

'The Gift'

(continued from page 1)

until the week of the play, our men are here at the church working on the outdoor set," said Pastor Miller. "Now we're down to the final days and we need to be done in time for our dress rehearsal." That's why a final plea for yet more volunteers was heard in church this Sunday. Help was needed to construct the bleachers to accommodate the ever-growing audience that comes to view the spectacle, which includes live animals.

Scaffolding for lighting must also be constructed. Dan Suda, a veteran volunteer in charge of sound and lighting, says there is still much work to be done, including laying about 5,000 feet of wiring. It hasn't been easy for his crew since the wiring tends to stiffen in the cold, making it hard to work with.

"We had between 75 and 100 lights to hang this week and that doesn't include the spot lights," said Suda. "But we started this project over a month ago and now we're at the final part of our work."

The men have worked extra hard this year to make the play more enjoyable for the crowds of people who have braved the cold weather to see the play over the last five years. "Some people told

us that they were unable to see the play from folding chairs and so we decided to construct the bleachers so everyone can have a good view. We also have new staging this year and that should make the whole play more exciting for the audience," Suda said.

And for the people who told him they had not come prepared for an outdoor play? Pastor Dan has the remedy. "It's cold up here on the hill, so make sure you come bundled up for the cold," he said. "We want people to enjoy themselves and stay for the entire performance."

To make sure no one goes home hungry, there will be homemade cookies and hot chocolate served by the ladies of the church. This is the fifth year for the performance that has wowed audiences year after year. The Back Mountain Harvest Assembly invites everyone to come out and join them this weekend as they celebrate "The Gift," starting Friday evening at 7 p.m. with encore performances given on Saturday and Sunday evening. "The Gift" is free to the public.

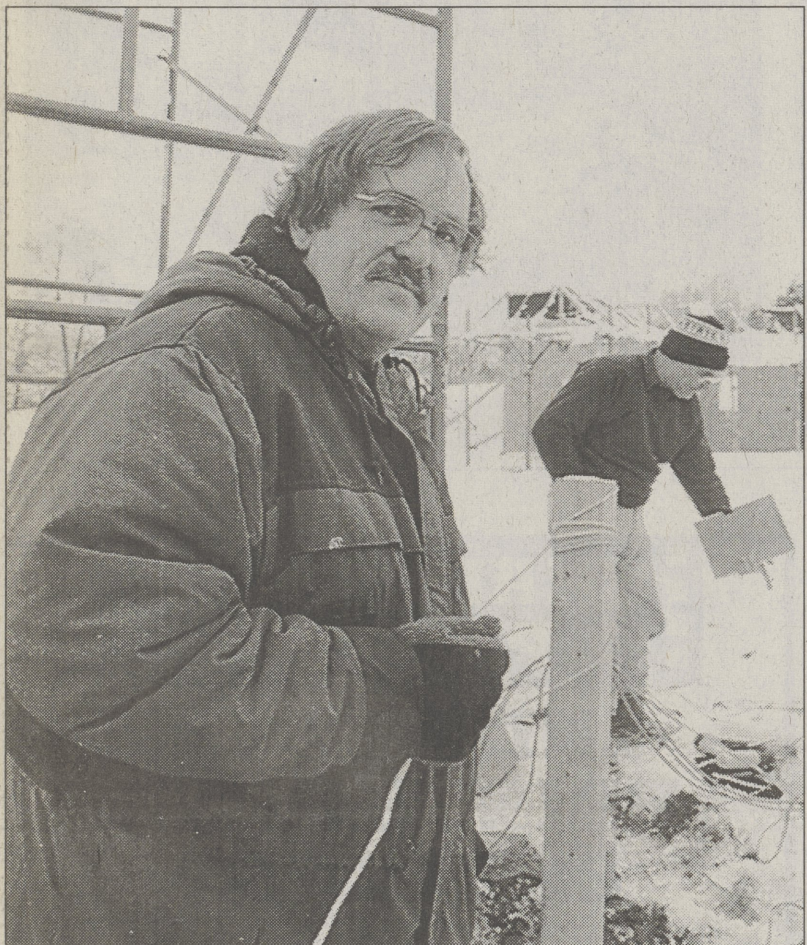
"Christ gave us the greatest gift of all. He gave us the gift of salvation and we want to spread this good news throughout the whole community," said Pastor Miller.



Dr. Fred Bloom checks out Chuck Ryan of Lehman. Ryan is at the clinic to earn his medicine merit badge for Troop 241.



Volunteering their skills and time for local residents, Atty. Bernard Walter and Dr. Fred Bloom at St. Therese's Church. A free medical and legal clinic is held every Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Jerry Grady, Sweet Valley, was among dozens of volunteers who helped set up for "The Gift," which will be presented this weekend.

Free advice

(continued from page 1)

The clinic is not designed to handle pending litigation or to undertake actual representation beyond what is done on Friday evenings.

Walter has a laptop computer complete with printer and modem for communication to Lexis/Nexis, an on-line legal research facility accessed through a telephone line. He compares Lexis/Nexis to the law library at Harvard.

Walter, who is originally from San Francisco, moved to the area in 1994. His wife is the former Roberta Costello of Dallas, who owned Mr. B's ladies clothing boutique in Dallas, Edwardsville, Scranton and Tunkhannock.

He graduated from the University of California in San Francisco in 1978 and is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania, Nevada, California and before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has law offices in San Francisco, Las Vegas and here in Dallas, specializing in business law.

At times he cannot make the

Friday clinic due to business on the West Coast. Walter said he would like to get other attorneys to donate their time at the clinic.

