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Letters to Santa show freshness, innocence

The following letters to Santa were provided by elementary school teachers in Dallas and Lak-Lehman schools

Ross Elementary K-1

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas.
Love, Sarah Hauze
(See pg 7)

Dear Santa,
I want a bear for Christmas.
Love, Shawn Scott

Ross Elementary K-2

Dear Santa,
I want a ball for Christmas.
Love, Katlin Mininger

Dear Santa,
I want a Giga pet for Christmas.
Love, Jessica Letteer

Dear Santa,
I want a bear for Christmas.
Love, Shauni Scott

Dear Santa,
I want a Giga pet for Christmas.
Love, Joshua Pearson

Dear Santa,
I want a giga pet for Christmas.
Love, Justin Hossage

Dear Santa,
I want a truck for Christmas.
Love, Daniel Rood

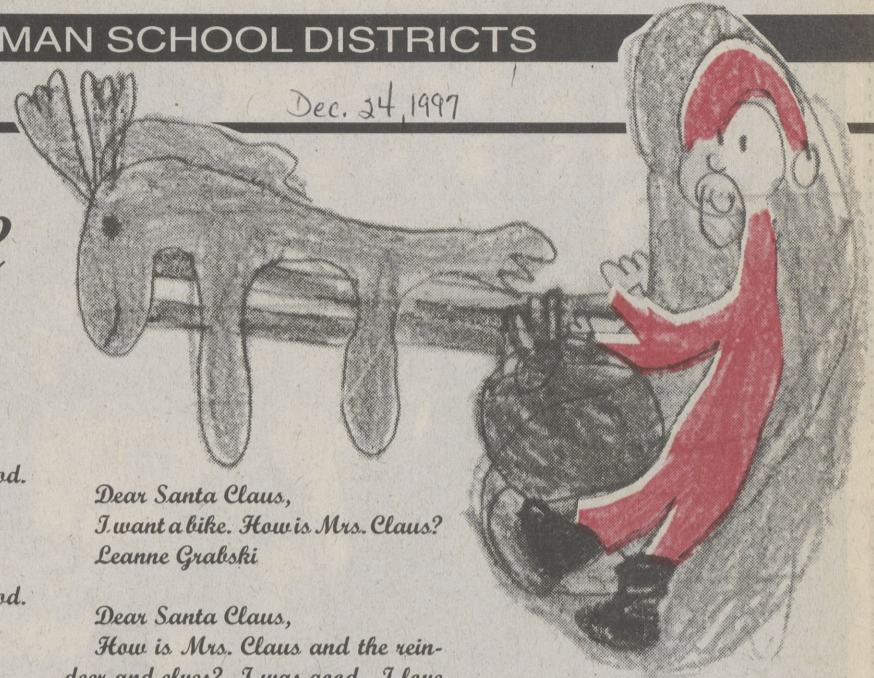
Dear Santa,
I want a game for Christmas.
Love, Angel Milazzo

Ross Elementary 1st grade

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus,
How are the reindeer? I was good.
Joshua Brucheeer

Dear Santa Claus,
Christmas is fun. I was good.
How is Mrs. Claus? I love you.
Greg Grablewski

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Mrs. Claus?
Amy Wagner



Dear Santa Claus,
I want a bike. How is Mrs. Claus?
Leanne Grabski

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer and elves? I was good. I love Santa Claus.
Love, Douglas

Continued on page 6

Margo Aideais
2nd Grade
Westmoreland Elementary

Santa's shop spotted at North Pole

Former BMT resident Paul Gregory says he's seen it, full of gifts

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

NORTH POLE - The home of Santa Claus has been discovered. Earlier this week, Dallas Post special correspondent Paul Gregory confirmed that Santa's house is indeed at the North Pole.

The house is large, well lit and contains many, many gifts. Reindeer can be seen feeding in the side yard right next to the huge sign that reads, "Santa's House Gift Shop."

Gregory, 28, who is originally from Trucksville, moved to Alaska 10 years ago with the Air Force and fell in love with the Alaskan way of life.

"I love the winter here," said Gregory who is an actual mountaineer for fun. He was a Dallas Mountaineer for only one year before moving to Benton to finish high school.

Gregory's mailing address is North Pole, Alaska, which is approximately 15 miles south of Fairbanks. "They were trying to get a toy company to move here," he explained as the reason for the town's name. He doesn't remember the town's original name.

In an effort to keep up with what's going on at home, Gregory has maintained a subscription to *The Dallas Post* for the last few years. "I just like to hear news from back home. It's mostly my friend's kids whose names I recognize. Every once in a while I

See NORTH POLE, pg 10



ALL I WANT..

