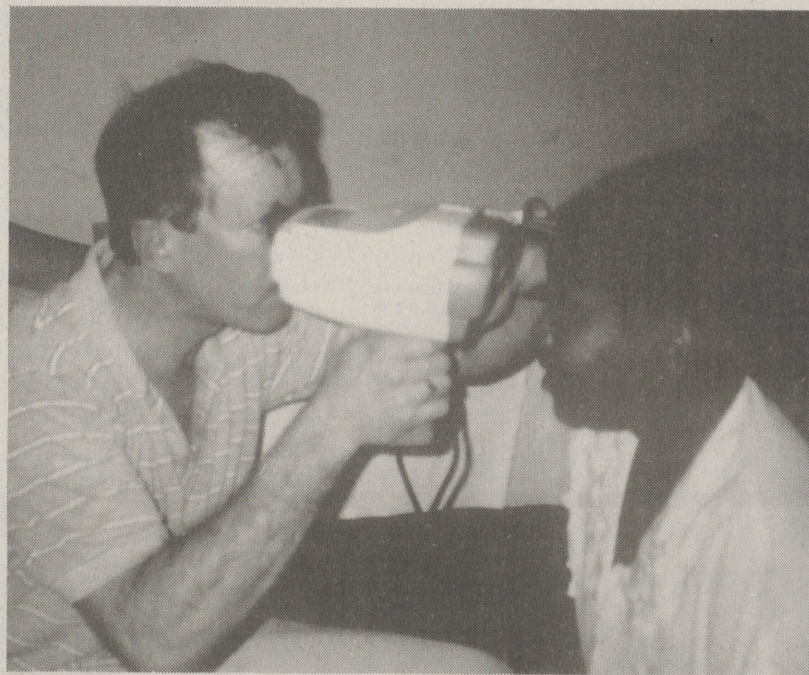


Dr. Curtis Goodwin, along with colleagues, dispensed 3,100 pairs of eyeglasses in Trinidad earlier this year.

He feels there is a long-term benefit buried here, and predicts, "These kids being able to see clearly for the first time are bound to become better educated than they would have been otherwise. They'll get better jobs. The standard of living on that island might even improve, and from just such a simple change."

Recent VOSH trips were to Guatemala, where a team saw over 2,500 people and to Mexico, where three optometrists examined 1,350 patients. But Goodwin's Trinidad trip broke a VOSH record...they saw over 3,100 patients in just six days!

Dr. Goodwin doesn't know where next year's trip is scheduled, but he grins and says, "Doesn't matter. Just don't throw any of your old eyeglasses away. Drop 'em off at the Back Mountain Eye Care Center instead!"



Nikon's "Retinomax" made it possible for Dr. Goodwin to perform eye exams in one step. It was the first time he had used the device.

Lead

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testing.

"We got these readings right at the wellhead," John Hilstolsky said. "Our water system was installed in 1986, but the lead wasn't coming from it."

The highest level in David Hilstolsky's well was .050, which he says has decreased to what DEP calls a safe limit.

His wife was expecting a baby at the time, but luckily the children's lead tests have come back negative, he said. "They know us by heart at the Kirby Health Center," David said. "We take our water there for tests all the time."

He has checked into filter systems for his entire house, which range from \$6,000 to \$10,000, because lead is very easily absorbed into the body through the skin.

"You can get lead poisoning just by taking a bath," he said.

Neighbor Gene Monahan, who lives across the street from the brothers at Crown Hill, had the highest lead reading—a whopping .065—when his well, also 200 feet deep, was tested in mid-February.

Lead is only one of his water woes. The day his daughter was born four years ago he spent \$650 on an ultraviolet system to kill high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria which had found their way into his well from nearby septic systems.

"We buy more than 10 gallons of bottled water every week at 79¢ a gallon and get more from a friend," Monahan said. "We also take very short showers and are very careful when bathing the

"It's strange - it may be geological. High levels of lead in well water are very rare."

Larry Pawlush
DEP official

children. We don't want to take any chances."

The lead levels can fluctuate from day to day, he added. The highest readings occur when the water table is low due to a lack of rainfall. When the water table is high from heavy rainfall, the lead levels decrease, he said.

Oddly enough, Ed Paluski, who lives behind Monahan, has had safe lead test readings from two tests.

"It travels pretty funny up here," he said.

Like Monahan, he also has an ultraviolet filter on his home water system to remove fecal coliform bacteria.

Although the Hilstolskys wondered if the shooting range at the old Carverton Gun Club on the Coon farm might be the culprit, Pawlush doubts it.

Believing the cause to possibly be in the area's underlying rocks, he plans to discuss the situation with DEP geologists.

The club, which operated for 35 years until it was disbanded in 1981, had a trap shooting range about 700 yards from David Hilstolsky's well.

