

## A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

On the back of our Buick there is a bumper sticker which reads "No Farms; No Food." Rarely has a bumper sticker generated as much interest in those who have seen it. The American Farmland Trust has captured an essential truth in those four words. And, you do not have to have an advanced degree to figure out what it means. You just have to take it in and give it a little thought.

As I have pondered those simple words, I have come to the conclusion that "No Farms; No Food" is the most basic lesson in environmental education. We all must eat to survive. So, knowing where our food comes from and how it arrives on our plates is more than an intellectual exercise — it is, ultimately, understanding how we fit into the global ecology.

A meteorology professor I once knew realized this truth. He used to teach a summer class for children. Did he begin by demonstrating the formation of clouds or by showing videos of tornadoes? No, he began by squeezing orange juice. You see, he knew that natural phenomena would not be understandable to kids who thought that orange juice came out of a carton that was bought at the supermarket.

Yesterday I boiled a whole bunch of apples down to three pints of apple butter. These were not just any apples — they came from a tree in our back yard which

## No farms, no food

we have tended carefully ever since my father-in-law gave it to us in the early '80s. We put compost around it every few years, prune it every winter, thin the fruit when it needs it, and worry a lot about insects. Sure, it's easier to go to the store to buy apple butter; but, then I wouldn't get to listen to the gentle "plop, plop" of simmering sauce, smell the cinnamon-flavored steam, and generally have the satisfaction of knowing exactly where the final product came from. And, it tastes SO good.

Do your children think that bagels come from the deli? Pizza or waffles from the freezer? Lettuce and lemons from the produce section of the grocery? You might be surprised. Do they really understand that the flour out of which a slice of bread is made comes from wheat grown on the plains? Do they (or you) know that a field of canola is a brilliant yellow before it becomes oil in a bottle?

Before you assume that it is only children that need to be reminded of the "No Farms; No Food" truth, let me tell you the real reason that I felt the need to write this article. Last weekend, my husband and I joined most of the other residents of this region in going for a nice drive to see the beautiful fall leaves. Not too far north of here, we got "stuck" in a line of traffic behind a tractor pulling a large wagon filled with silage. At the first available passing zone, cars began whizzing around the tractor, and the first one had the nerve to honk at the driver. We were amazed at this display of rudeness and ignorance. Where did the irritated motorist think his lunch was coming from?

Yes, we all need to be reminded of basic truths occasionally. And,

there are few that are more basic than "No Farms; No Food." It is true if you are a meat-and-potatoes person or a vegetarian. It is true if you are rich or poor. It is true if you grow most of your food yourself or buy it from a store. Once we come to recognize this truth, then we can begin to learn other environmental lessons. Things like soil conservation, air pollution, hazardous wastes, biodiversity, and tree planting strategies begin to make sense. But, if we insist on thinking that we are somehow disconnected from the earth, we will never truly grapple with any of these other problems.

I remember in the '60s when people were first contemplating space travel that there were articles in magazines showing futuristic dinner plates with only a few pills on them. Not only were these unrealistic at the time, they gave a false sense of who we as human beings are. Animals need more than vitamins and minerals which might be provided by technology. We need the fiber from vegetables and fruits. We need the protein from ice cream and chicken. We need the calories provided by sugars and starches that come from grains and other farm products.

Therefore, I challenge all of us to reconnect with the earth. Let's not just gobble down dinner. Let's think seriously about where it came from and about those who grew it and brought it to us. And, the next time we have a chance, let's make our own pizza dough or apple sauce. Simple actions may serve to remind us of our roots in the land and give us an appreciation of deeper ecological connections.

"No Farms; No Food."

## Scholars

(continued from page 1)

Michael Casey, who lives in Hunlock Creek, has decided to apply to many different schools including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton. This year's senior class president, Michael is not sure just what his major will be at college, but his sense of business tells him that courses in computer science and business classes will be useful in whatever area he decides upon. Michael has already distinguished himself by winning a scholarship to The Pennsylvania Governor's School, a five-week course in International Studies held at The University of Pittsburgh. While there, Michael learned to speak Japanese and took a field trip to visit several businesses in Washington, D.C.

Having already passed basic courses in economics at Wilkes University in the Young Scholar's Program, Michael feels he would like to pursue a career having to do with economics. "I took the courses full of theory that were kind of boring," explains Michael. "Now I'd really like to major in economics at M.I.T. and have some really exciting classes."

Until then, Michael finds excitement in school theater productions. As a member of the freshman class at Lehman, he was cast in the part of Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*. "It's fun to be a little evil once in a while," he said with a laugh. This sense of humor also landed him the role of Professor Kokintz in *The Mouse That Roared*, a production staged in Michael's junior year. "I really enjoyed being the eccentric, nutty scientist," said the student of many talents who says he doesn't know what play he'll be working on this year.