Walter sees similarities between the medical clinic and his legal clinic. "The practice of law can be a healing profession. The physicians working in a clinic address physical wounds of their patients while the lawyer deals with psychological wounds, financial damage and ruptures in business and personal relationships," he said. "Ideally the result of a lawyer's work will be to restore health and vitality to business and personal relationships even though associations between people naturally change over time."

Anyone can seek help at the Back Mountain Free Medical and Legal Clinic on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The clinics are held in the basement of St. Therese's Church on the corner of Pioneer and Davis Streets. No appointment is necessary.

Hillside Farms

(continued from page 1)

installed in 1985. "When we opened the store there were 280 milk processing plants and stores in Pennsylvania, now there are maybe 35," said Conyngham. The store sells ice cream, milk and grocery items. There is also a gift shop inside and fresh flower bouquets for sale.

Faye Broody of Jackson Township has been coming to the store since it opened. "It's close and convenient. I like to argue with him," she said, pointing at Conyngham with a smirk.

Colatosti said there are many

"It's close and convenient. I like to argue with him."

Faye Broody
Jackson Twp.


people who have been coming back to the store entire time.

Sheila Carsman, also a 20 year customer from Jackson Township, summed it up when she said, "They have good ice cream and good milk."

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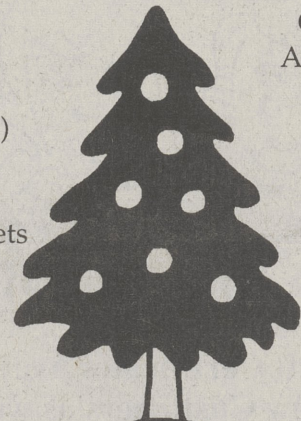
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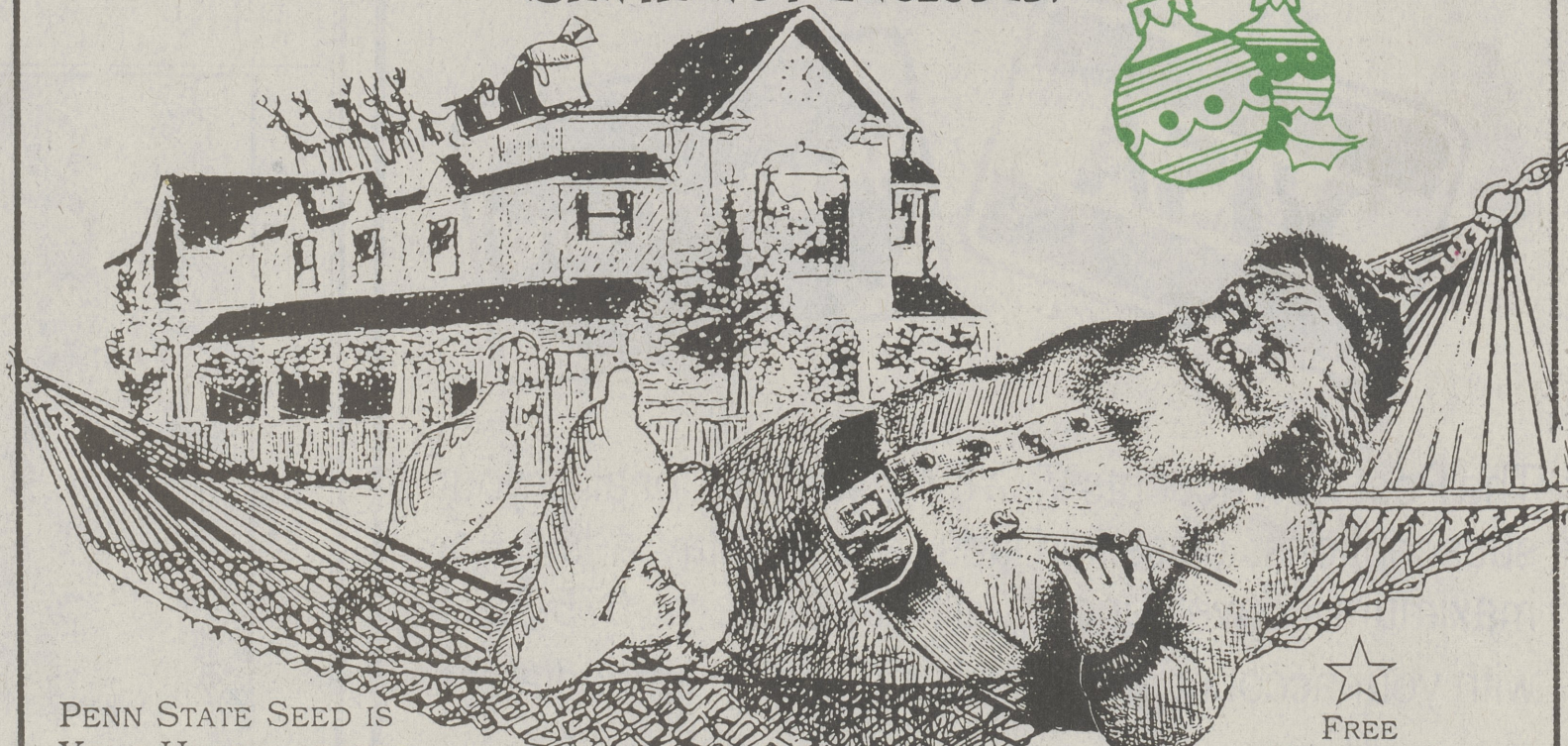
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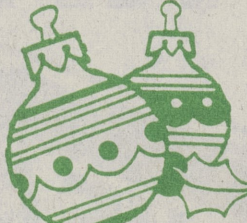
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