

Local families, volunteers will serve others for Thanksgiving

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - Attention all widows, widowers, out-of-towners, whatever: Are you dreading the forthcoming Thanksgiving Holiday? You just don't like to eat alone, do you?

Or, if none of the above, maybe you are dreading it because you just don't want to cook that day, do you? Well, take heart, here is a solution to your dilemma ... call 822-6817 and reserve your space at a free Thanksgiving Day dinner!

Impossible you say. Well, per-

haps, since there is a hat passed into which everyone drops a contribution; they call it a freewill offering. But the fellowship is free. And the giblet gravy is homemade and out of this world. Plus, you'll find it will get to be a habit ... many attendees are repeaters, year after year. But newcomers are welcome also.

To end the suspense: That number is for the First United Methodist Church at 47 North Franklin Street in Wilkes-Barre, and the dinner bears the lengthy handle of "Naylor-Lemmond Memorial Committee Thanksgiving Day Dinner."

Two of the persons being memorialized you will surely recognize ... they are Ruth and Charles Lemmond Sr., mother and father of Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr. of Lehman Avenue in Dallas.

The Naylor is Ben Naylor, born and raised in Springfield, Mass., and the father of Shawn Murphy, who is Executive Assistant to Senator Lemmond. Shawn started this amazing series of dinners in 1974 with the help of a friend, Sister Barbara Craig of Sisters of Mercy. She says, "I remember the first dinner very well. We served about 70 people, didn't know how to work the dishwasher, had to do

More recent dinners have grown to include well over 100 guests; last year's had 16 tables of eight each, plus a crew of 50 volunteers who start preparations the day before. Shawn adds, "I might also mention that the Luzerne County Transportation Management furnishes three vans with drivers who pick up those who cannot drive themselves. We get the best cooperation from everyone. CEO supplies the food, St. Stephen's Rector contributes, and we must be doing something right because this will be our 22nd year!"

Murphy can recall only one major glitch. In 1986 the church

was in the process of bagging and delivering food bank orders, and CEO delivered six 23-pound dinner turkeys, right into the food bank chaos. She says, "I could not believe it, our turkeys came in and went out. That's when I got my first grey hair!"

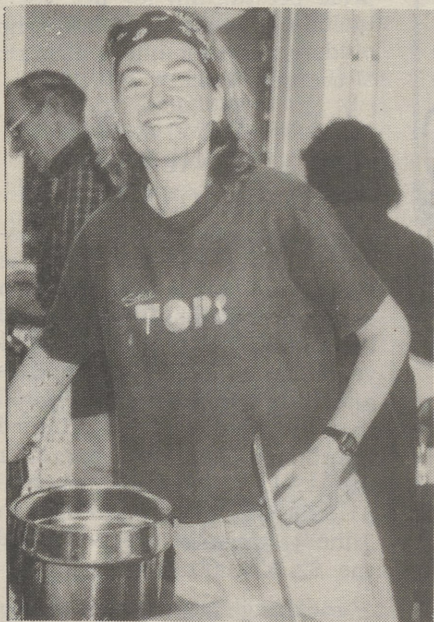
Shawn, not the Irish lady you would think, is actually Finnish. Hubby John is Dean of Students at Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus. There are three Murphy daughters: Katelyn in Atlanta, Jennifer in Colorado, and Brennan, a student at Penn State. The Murphys live on Lehman Avenue in Dallas.

Murphy, a former Dallas Post news editor in 1972, insists again her giblet gravy is outstanding.

That memorial dinner just might run out of seats.

If you'd like to help

Volunteers are needed from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Wed., Nov. 27 to help set up and prepare food. If you want to volunteer for that or to cook or serve Thursday, Shawn Murphy asks that you call in advance so volunteers can be scheduled properly. The number is 822-6817.



Dr. Lynda Goldstein, a Penn State Wilkes-Barre professor, obviously enjoying the day.



All for all. Preparing for last year's dinner, from left, John Murphy, Robert Mastromatteo, Eddie Kile and Charles (Chuck) Lemmond.



Dr. David Fields and his wife, Jean, with children Patrick and Christina, ready to serve. They're from Shavertown.

Ashbridge honored

Long-term school directors were honored by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association at the recent joint educational conference of PSBA and the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators held in Pittsburgh. The 139 board members, ranging in years of service from 10 to 35, were recognized October 6.

Ernest Ashbridge, Jr., a member of the Dallas School District school board, received recognition for 25 years of service. He was presented a plaque adding him to the PSBA "Honor Roll of School Board Service."

Diana Emery presents project

Diana Emery of Dallas, a senior psychology major, presented a project at the Franklin & Marshall College Research Fair.

Emery's project, presented along with Bill Bergmann '98, was titled "Eysenck Gray and Newman: A Comparative Study of the Fundamental Dimension of Personality."

A 1993 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, Emery is the daughter of Robert and Barbara Emery of Dallas.

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