Although he admits he is "not much of an athlete," Michael doesn't mind lending his support to the team by serving as a prop manager with the band. "The prop managers are responsible for the making sure the band sets up in its correct formation," he says. "I

guess you could call me a roadie of sorts." While learning the importance of being a "team player," His job with the band and the activities he participates in have given Michael a keen sense of humor. "A person needs to have a sense of humor in this world," he says. "Otherwise you'll go nuts — like that nutty scientist!"

Science, chemical science to be exact, is on the mind of Ryan Mahle of Pikes Creek. As a Merit Scholarship Commended Stu-

*"It serves as an indicator to colleges that these students are among the best."*

John Oliver  
Lake-Lehman HS principal

dent, Ryan has his sights focused on going to Penn State or Lehigh University for engineering. Also a member of the Young Scholar's program at Wilkes, Ryan enjoys working with math and chemicals. "It's a love I've had for a long while," he said. When not experimenting in the chemistry lab, Ryan finds enjoyment playing the trombone with the Lehman band. "Being in the band for the last six years has taught me leadership and time management skills and has taught me the importance of responsibility."

Samuel "Dusty" Rhodes feels responsible for the future generation of students at Lehman and spends time tutoring young scientists in chemistry at the elementary level. This young man, who has compiled a list of about 10 schools he's interested in attending, wants to study at a liberal arts school and may be thinking about becoming a teacher. President of the band, Dusty has fun playing the trumpet as well as several sports including soccer, basketball and volleyball. A mem-

ber of the National Honor Society who also took classes at Wilkes University and Penn State, Dusty is described by his mom as "being interested and wanting to do well in everything he does."

Joann White of Harvey's Lake is also interested in many different things but right now, her mind is on field hockey. "I'm not really sure just yet what I want to do in school or where I want to go," she admits. "But one thing's for sure; wherever I go, I want to be able to continue playing hockey." Joann has been the Lehman goal keeper since the seventh grade and her passion for the game can be heard in her voice.

"I've been thinking about applying to schools that have good field hockey programs like William and Mary in Virginia or Brown in Rhode Island. I definitely want to get out of the state and see some of the rest of the world." And she's hoping her love of hockey along with her ability in science gets her there. "Maybe I'll get into a pre-med program, something having to do with the sciences, biology in particular," she muses. But for right now, visits to college campuses will have to wait until hockey season is over. "Hockey players get called to campuses for official visits so I'll wait for them to call on me," says Joann, who plans to take along several tapes she is making of her on-field abilities. "As long as I get to play," she says. "That's all that's important right now."

Joann also is a member of the track team and has run both the half mile and has been part of the two-mile relay team. She also tutors second graders in Spanish and is treasurer of the Student Council.

Principal Oliver knows the significance of these scores is important to the students and to the school district. "These academic awards bring honor and distinction to the students and to our school district," he said. "I am very proud of them all."

## Lehman

(continued from page 1)

Idetown Fire Company. She told the supervisors she received a letter two months ago from the Harveys Lake Fire Company informing Idetown Fire Co. that if they hooked up to dry hydrants within the borough, they will be treated as criminals.

"They said we'd be charged with criminal mischief," said Wentzel, who wanted to inform the board

*"It's a crime."*

Doug Ide  
Lehman Twp. roadmaster

before her scheduled meeting with the Back Mountain Fire & Ambulance Association. Wentzel said the borough owns the fire hydrants, the fire company does not. Also, the board received a six

page answer to the 18 questions they asked Luzerne County Emergency Services Department concerning the new enhanced 911 countywide system.

David Sutton, chairman of the board, said the correspondence answered all of their questions to satisfaction.

Lehman Township meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

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## 'White' recyclable pick-up October 25

Harveys Lake Borough announces there will be a Special Dumpster available on Sat., Oct. 25, for the collection of "white" recyclables. These white items include refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, hot water heaters.

In addition to these metal products, the borough will also take all other types of household items. The dumpster is at the borough garage, West Point Avenue, across from the Lake Noxen Elementary School and is open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This special dumpster and the regular dumpster will be available for October and November only and then will be closed until spring.

If there are any questions concerning what items are acceptable, please call either the borough garage at 639-2070 or the borough office at 639-2113.

