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An era ends

'Welcome Wagon Lady' makes her last visit with basket of goodies

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - One person has been in nearly all of the homes in the Back Mountain, but most people see her only once. She brings gifts, but she asks for nothing. She gives lots of information, but she requires none in return. She's Eleanor Crinnion, our local Welcome Wagon representative.

After 22 years of visiting homes in the Back Mountain, Eleanor Crinnion and Welcome Wagon are calling it quits. As a result of changing lifestyles and economic considerations, Welcome Wagon, the traditional company that sends kind visitors to new homes bearing gifts, and Crinnion, the local representative, are no longer knocking on doors.

Crinnion began working for Welcome Wagon in 1977. Not long after the 1972 flood, Crinnion found herself looking for a job with flexible hours so that she could be available for her daughter. Welcome Wagon beckoned; their Kingston representative could no longer cover the growing population of the Back Mountain.

Welcome Wagon was founded in 1928 as a service to new homeowners, new parents, and the newly engaged. Representatives personally bring baskets of local coupons, advertisements, and gifts, with additional municipal information, such as voter registration forms and regional guides, to homes.

As a Welcome Wagon representative, Crinnion recruited local businesses to advertise and offer gifts. Among her clients are Dallas Family Practice, Pet Care Associates, Holsum Bread and The Dallas Post. As businesses have come and gone, Crinnion has constantly updated her basket of goods.

Crinnion's biggest challenge was contacting people. Once a month, she went to the Luzerne County Courthouse to copy deed transfers. She would call first

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Eleanor Crinnion, who visited homes in the Back Mountain for 22 years on behalf of Welcome Wagon, showed some of the gifts she brought to new homeowners and parents.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Researcher: Community must take 'ownership' of schools

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Keeping their eyes and ears open to new ideas, members of the Dallas School Board invited Daria Brezinski of the Earthheart Foundation to discuss what makes successful public schools in the U.S.

Brezinski is currently working with College Misericordia and other districts in the area to describe what her organization's 25 years of research has found works.

Brezinski told the board the most important thing a district can do is change its infrastructure and change the way it looks at education. Earthheart has found that making teachers, students, parents and the community a true part of the school will improve it from within, she said.

Describing a school's infrastructure as an enclosed circle, Brezinski explained that when policies are sent from the federal or state education departments, the circle stays the same internally, but moves a bit one way or another.

Brezinski drew a dotted circle with openings to describe what is needed for a successful school. "With teachers, students and parents taking ownership of the school, it will change from within and have the ability to expand," she said.

Brezinski said everyone must come together and explain what they want out of the school and eventually come to common ground. This process usually takes two to three years, she said.

Earthheart found that public schools have been working from a frame of reference that is 100 years old. The five subject areas with 120 credit hours was determined in 1897 by the National

