

## Pack 281

(continued from page 1)  
of the year he was a leader. "Each boy carved a race car with wheels and painted them. It was exciting."

Hess believes Cub Scouts "gives boys a feeling of responsibility and gets them together with their dads." He could not remember what boys did before Pack 281 was formed, although he supposes with a smirk they were "causin' trouble."

Richard and Joan Rogers were leaders in the 1970's when their three sons, Ricky, Mark and Donni were involved with the pack. When Mr. Rogers remembers those days he thinks of Polar Bear campouts, Camp Acahela in the Poconos and the Pinewood Derby.

"I think they get confidence and learn how to get along with people," said Rogers. "I look around and see my past scouts who now have their sons in the pack." Rogers stressed that if it was not for the wives, being a leader would be a much more difficult duty.

In the past, mothers involved with Cub Scouts were called Den Mothers, now they share the distinction of Den Leader with the male leaders.

Lori Chopka is one such den leader. She is involved with the Webelo pack of which her sons Ben and Dean are members. Her husband, Dean, is currently not involved with the pack. "I love it. They learn about nature and being a team. There is so much for them to do and the pack is doing so much for my kids," she stressed.

Cub Scout packs are devised into groups based on age. Grade 1 is Tigers; 2 is Wolves; 3 is Bears; and 4-5 Webelos. At the Blue and Gold Dinner, scouts received badges and awards for their hard work, got their pictures taken and were treated to a side splittin' skit performed by den leaders.

Paul Luksa, 14, son of Joan and Ed Luksa is now a Boy Scout in Troop 281, but there was a time when he was one of the pack. "It helped me learn how to behave and taught me many things, like the names of all the birds. I think it's good. We help the community and they help in return. It's nice," said Luksa, whose cub leader was Ray Manke.

Nancy McDonald, Cub Scout Pack 281 commissioner, said the night was a special one. "It was nice to have the head table with past cub masters and den mothers. It was a pleasure to research them out," said McDonald, who has been involved with scouts for 35 years and maintains the pack's long history in albums. She began her long and faithful career as a den mother in 1965 when her sons, Jeffrey and Patrick, joined the pack. Jeffrey went on to become an Eagle Scout.

"I love working not only with the boys, but the wonderful parents. The people are inspirational," said McDonald. "It's a very family-oriented organization. The parents are very much involved. We have seven husband and wife teams and a great many parents working in the dens," she explained.

McDonald said she is always surprised how many people take the time to volunteer for not only their kids, but for other people's kids. "It's mind boggling that it's run by volunteers who are doing it solely from the heart."

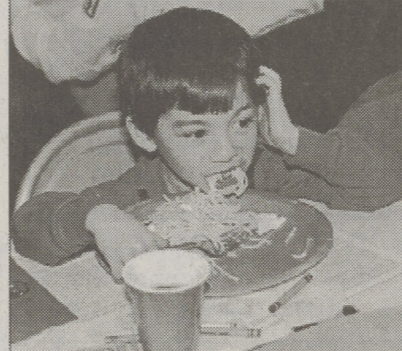
Both she and cubmaster Al Kornack are proud that scouting has stayed strong in the community alongside the team sports kids are involved with, such as basketball, baseball and soccer.

*"I think they get confidence and learn how to get along with people."*

**Richard Rogers**  
Pack leader in the '70's



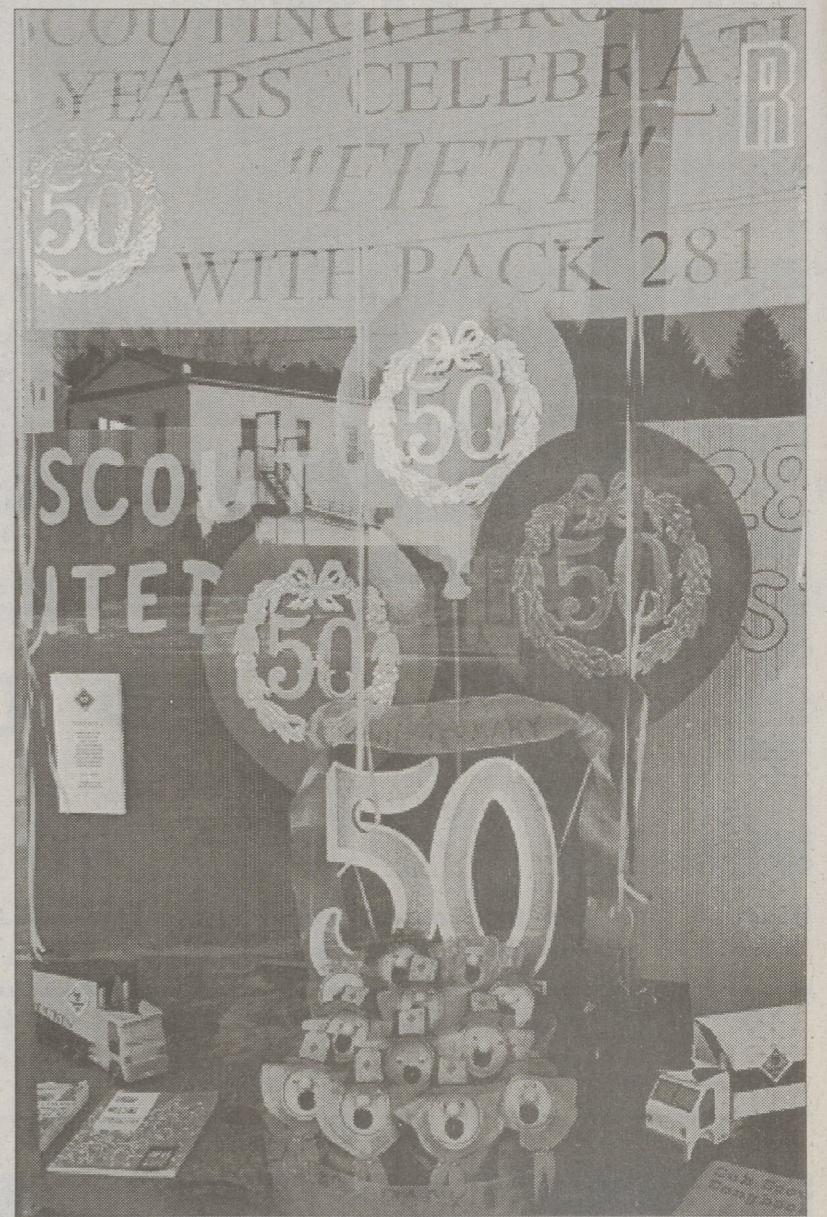
Bob Besecker, Pack 281's first Cub Scout, sat with one of the newest, Brandon Zalenski, a Tiger Cub.



Marion Redinski and Robert Redinski with some of their Webelos, from left; Anthony Macri, Stephen Zubko and Bobby Redinski. Above, Joe Kapolka sucked down a plate of spaghetti.

**"I love it. They learn about nature and being a team."**

**Lori Chopka**  
Den leader



Bob Besecker loaned the front window of his real estate office in Dallas for a display of 50th year memorabilia.

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