OBITUARIES

CARL ALLEN

Dallas, PA

Member of the Pennsylvania State Police for 33 years

Carl M. Allen, 70, of R.D. 3, Wyoming, Franklin Township, died Wednesday July 10, 2002 at

Born in Lakewood, Ohio, he was the son of the late Carl M. Sr. and Marie (O'Connell) Allen. He lived in Franklin Township for the past 36 years. He was a graduate of Germantown High School and attended Geneva College. He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Police for 33 years, stationed with Troop P at .Tunkhannock, Towanda. Dushore, and Wyoming until his retirement in 1991. He was a U.S. Mårine veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a member of St. Frances X. Cabrini Church, Kingston Township, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Frank Albert Memorial Lodge 43, Wyoming. Surviving, in addition to his wife of 43 years, the former Jean Helfrich, are his daughters, Kathleen Socha, Germantown, Md., Susan Allen, Bel Air, Md., and Patricia Hughes, Merrimack, N.H.; son, William, Bernville; and six grandchildren.

DR. THOMAS BAKER Doctor of cardiology

Dr. Thomas E. Baker, 55, of Country Club Road, Dallas, died Sunday July 14, 2002 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born Dec. 9, 1946, in Hanover Township, he was the son of the late Thomas and Helen (Prestas) Baker. He graduated from Hanover Township High School in 1964, King's College in 1968 and Hahnemann Medical College in 1972, where he completed his fellowship and residency. He was on staff at Mercy Hospital and the Wyoming Valley Health Care System. He was chief of cardiology at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital from 1984 to 1990 and director of the Echo Lab and Telemetry Unit for many years. He was on the board of directors of the American Society of Echocardiography from 1985 to 1988 and president of the Pennsylvania Society of Internal Medicine in 1985 and the Luzerne County Medical Society in 1987. He was a member of the American colleges of Physicians, Cardiology, Internal Medicine and Echocardiology. He was a corporate member of Blue Shield since 1985 and on AAA's board of directors for many years.

Surviving are his wife of 33 years; the former Jean Bigos; daughter, Danielle, at home; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dr. Thomas E. Baker Fund for the Study of Sonography at College Misericordia.

LUCY GRAZIANO Resident of Dallas

Lucy Graziano, 89, of Meadows Apartments, Dallas, died Tuesday July 9, 2002 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Bethpage, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Sabatello and Lucia (D'Ascoli) Manganiello. Before retiring, she worked as a teacher. She lived in Bethpage and Staten Island, N.Y. before moving to Dallas. She was a member of Queen of Heaven Church, Staten Island. She was preceded in death by her husband, Benny J.

Surviving are her sons, Andrew, Atlanta, Ga., Bernard, Lake Grove, N.Y., and Robert, Dallas; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Marion Migmonia, Lake Wallenpaupack.

RICHARD MAJOR Born in Dallas

Richard E. Major, 83, of Carmel, Ind., died July 1, 2002 in Carmel.

Born in Dallas, he was the son of Carrie Caperoon. He graduated from Dallas High School. He moved to Carmel where he owned and operated Carmel Car Wash for 27 vears. He had also worked for 25 years in General Motors Corp.'s Detroit Diesel Allison Division. He was a Mason and belonged to the Scottish Rite and Murat Shrine Temple.

Surviving, are his wife, Catherine L. "Kay"; children, Donna Burgher, Carol Waite and Gary; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

FREIDA MUSSANTI Part owner of Cappy's Carpet Center in Forty Fort

Freida Mussanti, 87, a resident of Lakeside Nursing Center, Harveys Lake, died Friday July 12, 2002.

Born Nov. 11, 1914, in Wilkes-Barre, she was the daughter of the late William and Regina (Essif) Joseph. She attended Wilkes-Barre schools. She worked for most of her life at Rifkin Manufacturing in Hanover Township. Before retiring in 1986, she was a salesperson and partowner with her husband of Cappy's Carpet Center in Forty Fort. She belonged to St. George Marionite Church, Wilkes-Barre. She was preceded in death by her husband, Renaldo, and three brothers and six sisters.