Robbie Coscia of Shavertown told Santa what is on his Christmas list when the Jolly Old Elf visited the Trucksville Fire Hall Saturday (top photo). At right, Matthew Ralph tried his hand on one of the fire trucks. Santa also made stops at Commonwealth Telephone and the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post. Photos on pages 2, 3 and 10.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Found in yard, 1935 class ring is long-distance gift

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

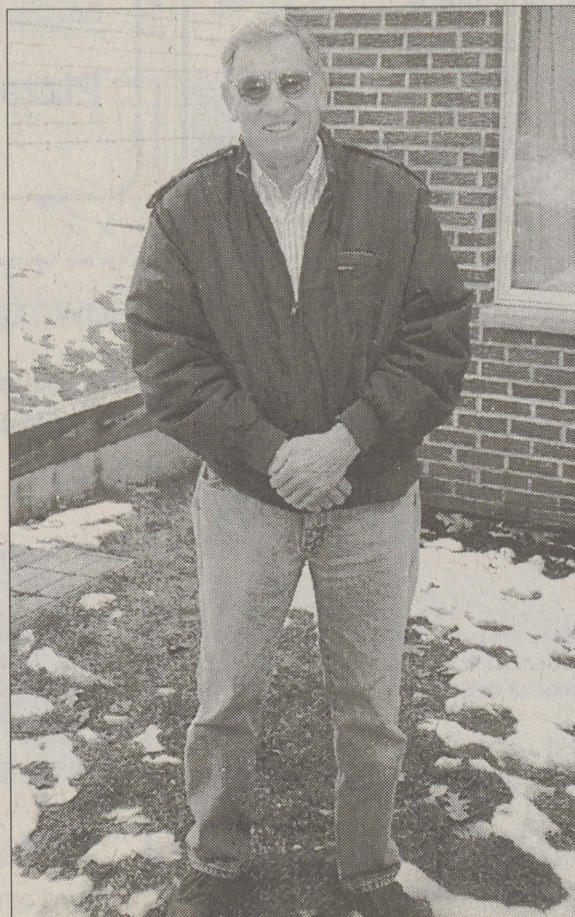
TRUCKSVILLE - When one of Bernard Jones's little granddaughters found a class ring in his front yard on Rice St., he knew he wanted to return it to its rightful owner. He didn't know it would take 10 years.

Last week both Jones and Virginia Turney, the former Virginia Wells of Trucksville, got a nice surprise in time for Christmas. After 10 years of searching, Jones attained Turney's address in California and sent her back the Kingston Twp. High School class ring from 1935.

Jones now has a 10 year weight off his shoulders and is thrilled to know Turney finally got her ring back. "I thought it was great since I was trying for such a long time to get it back to her," he said. "I had no way to know where she was. I just happened to hit it lucky."

Whether it was luck or intuition, Jones had a feeling about an older woman he knew to live in Trucksville when he saw her at the grocery store.

See RING, pg 10



Bernard Jones stood in the yard where he found a 1935 class ring belonging to the former Virginia Wells.

Niskey is man on a mission against injuries from burns

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Jay Niskey, 59, would love to hear that the local burn unit closed down due to a lack of patients. But, until that dream is realized he works with The Burn Prevention Foundation (BPF) as its chairman on the board of directors to help educate people on prevention.

The Dallas resident experienced a grease burn 20 years ago during a kitchen fire in his church. One arm, a hand and the side of his face were burned. "I was treated very well. There is little scarring," he said of his treatment. "I have never forgotten the excruciating pain or the remarkable caring that medical people provided me during this most painful period of my life. It doesn't have to be this way... there are ways to educate children and the public to eliminate the unintentional incidents that result in severe burns," he wrote

in a BPF flyer.

Niskey said the majority of burns occur with infants, toddlers, elementary-age children and senior citizens. Scaldings with hot liquid, hot pans, grease, chemical burns and fires are the most common ways people are burned.

The 15-year-old organization serves 20 counties in Northeast Pennsylvania. BPF offices are in Allentown and it is associated with many burn units including the Lehigh Valley Hospital, where severe cases are treated.

Dan Dillard, BPF executive director, said between 120 and 130 devastating burn injuries are treated at Lehigh Valley Hospital every year. He estimates that one



JAY NISKEY

See NISKEY, pg 2

16 years steady, taxes rise 50% in '98

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. - After 16 years at six mills, taxes in Dallas Township will increase to nine mills in 1998. The board of supervisors unanimously voted in the \$1.5 million budget at its regular meeting Dec. 16.

"The increase is for the police department and road work. General expenses have gone up, everything has gone up," said Glen Howell, treasurer. "A good portion will go for a new roof on the municipal building and for township vehicles." Howell said township employees will put the new roof on themselves.

The general fund is \$1.4 million with the highway aid fund adding \$125,000 to the total. Approximately \$300,000 of the general fund was left over from this year.

In other business, the supervisors announced that, due to snow removal, there is no parking between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. through April on all streets within the township.

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