Bugs

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the southern part of the state, working their way north to Luzerne County as the leaves mature and more caterpillars hatch."

The trick to spraying is catching both leaves and caterpillars at the right stage of development, he added. The little pests must be no larger than 1/4 inch long for the spray to kill them. The pesticide of choice is Bt, a bacteria fatal to gypsy moths, both species of tent caterpillars, the fall cankerworm and the elm spanworm but relatively harmless to other bugs.

It's easy to spot the differences between the five types of forest pests expected this summer, Rugletic said. While the gypsy moth and both species of tent caterpillar are large and fuzzy, the gypsy moth has a row of orange dots running down its back and hairs which can give people handling it a nasty rash. The relatively innocuous Eastern tent caterpillar has one white stripe down its back, while the forest tent caterpillar sports a row of white dots on its back and green and bluish spots on its sides. The light green elm spanworm and the light brown fall cankerworm, both hairless, resemble inchworms.

Fortunately for both the trees and the homeowners, the elm spanworm infestation collapsed

last year, according to Department of Conservation and Natural Resources press secretary Gretchen Leslie.

"They hit a peak in 1993 and 1994," she said. "Since the elm spanworm follows a 10-year cycle, we should begin to see a dramatic increase in another eight years."

Basically the little pests ate themselves out of business, Leslie said. The population became so large that the caterpillars' immune systems were weakened, making them easy prey for diseases. Natural predators - other bugs and birds which have developed a taste for the native species - did the rest of the work.

Rugletic's office was flooded with "thousands of telephone calls" late last year after he offered information to landowners interested in hiring a contractor to spray their properties this spring.

The state will pay about \$1.7 million to spray more than 85,400 acres in Pennsylvania for caterpillars. Locally, 3,299 acres in the county, mostly west of the Susquehanna River, will be sprayed to control the gypsy moth and an additional 637 acres in and around Ricketts Glen State Park will be sprayed for the fall cankerworm, according to DCNR records.

Towns slate spring cleanups

Area municipalities have scheduled their spring clean-ups to be held May 6-11. In **Kingston Township** the site will be the maintenance garage on East Center Street, Shavertown, Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents with full size vans, pick-up trucks and trucks larger than a regular pick-up truck be will be required to obtain an admission coupon from the municipal building, Mon. through Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Coupons for the full size vans and pick-up trucks are free of charge and are limited to one per township residence. Coupons for trucks larger than pick-up trucks, such as U-Haul vans, small dump trucks and stake body trucks, are available for a fee of \$85. Proof of residency such as a tax bill or drivers license is required to receive a coupon.

Washers, dryers, furnaces, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters or other large appliances, household garbage, recyclable materials, commercial construction debris, or medical wastes will not be accepted. Tires are limited to two per residence. No toxic substances such as paint, solvents, fertilizers or automotive fluids will be accepted.

Residents with passenger cars or other vehicles not described above must show proof of residency to police officers on duty at the entrance to the clean-up. Police officers will also collect the admission coupons at the entrance.

For more information call the Kingston Township Municipal Office at 696-3809.

In **Dallas Township**, the site will be behind the municipal building, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Proof of Dallas Twp. residency is required at time of drop off. There will be a service charge of \$5 for large items such as carpets, overstuffed chairs, couches, dressers, stoves, washers, dryers, TV's, refrigerators, water heaters, tanks, freezers etc.

There is charge for tires: \$2 each, only two per household allowed. There will also be a charge for the following type vehicle loads: pickups with 8 ft. boxes, \$20; pickups with 6 ft. boxes \$15; mini pick-ups \$15 and tag-a-long trailers \$20. Larger trucks will be charged according to size.

The following items will not be accepted for disposal: hazardous wastes, chemicals, brush, tree stumps, cinder blocks, animal or human waste, shingles, sheet rock or other building materials, leaves, grass, garbage or newspapers.

In **Dallas Borough**, the collection site will be behind the Borough garage, 25 Main St., between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proof of residency is required.

Acceptable items will include washers, dryers, stoves, water heaters, refrigerators and air conditioners without freon in cooling systems. There will be a charge of \$10 for all "white appliances" brought to the collection site. A \$5 fee will be charged for mattresses and box springs.

Tires off the rims will be accepted at \$2 each. Residents unable to bring large appliances to the site may make arrangements to have a curb side pick up by the Public Works Department by calling the office no later than noon May 7.

Residents with more than one pick up truck full of items will be charged \$15 a load.

Items not acceptable include garbage, yard waste, toxic materials, asbestos, construction debris, paint in cans, sealed containers, batteries and ashes.

Residents having any questions may contact the Borough Office at 675-1389, 9 a.m. to noon weekdays.

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