Surviving are three nieces and 10 nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

LAURA RAY Member of St. Therese's Church

Laura Catherine (Kaye) Ray, 81, of Dallas, formerly of Sweet Valley, died Friday June 28, 2002 at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas. Born in Connellesville on

Sept. 15, 1920, she was a daughter of the late Harry L. and Nell (Jaynes) Martin. She graduated from Immaculate Conception, Connellesville High School. She had worked as a medical librarian at the State Hospital of Connellesville. Later, she transferred to Eastern Dispensary and Casuality Hospital, Washington, D.C. She retired from Culbro Corp. as a supervisor of returned merchandise. She was a member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, where she was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society and the Bereavement Committee. She also was an avid horsewoman and taught children in her youth. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Albert L.; and son, Brian Albert.

Surviving are daughters, Karla Narkiewicz, Dallas, and Grace Gelinas, Paula Wyoming; sons, Barry L., Bennington, Vt., Randall Kevin, Forkston, and Shawn Holbrook, Sabattus, Maine; five grandchildren; and brothers, Jack, Shavertown, and the Rev. Ralph, Bethany Beach,

STEPHEN STEARN Retired Chief Petty Officer for the

Stephen Stearn Jr., 77, of Bishopville, Md., formerly of Carverton, died Tuesday July 9,

U.S. Navy

Born in Milton, Mass., he was the son of the late Stephen S. and Ida (Drew) Stearn. He was a retired Chief Petty Officer for the U.S. Navy, who served in the submarine service. The last two years of his career, he was recruitment officer in Wilkes-Barre. He was a member of St. Matthews-By-The Sea United Methodist Church. He was a scout master for Boy Scout

Troop 164 in Carverton. Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Doris S.; sons, Laurence D., Carverton, Stephen B., Phoenix, Ariz., Gary S., and Jeffrey B., both of Laurel, Del.; 11 grandchildren; three greatgrandchildren; and sister, Ruth Bohannon, St. Petersburg, Fla. Memorial contributions may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21801.

ALDEN EARL Former Carverton resident

Alden Earl, 78, formerly of Carverton, died Wednesday at Harry Court, Stafford, Va. July 10, 2002.

Born in Wyoming, he was a son of the late Thomas and Maude (Dymond) Earl. He lived most of his life in Carverton, and later in Kingston, before moving to Stafford in 2000. He worked for Ruckno Construction Co, Forty Fort, then Schmaltz Construction Co., West Pittston, until his retirement. He was a member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Exeter Township, and it's Men's Sunday School Class. He was preceded in death by brothers, Thomas W., and Raymond; and sister, Eleanor Joslyn.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, the former Jean Moyer; sons, Bradley A., Chester Springs, Chief Warrant Officer Larry R., ret. U.S. Marine Corps, Stafford Va., with whom he lived, and Gary L., Henderson, Nev.; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Howard, Wyoming; Barton, Carbondale, Donald, Kingston, Robert, Dalton, and Kenneth, Wyoming: sister. Annabelle Fitser, Cooper City, Fla.; and nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Mary Washington Hospice, 2300 Fall Hill Ave., Suite 210, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 Alzheimer's Association, 2217 Princess Ann St., Suite 106-1F, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

JAMES DOUGHERTY Brother lives in Dallas

James Dougherty, 66, of Park Towers, Nanticoke, died Monday July 15, 2002 at Hospice Community Care, Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late Joseph and Marion (Conroy) Dougherty. He belonged to St. Francis Church, Nanticoke. He was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Knights of Columbus Council 13114 in Nanticoke. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Joseph and William.

Surviving are his brother, Thomas, Dallas; sisters, Mary Flanley, Allentown, and Jane Kneidinger and Margaret Evans, both of Kingston; and nieces and nephews.

JOHN ORAVIC

U.S. Army veteran who received the Good Conduct Medal

John Michael Oravic, 83, of Charles Street, the Newtown section of Hanover Township, died Sunday June 30, 2002.

Born on Feb. 10, 1919 in Wilkes-Barre Township, he was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Pollock) Oravic. He attended Wilkes-Barre Township schools. He was a lifetime resident of the Newtown section of Hanover Township. He worked as a truck driver and salesman for Penn Dairies for more than 45 years, retiring in 1982. He received a pin for 27 years of safe driving. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a tank commander for the Co.A 739th Tank Batallion with the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945. He fought in the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns. He received the Good Conduct Medal, The American Theater Medal. American Theater Service Medal with three bronze stars and the Victory Medal. He was a member of Holy Rosary Church, in the Newtown section of Hanover Township/Ashley, where he served as a senior church usher and was active in the Parish Festival He also was a former member of the CWV Post #274, Newtown section of Hanover Township, the #34 Bowling League at Stanton Lanes, Wilkes-Barre, and Teamsters Union Local #401, Wilkes-Barre. He was preceded in death by a son, Jackie; brothers, Edward and Joseph; and sisters, Anna Nobel and Catherine Morris.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 55 years, the former Mary Zelinka, are his daughters, Patricia Sirak, and Karen Blaum, both of Dallas, and Deborah Egger, West Chester; four grandchildren; brothers, Michael, Mt. Clemens, Detroit, Mich., and George, Port Griffith; and sisters, Theresa Duhaime and Mary Kasper, both of Mt. Clemens, Detroit, Mich.

