

# Nichols wins national writing contest

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - A Dallas Middle School eighth grade student has just been notified that she won first place in a national writing competition.

Amanda Nichols, daughter of George and Eileen Nichols of Dallas, will have her short story published in the April/May edition of Writing! magazine. In addition she will receive \$150 in prize money.

"I love to write so when we were given an assignment to write an essay about time for our English class I decided to write a story about how much I will miss my neighborhood and my childhood as I get older," said Amanda. "I really didn't expect to win first place in the whole country."

Students could choose to write a poem, a short story or an essay on the subject of time in the contest that was open to students across the country.

"We were astounded when we realized we had a student win first place and another who received an honorable mention," said Mrs. Nancy Ferko, an English teacher at the middle school. Her eighth

grade student, Cara Bestwick, received an honorable mention award for her essay entitled Touching Time.

"The English department decided to have all eighth graders write for the contest and then we picked the best ones to submit," said Mrs. Ferko. "We invited the other grades to enter if they wanted to."

Dallas Middle School submitted about 30 entries to the contest. "They were all so good and there must have been hundreds from around the country. I'm sure the judges had a hard time selecting the winners."

Amanda's original story was close to 2,000 words long but she had to cut it down to reach the contest limit of 1,000 words. "Her original copy was even better but we had to cut out major portions," said Lisa Niewinski, Amanda's English teacher.

The Dallas School District has made a direct effort to improve the writing skills of their students over the past few years. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade take a Supplemental Writing course that lasts one quarter of each school year. "I'm following the state standards for writing and teach the students the three types of writing required

by those standards. They are informational, persuasive and narrative imaginative," said Jonelle Pall, who has been teaching the program since its inception at Dallas. "In addition to this course, all of the English teachers work on at least one major writing assignment in their regular classes," she said.

Amanda's story is entitled "Mid-Summer Nights" and describes memories of her wonderful childhood. She uses beautifully descriptive phrases like "sparkling blue ripples" and "dare-you-to-wink-blue."

"Teachers have encouraged the students to improve their writing skills and we're teaching all the steps of writing but creativity is something that cannot necessarily be taught," said Mrs. Ferko.

Amanda is planning on saving the prize money she won and she is now looking for somewhere she can submit her full story to.

"The entire school community is proud and excited for Amanda Nichols and her family," said Tony Martinelli, middle school principal. "It's a wonderful thing to have her story published in a national magazine for other children to read."

## Only Yesterday

(continued from page 4)

time en route to Germany. He will probably be stationed for two years in Germany. Mrs. Owens and her two children hope to join him later

### 40 Years Ago - Mar. 23, 1961

#### WILLIAM T. MORRIS FUND RE-MEMBERS LIBRARY

Robert Bachman, president, received a check in the amount of \$500 for Back Mountain Memorial Library from E. S. Wellhofer, Shrine Acres, plant manager of Hazard Wire rope division American Chain and Cable Company. The check is the gift of the William T. Morris foundation, created by the late William T. Morris, West Pittston native, who at the time of his death some ten years ago, was president of American Chain & Cable Company, Army Pvt. Richard M. Cummings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip A. Cummings Sr., Sutton Road, completed the 11-week basic ordinance electronics course at the Signal School, Fort Monmouth, N. J. Cummings entered the Army last August and received basic combat training at Fort Dix, N. J. Marvin Meade, son of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Mead, Demunds Road, student at South Florida University, recently received an award for earning the sixth highest number of points in a debating tournament, the highest in the University. The University ranked fourth in the contest.

### 30 Years Ago - Mar. 25, 1971

#### COLLEGE MISERICORDIA BREAKS GROUND FOR BUILDING

The official groundbreaking ceremony for College Misericordia's new \$2 million girls' dormitory was held at the college recently, despite a blinding snowfall. Sister Miriam Teresa, RSM, president of College Misericordia, presided over the ceremony. Construction of the four story dormitory is scheduled to begin immediately.

diately. Airman Stanley D. Dorrance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley F. Dorrance, RD 1, Dallas, has graduated at Sheppard AFB, Tex., from the Air Force medical services specialist course. He is being assigned to McConnell AFB, Kan., for duty with the Tactical Air command. Airman Dorrance attended Dallas Senior High School. At Acme markets you could get roasting chickens, lb., for .39, a dozen oranges, 49¢, sweet corn, 6 cans for 59¢, french fries, 5lb. bag 79¢, margarine, 4 lb. pkgs. 89¢, Washington cake mixes, 8-oz box 10¢.

### 20 Years Ago - Mar. 18, 1981

#### GOOD THINGS HAPPEN AT LAKE-LEHMAN

"Good things are happening at Lake-Lehman" was the evaluation reached by the state's special education auditors regarding the district's special education gifted program. The special education audit noted the program complies with established standards and auditors said they had "many warm feelings about the direction the program is taking. Also receiving good reports were the sports programs. The board adopted a resolution congratulating the basketball and wrestling teams on their fine accomplishments. Dallas Junior High School wrestlers ended a successful season with five wrestlers competing in the district PIAA tournament recently. They are: Tom Bagley, ninth grade, 95 lbs.; Craig Rome, ninth grade, 105 lbs.; Mike Borton, ninth grade, 120 lbs.; Steve Williams, ninth grade, 130 lbs.; Ed Fedrow, ninth grade, heavy-weight. The Harvey's Lake Historical Society, Inc. will feature an exhibit on the early school history of the Lake Township school system at the new Lake-Noxen Elementary School. The exhibit includes pictures of early school classes, yearbooks, school records and a descriptive history of the Lake school system.



## Dallas drive benefits SPCA

The Dallas Middle School Student Council, under the direction of Ms. Norine Amesbury, recently conducted its annual SPCA charity drive to benefit homeless animals. Dog and cat food, towels, cleaning supplies and money donations were collected by the Dallas Middle School students. A pizza party was awarded to the homeroom which collected the most food, supplies and money. Mrs. Joan Rakowski's homeroom 203 was the winner with 100% participation and the largest overall contribution. The drive successfully ended when 25 boxes and bags of food and supplies were turned over to the Luzerne County chapter of the SPCA. A monetary donation was also included in the presentation. Pictured are representatives from homeroom 203. Row 1: Megan Youells, Courtney Taylor, Lindsey McCabe, Maxxe Spencer and Samantha Kissinger. Row 2: Michael McAndrew, Thomas Parrish, Stephen Zubko, Lee Kozokas and Robert Hayes.

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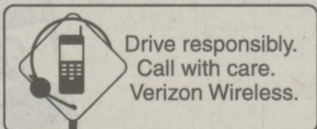
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