## Coming to Your Neighborhood!



Help Us  
Help  
Others

For Pick-Up Call  
823-4191

The Salvation Army Truck Pick Up Service has made special arrangements for the stationing of a truck at the Pendragon Shopping Plaza (Formerly Isaacs GMC), Rt. 309, Trucksville on Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

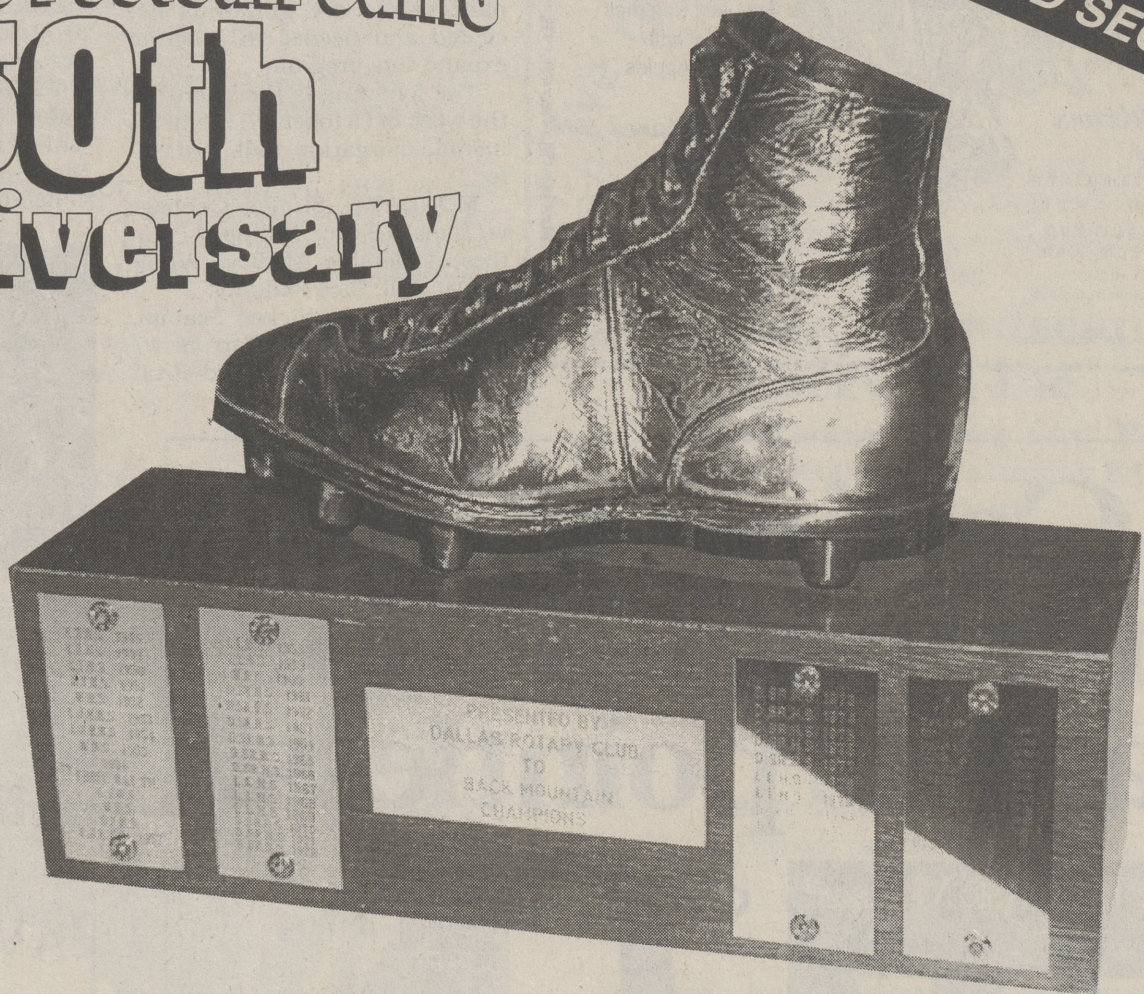
**Donations  
of Clothing, Shoes and  
Household Items are needed  
and appreciated very much!**

• Tax Receipts are Available •

All Donations Help Support  
The Salvation Army Adult  
Rehabilitation Center

Help Us Help Others

## Old Shoe Football Game 50th Anniversary



SPECIAL  
TABLOID SECTION

It's always a big game when Dallas and Lake-Lehman meet to play for the coveted "Old Shoe" trophy. This year's game is even more special — it's the 50th time the trophy will be up for grabs, and both teams will want to come out on top.

More important, the entire Back Mountain will get together to celebrate this sports milestone, and The Dallas Post — which has covered the schools and the game from the beginning — will produce a *special tabloid commemorative section*.

We'll have capsule descriptions of each game, photos, and interviews with the people who started the tradition, and who have participated in it over the years.

Your ad in this section will be especially well read because of the intense interest in this event. Don't miss out — we can help you make a special ad for this special occasion.

Call 675-5211 today to reserve your space!

Publication Date: Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Ad Deadline: Friday, October 24, 1997

The Dallas Post

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