MARTHA MENSCH Daughter lives in Dallas

Martha Jones Bombay Mensch lived to a ripe age of 102.

She was born in Wilkes-Barre on Dec. 15, 1899 to the late Thomas and Margaret Jones. Her parents were from North Wales, England. At the time of her death, July 6, 2002 Mrs. Mensch resided with her son, Tom Bombay and his wife, Evelyn, in Leesburg,

She is also survived by her children, Martha Hoover, of Dallas, Susan Derr, of Chandler, Ariz., Joseph Bombay, of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Margaret Martin, of Philadelphia; 20 grandchildren; 56 greatgrandchildren; 32 great-great grandchildren; three greatgreat-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, John Bombay, who died in 1933; second husband, William Mensch, who died in 1953; children, John Bombay, Elizabeth Bombay Gennari, Rose Bombay, Catherine Bombay Roeper, and Mary Bombay; brother, John Jones: two half-brothers, Thomas Oliver and Scycq Oliver; and a sister, Catherine Williams. Mrs. Mensch was a very caring person who loved to sing, crochet and bake. In her later years, she also loved to travel, having visited Canada, Hawaii, California, Washington State and Idaho. Mrs. Mensch saw everything from the horse and buggy to the shuttle take-offs and always encouraged her children and grandchildren to "learn all you can." She also witnessed the depression first hand. World War I brought it home to her as her brother was serving our country and in World War II, she had two sons serving. Mrs. Mensch remarked after her 100th birthday celebration that she wanted to be remembered as "a good person and for always being considerate of others."

RICHARD WILCE

Former nuclear medical technician

Richard J. Wilce, 59, of Laurel Run Estates, Wilkes-Barre, died Wednesday July 10, 2002 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Born in Carbondale, he was a

son of the late James C. and

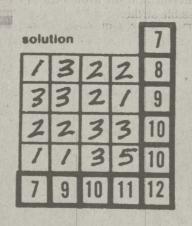
Christina (Wagner) Wilce. He graduated from Forty Fort High School. He worked as office manager for Wyoming Valley Drafting. He previously worked as a nuclear medical technician. He was a member of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. He was preceded in death by a brother, Gerald; sister, Ann Christopher; and infant sister, Deloris. Surviving are his former wife, Mary Lou Garrahan, formerly of Forty Fort; brothers, James, Salisbury, Md., Eugene, Tacoma, Wash., Donald, Swoyersville, and twin brother Robert, Dallas; sisters, Mertle Rundle, Forty Fort, Marilyn Urban, West Wyoming, and Jacqueline Born, Camp Hill; nieces, Susie Franklin, Wilkes-Barre, and Suzi Wasilius, Rio Grand, N.J., and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the SPCA of Luzerne County, Fox Hill Rd., Plains Township.

BETTY ZELLER Daughter lives in Trucksville

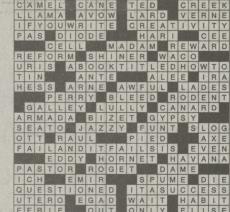
Betty Jane Zeller, 76, of Heather Highlands, Inkerman, died Friday June 21, 2002 at home.

Born in Carlisle, she was the daughter of the late LeGrande and Leona (Penner) Gleim. She lived in Falls before moving to Inkerman 23 years ago. She worked for the military at the Middleton Olmsted Field. She was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church, West Pittston, and its Womens' Auxilary. She was preceded in death by a son, George. Surviving, in addition to her husband of 55 years, William, are daughters, Lisa Castanaro, Exeter, Darlene Lulo, Moosic, Marlene Garringer, Trucksville. Cyndi Androscavage, Inkerman, Sharon Shultz, Kingston, and Karen Gruber, Fredricksburg; sons, Larry, Exeter, Jeff, Inkerman, and Billy, Lebanon; 27 grandchildren; and 15 greatgrandchildren.

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