IRS office open extended Rave's hours during tax season

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will offer extended walk-in service in Wilkes-Barre at the Stegmier Complex, 7 N. Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Room 349, Wilkes-Barre, for 14 Saturdays during the filing season Jan. 15 through April 17. Each of the offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30

Taxpayers will be able to pick up forms and publications, get answers to account and tax law questions, receive verification of their individual tax paver identification numbers (TIN), and make payments. For many of these

Library news

Carol King

Paul Rodda has put on display

Reared near the water in Brook-

lyn, N.Y., where his grandfather

was a commercial fisherman, Paul

was always interested in the wa-

ter and in boats. He started build-

ing models when he was 9 years

old; it became a full-fledged hobby

in 1970. He was a sailor for many

and are as authentic as Paul can

make them. He uses pieces and

parts that catch his eye and are of

the correct size and form. He

finds this hobby very rewarding

and enjoyable, as well as a good

discipline in patience. He learns

a lot of history in researching the

style and make of the models he

children's Story Hours celebrated

Christmas with songs, stories and

Librarian's report: The

The models are done to scale

at the library a sampling of the

model ships he has built over the

services, taxpayers do not have to visit the IRS at all. Most products and services the IRS offers are

Taxpayers will tax law or account questions can call the IRS toll-free help line, 1-800-829-1040, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Free forms and publications are available to the public through a toll-free order line at 1-800-829-FORMS (1-800-829-3676), on the IRS website at www.irs.gov, and through TaxFax by dialing 703-368-9694.

Hand-built model ships on display

a visit from Santa Claus. Santa, alias Rick, owner and operator of Bucky's Auto Body Shop, made his 25th visit to the Story Hour children, and mesmerized the adults as well as the children.

Statistics for December, 1999 include: books added, 150; new borrowers, 42.

Book discussion group: Members of the Monday morning book discussion group are reminded that the next meeting will be on January 31st. Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice will be dis-

Book listings: New on The New York Times best seller list for January 16 are False Memory, by Dean Koontz: "A woman and her husband scour the past for clues after she is gripped by an inexplicable fear of her own image"; and Soft Focus, by Jayne Ann Krentz: "A woman must juggle romantic and financial entanglements when she sets out to save her business partner from industrial sabotage" Check with the library to make sure they're available.

with proper financial statements and a drawing of their proposed sales yard, they found a friendly president at Luzerne National available through other means. Bank, where Rave's still main-

The Shavertown center expanded greatly over the next few years, and the business branched out to its first additional location in 1957, opening a large garden center in Clarks Summit. Three years later, Rave's leased space on Wyoming Ave. in Wyoming, across from the Midway Shopping Center.

(continued from page 1)

to get financing, and were turned

down by four banks. But armed

tains its accounts. A 20'-by-30'

building was ready for Christmas

Shortly after that, Rob Rave, 44, began to work in the family business. "My first job was weeding and watering the roses . . we had 25,000 roses," he said. The experience didn't create a great attraction to the business, but "my father told me it would get

"That was my job, too," said Scott, 42. "Spring pruning, weeding and feeding; I did that one whole summer.

Chain stores were trying to get into the garden center business in the early 1960's, and A&P ap proached the brothers, asking them to operate nurseries outside eight stores in Pennsylvania and New York. The venture was filled with red tape and operational problems, and lasted less than a year

Just as Rave's was recovering from the A&P experience, they were told the state needed the Shavertown store site to widen Rt. 309. With a year to move, the brothers bought the present location and built a 2,000 square foot store. The next Christmas, Rave's began selling holiday decorations, which became a large portion of the business in subsequent years



Announcing the start of Rave's 51st year, from left, Rob Rave, Scott Rave, Holly (Rave) Brace, Robert Rave, founder.

The Agnes flood of 1972 took its toll on Rave's, flooding the Shavertown landscaping center and filling the Wyoming building to the roof. "The front porch of the Wyoming store was loaded with fertilizer, so in the flood it was all washed down to Kingston. Everyone there had real green lawns the next three years," he joked.

The next spring, Rave's opened a garden and pool center in Ashley, only to see it burn to the ground in 1974. A new building was built, this one with additional fire protection. Finally, in 1978, Rave's took over the former Kinney shoe store in Wyoming and reopened in that part of the Wyoming Val-

As the younger Raves became involved, the business began to change. Rob and Holly opened

"Rave's Ski Loft" in the Shavertown and Clarks Summit stores in 1983, then in 1989 Rob bought the ski and landscaping operations and opened a large wholesale yard off Edinger Rd. in Dal-

In addition to the ski lofts, Holly is active the furniture side of the

Rob and Scott Rave became sole owners of Rave Nursery Inc. in 1996, began renovations on the stores, expanded the outdoor furniture selection and added water gardens, a growing area of interest.

Lou Rave died at age 80 in 1998. Robert Rave continues to act as a consultant to the business he and his brother created. "It's been very interesting, and a lot of fun," he said.

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in Shavertown

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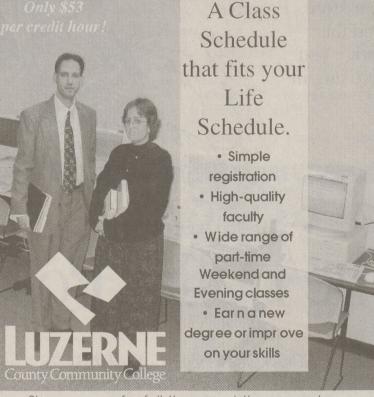
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