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Diving to new heights

Alana Anzalone smashes Sem record, looks ahead to states

By JEFFREY FANECK
Post Correspondent

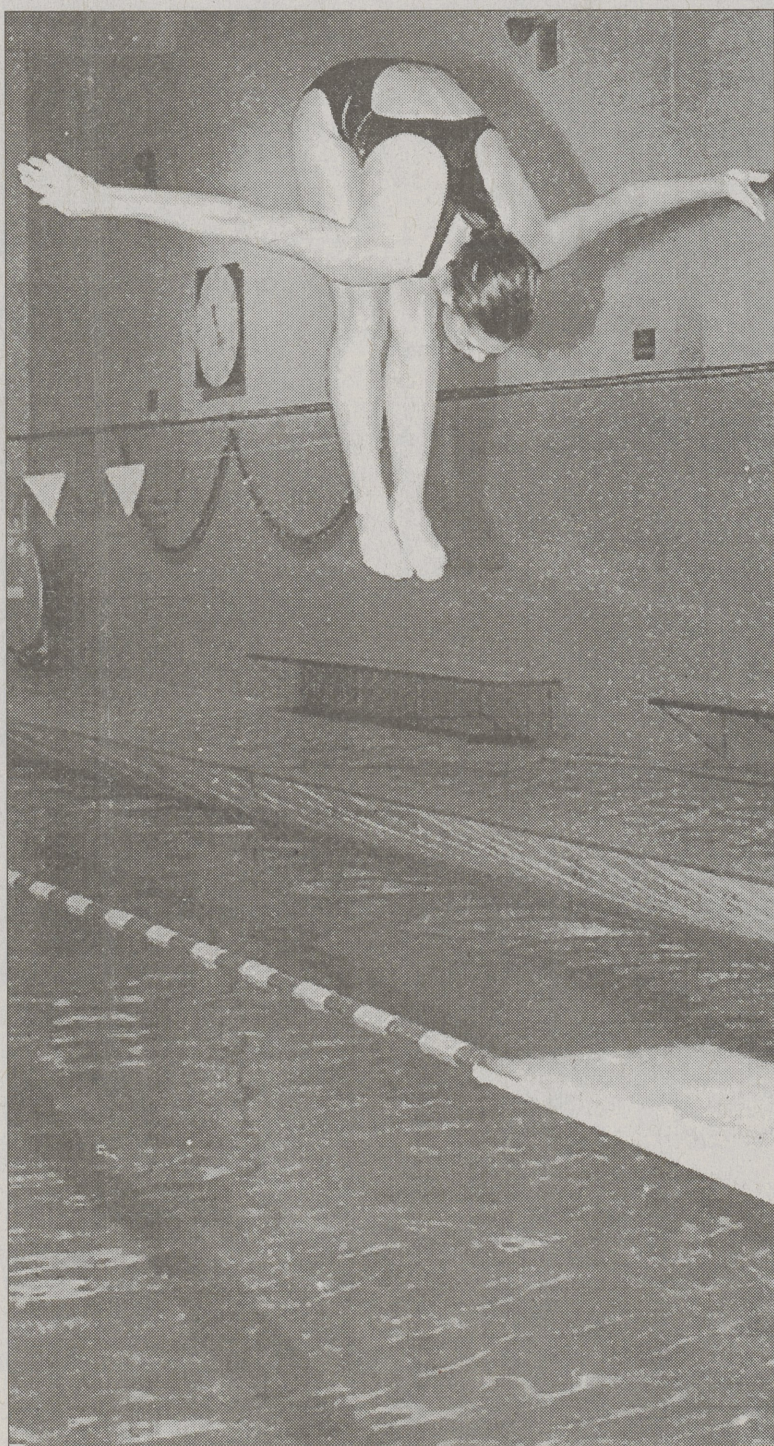
SHAVERTOWN - "A real competitor in all areas" is the way Tina Anzalone describes her 16-year-old daughter Alana. Alana is a junior at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, where she is a three-sport athlete as well as an excellent student and huge donor of her time to community activities.

Currently Alana is in the middle of a very successful diving season. After shattering the Wyoming Seminary pool record last month, she looks ahead to the possibility of becoming district champion and doing well at state competition. Last year Alana placed second in the district event and 10th at the state championships.

"Before the meet I just wanted to get close to the record," she said. "But after the first few dives I knew I was going to break it," although she said the margin by which she surpassed the old mark was more than she imagined it would be.

Alana first set a school diving record at an away regular season meet during her freshman season. Then as a sophomore she broke her own record with a score of 217.00 at an

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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Alana Anzalone practiced last week at the Wyoming Seminary pool in Kingston. The junior from Shavertown smashed the old girls' pool diving record of 219 points with a 252 point performance Dec. 17.

'Little church on the hill' carries on quiet mission

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

LARKSVILLE - It seems that if you ask anyone in the Valley View Union Chapel community what they gain most from their small, white church, they say love. Love for God and love for one another.

Bob Law's family has been attending the church for three generations. One of his relatives was on the original church board in 1909, the year the building was built. "It's like a family," said Law of the small, but faithful church community. "From the church you get a closeness to God and learn the basics of Christianity."

The Valley View Union Chapel is a non-denominational, independent church that sits on its own little elevated piece of land just over the crest of Larksville Mountain coming from the Back Mountain.

The Sunday School was established in 1906 in an old school house that still sits behind the chapel. The house is now privately owned. The chapel was built three years later after Walter

"It's like a family. From the church you get a closeness to God and learn the basics of Christianity."

Bob Law
Valley View Union Chapel congregant

Coats donated some of his farmland to the congregation meeting in the school house.

With information supplied to the church by Mrs. Carolyn Maude Hawk Boultinghouse in 1976, it is determined that Michael Garaghan served as the chapel's first pastor. On Friday evenings he would hold the "Yoke-Fellows Band," which was a group that met to memorize Scripture.

Hendrick Gregory, the first superintendent of the Sunday School, is described by Cora Michaeline Hawk Lewis as "a very young man with a good reputa-

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An early photo shows the Valley View Chapel in the 1920's. The church began in 1906 in an old school house that still stands behind the building.



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