

# Matilda Croom notes her 90th birthday

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**TRUCKSVILLE** — Matilda Croom was born on Valentine's Day. Surrounded by more than 80 family members and friends, she celebrated her 90th birthday in grand style as the guest of honor at an open house given by her children at the Trucksville United Methodist Church Saturday.

Croom is a life-long resident of Trucksville. She graduated from Kingston Township High School in 1930 and worked at the old Trucksville Post Office for many years. She has been a member of Trucksville United Methodist Church since 1924 where she sang in the choir for many decades.

"Our mother has always been very active in the church," said her daughter, Jeanne Thomas. "She was always busy with church activities and church dinners. She loves to be with people and is still very outgoing. She was always a part of the women's organization at the church and served as president of the women's society." She also was a member of the administrative board of the church and the administrative council for many years.

"She has a great sense of humor even though our brother was often compelled to call her 'yardstick mommy' when we were growing up," Thomas joked.

Croom's activities with the church began when she was a

*"Yes, I have seen many things in my lifetime and I have enjoyed them all."*

**Matilda Croom**  
Celebrating 90th birthday

young woman.

"Mrs. Croom worked with the Queen Esther's mission group in the 1940s," said Pat Baird, a friend and fellow church member. "It was a youth volunteer group for girls whose mission was to help others. She was also the first noble grand of the Lady Toby Rebecca Lodge, which still exists in Lehman."

Age has slowed, but not stopped a busy life. "She still maintains her independence," said Thomas. "She cooks and cleans for herself and plays in two card clubs. She does her own grocery shopping and loves to go to the mall."

"She always says she wants to keep moving and keep going and goes out to get her hair done at the beauty parlor every week. She drove her own car until she was 85 and her eyes began to bother her."

When she was younger, Croom and her family loved the out of doors, and spent summer days fishing in Wyalusing, said Linda Monelli, Croom's other daughter. "They had a motor boat and a camping trailer near Sugar Run. We used to go there with them as children, and they enjoyed



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Matilda Croom sat, surrounded by her children at her 90th birthday celebration. From left: Linda Monelli, Edward Croom and Jeanne Thomas.

many good times there for more than 50 years."

Croom is the daughter of the late Lewis and Bessie Roushey. She is the oldest of six children. Her grandparents ran the Hoover farm in Trucksville. She is also the wife of the late Harold Croom, a salesman at the old Royer Foundry in Kingston. She has three children, Jeanne Thomas, Edward Croom and Linda Monelli; three grandchildren, Gerald Thomas, Sharon Croom and Suzanne Monelli; and five great-grandchildren.

Croom was very excited to be the center of attention on her

special day. "It's so wonderful to see all these people who turned out to celebrate with me," she said. "I have lived in Trucksville all my life and I have seen many changes. I can remember when there were many small family-owned businesses along the road to the lake. I especially remember the old feed mill. People got around with horses and buggies back then, and later you could see old Ford coupes going up and down the road. Yes, I have seen many things in my lifetime and I have enjoyed them all."

## Lemmond to seek re-election to the Senate

Senator Charles D. Lemmond (R-Dallas) has announced he will seek re-election as State senator for the 20th Senatorial District, which includes Wayne, Pike, Wyoming counties and parts of Susquehanna, Monroe and Luzerne counties.

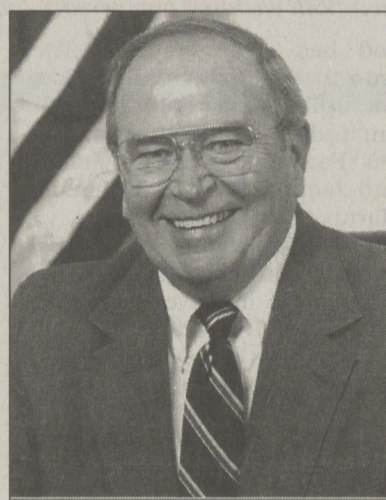
"Representing the honest, hard working people of the 20th Senatorial District, where I have lived all my life, has been both a joy and an honor," said Lemmond through a press release.

"I am proud of the effective

partnerships I have with my colleagues - both in the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives and the United States Congress - and with our county and community officials. By working with local leaders and area residents, we've been able to build stronger communities."

Senator Lemmond chairs the Senate's State Government Committee, is Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and also serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Finance,

Military and Veterans Affairs, and Rules. He is the Republican Caucus representative on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, the Joint State Government Commission's Task Force on decedents' Estates, and the Joint Select Committee to Examine Election Issues. Senator Lemmond is also an active member of the National Conference of State Legislatures Elections Reform Task Force.



State Sen. Charles D. Lemmond

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## Churches

(continued from page 1)

township."

Tensions mounted at the February 11 meeting when the ordinance was first introduced, when Glidden questioned the constitutionality of it, and the supervisor is still not content with the ordinance.

"You get up in court everyday, and you have two lawyers on separate sides of the same issue, and I think this is an issue that needs to be looked at," said Glidden. "If we get to the position to where we have to hire outside to take care of the building permit fees, then the township will have to pay for it."

Paul Sabol, chairman of the board of supervisors, supports the ordinance. A member of Trucksville United Methodist Church, Sabol said he was contacted, by a member of the church to see if the supervisors could waive the fees. He then contacted Jones to write the regulation.

"All we're doing is deleting the fees we would get from these churches," said Sabol. "The only fee the churches would have to pay is if we put money up for the engineers they would have to pay it. We are not using our money." Currently, anyone building a home or building an addition to a home must file for permits with the township. Of dozens of permits, only a few set filing fees would be waived, said Jones.

"Of the approximately 84-85 fees levied by Kingston Township associated with building and zoning fees, only 16 set fees are included in (the proposed or-

*"I am confident this ordinance is legal, but if it is not, I will eat my words and change the ordinance."*

**Ben Jones III**  
Solicitor  
Kingston Township Supervisors

dinance)," he said.

"The ordinance only deals with the filing fees associated with zoning and building," said Ben Gorey, township zoning officer. "The filing fees are set fees, and mostly do not cost much money each."

Gorey's salary comes from the township's general fund, said Jones. Gorey evaluates the evaluates permits, and without fees paid into the general fund, other moneys collected would be used to pay Gorey.

Jones said the amount of money not collected by waiving the fees was minimal, and just how often a church built an addition was so rare, it really would not make much of a difference in the township budget.

The proposed ordinance must pass another reading in front of the supervisors at next month's voting session, and Jones said he is confident of the legality of it.

"I am confident this ordinance is legal, but if it is not, I will eat my words and change the ordinance," said Jones.

## Schukraft named Daffodil Days chairwoman

Heidi Schukraft, of Dallas, has accepted the chairmanship for the Daffodil Days 2002 campaign for the Wyoming Valley Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Daffodils, the first flower of spring, is the perennial American Cancer Society symbol of hope for cancer patients throughout the country. A bouquet of 10 flowers costs \$6 and is expected to raise \$3.2 million in the state of Pennsylvania. To place an order, call the American Cancer Society office at 825-7763 or 888/ACS-4485. The last day to place an advanced order is March 8 and the flowers will be delivered from March 20-22.

## Gardening for amateurs at Penn State

Penn State Wilkes-Barre is offering a 15-hour Backyard Fruit and Vegetable Gardening course for the amateur gardener just in time for the spring planting season. It will run on Saturdays at the campus in Lehman, from March 9 through April 13, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Course topics include planning a vegetable garden, growing small fruit, the backyard orchard, pruning, composting techniques and storing your harvest. For more information or to register, call Ina Lubin at 675-9251.

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