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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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## Looking back with a century's perspective

□ Mrs. Helene Stafford marked 100th birthday last week

By SANDY PEOPLES  
 Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - Helene Ballard Stafford was born near the beginning of a brand new century. Not this one, but the last one. She and her twin sister, Margaret Ballard Kraeer, were born on February 28, 1901 in Midway, (Washington County) near Pittsburgh.

To put this event in historical perspective, William McKinley was our 25th President for most of that year, followed by Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President. Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Walt Disney and Marlene Dietrich were also born in 1901. It would be seven years later, in 1908, when Henry Ford would mass produce the Model T.

Last Wednesday, Mrs. Stafford was the very special guest at a birthday party given in her honor by the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas. She has resided there since April, 1997. Nancy Space, the activities director, and her staff, created a festive atmosphere of cake, flowers and balloons for Mrs. Stafford, her family members, friends and guests. Her son-in-law, Jack M

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POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

## Cool cats in cool hats

Dallas fifth graders dressed up for Read Across America Day. Aarika Whittle, left, and Michelle Witherow were captured during the annual event held Friday, which celebrates reading with the works of the inimitable Dr. Seuss. Story and more photos on page 8.

## Historic Lehman land up for sale

By DONNA THOMAS  
 Special to The Dallas Post

**LEHMAN** - The signs appeared a few weeks ago at the end of Meeker Road where it meets State Route 118, the same road and where Ruth Ide Johnson's relatives have lived for more than 200 years.

The signs advertise 1,700 acres of land for sale by Theta Land Corp., but they speak of three generations of disappointment to Johnson. A small part of the vast acreage up for sale was once owned by Johnson's father, Russell Ide. It was sold in 1927, Johnson said, but not willingly.

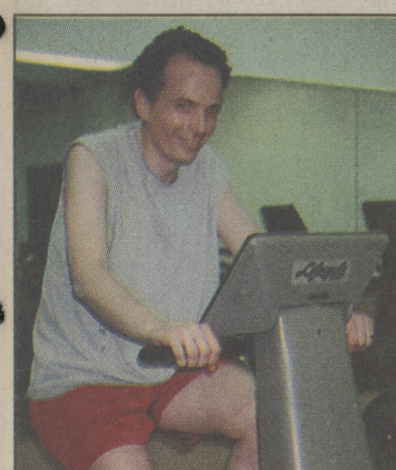
At 85, Johnson still remembers when she was a teen and her father was first approached by the Spring Brook Water Co.

"He told them, No, he didn't want to sell it," Johnson recalled, her intense blue eyes sparkling. "Finally, the water company said to dad, 'You sell it or we'll flood it.' He hated to sell, but he did."

The former Ide land, along with hundreds of neighboring acres changed hands many times since 1927, falling into the hands of Pennsylvania Gas and Water Co. PG&W sold its water business to Pennsylvania-American Water Co. in 1995, but retained ownership of most of its land holdings, most of it watershed. A watershed is a large area of land where groundwater can be filtered and recharged.

PG&W later became Pennsylvania Enterprises Inc. (PEI) parent company of PG Energy and Theta Land Corp., e

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POST PHOTO/BETTY HINDS

Lee Piatt, a chaperone for the lock-in party for high school students, got in a little exercise.

## Teens' energy unleashed at all-night lock-in party

By BETTY HINDS  
 Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - What happens when 165 teens invade a local college sports complex? Tons of snacks are consumed and masses of energy are unleashed — enough to last all-night!

Last weekend, Fellowship Evangelical Free Church of Dallas hosted a Senior High Lock-in at the Anderson Sports Center at College Misericordia. The all-night event began at 8:30 Friday night and ended Saturday morning at 6:30.

As an outreach to the community, youth group members were encouraged to invite their friends. According to Sue Baia-

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## Lehman-Jackson students 'Read Across America'

By SANDY PEOPLES  
 Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN** - Lehman-Jackson Elementary students had a very busy day last Friday. They celebrated Dr. Seuss's 79th birthday with help from a special guest reader, Noreen Clark, news meteorologist from Channel 16. They also engaged in activities planned for them by the teachers and PTA, and even had "green eggs and

ham" for lunch. It was also the second Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution of the year. Six hundred books were given to students free of charge.

As part of "Read Across America," a national celebration of reading, all of the students were involved in special reading activities. Through the "Study Buddies" system, older elementary students helped

the younger children with various reading assignments.

"The PTA of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School hosted a reading challenge to the students," said Karen Atanasio, PTA Publicity Chairperson. "The theme was 'Oh, The Places You'll Go.' The goal was for the children to break last year's record of collectively reading 2,117 books."

Neon colored feet, made from

construction paper, were taped on the walls throughout the hallways of the school. The children in different grades filled in the "Cat in the Hat" feet with the titles of the books they had been reading for the last month. They raced to determine which grades would read the most in the two categories

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## Shavertown girl donates most of her 'locks to love'

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
 Post Correspondent

**SHAVERTOWN** - Debra Ketchner, 12-year-old daughter of Rich and Jane Ketchner of Shavertown, performed a real act of love recently. She went to a professional hairdresser for the first time in her life and had 16 inches of her 27-inch long hair cut off.

"I read a book about kids with cancer and how they go through treatment," said Debra of her decision to send her hair to Locks of Love. That organization makes wigs for children 18 years old and younger who have lost their hair due to illness. Many of these children suffer from alopecia, which is an absence or loss of hair, and also from the effects of cancer treatment.

"A couple of years Debra Ketchner has her hair measured by her mother Jane Ketchner.



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

ago she read about someone else who had done this and she's been talking about it ever since," said Jane Ketchner. "Lately she's been really pushing to do it so I called the American Cancer Society and they told me how to get in touch with Locks of Love."

Locks of Love requires that the hair be clean and dry and at least 10 inches in length. Also, it needs to be in a ponytail or a braid, then put in a zip lock bag and mailed through regular mail.

"There is another organization that also accepts donations like this but I found out that Locks of Love wigs go to underprivileged children, so we chose them," explained Mrs. Ketchner.

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