

## Pencil

(continued from page 1)

would help 10 children," said Joy.

Donations of pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks, folders, or anything else that elementary students can use are being sought. Mrs. Bird, along with her daughter, Shannon, and her husband, Arthur, will make sure that all items are shipped. Monetary donations could help defray shipping costs.

The Birds do not know when Jonathan will be coming home. They communicate with him mostly via the Internet and he is not allowed to give out much information online. He has been gone for almost a full year, now. "We want him home soon," said Joy. "The Christmas tree is staying up until he gets home."

As she spoke, her husband was busy in the kitchen making beef jerky to send out in the next care package. It will be filled with supplies for a Super Bowl party. "They'll probably get to watch the game but it will be on in the middle of the night over there," said Arthur. "It just depends on if they want to give up their sleep."

Joy Bird is hoping for a good response to this Operation Pencil Box appeal. She will set up a donation drop-off point if she needs to, but in the meantime, you can call her at 675-7785.

"We can all be proud of our soldiers overseas," she said. "They aren't only looking out for our safety, but also a better educational experience for the Iraqi children."



## Guess who came to dinner?

Turning their yard into a turkey diner wasn't on their minds when Joe and Gail Christopher, of West Center Hill Rd., Dallas, first put out some bird food mix. "It's corn, nuts, seed — squirrel food. First came the squirrels, the crows, the other birds, and then the turkeys," says a rather surprised Joe Christopher. "They started out in the backyard but now come to the front yard, too."

Being the "good guy," Christopher also learned, can lead to additional duties and responsibilities. "I had to save one's life. It got caught on a fence stave in the backyard, both legs straight down in the ground. I freed it. It had a bloody leg but came back the next day hopping on one leg to eat."

Wild turkeys are a neighborhood delight for many in the Back Mountain and they are indigenous, says Tim Conway, information officer at the PA Game Commission office in Dallas.

"The state has done much to help the wild turkey by creating more natural habitat. Logging roads and areas with herbaceous openings will attract them." In the wild, they eat insects, says Conway.

— Text and photo by Charlotte Bartizek

## Sheet metal firm buys ENCON, hiring likely

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — A year after Energy Converters announced that it was closing the Dallas plant it had occupied for 30 years, another firm is moving in.

Pulverman, a sheet metal company in Courtdale, is purchasing the former ENCON property along Lower Demunds Road for about \$750,000, and planning to add jobs there.

Pulverman has increased its work force by 525 percent since 1999 and projects it could "easily" add 20 more positions in the next year.

Randy Mark, owner and president, said Pulverman needs the new facility to accommodate continued growth. The former ENCON property will provide 60,000 square feet more than the Courtdale property.

Since Mark purchased Pulverman in September 1999, it has grown from being predominantly a welding shop with eight employees to a precision sheet metal manufacturer employing 50.

*"It's a beautiful property. We're on 15 acres and there's a pretty little stream out front."*

**Randy Mark**  
Owner, Pulverman

He attributed the rapid growth to landing major accounts with national companies such as Maytag, Mack Truck and Peterbilt.

Mark said the company already has hired four or five former ENCON employees and has received applications from others. Most of the positions that will be added will be production jobs paying \$9 to \$15 per hour.

Pulverman was started by W. E. Pulverman in the 1920s. Originally based in Wilkes-Barre, it moved to Courtdale in the 1970s.

"When I bought it, they were floundering a little bit," Mark said. "My wife probably looked at me and said, 'Why are you buying this place?'"

After the purchase, the company landed several larger accounts, some of which were the byproducts of a good relation-



POST PHOTOS/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Carole Mesaris and Paul Bonoski operate a turret punch press at Pulverman's new business site in Dallas Township. The company purchased the former ENCON property on Lower Demunds Road for about \$750,000.

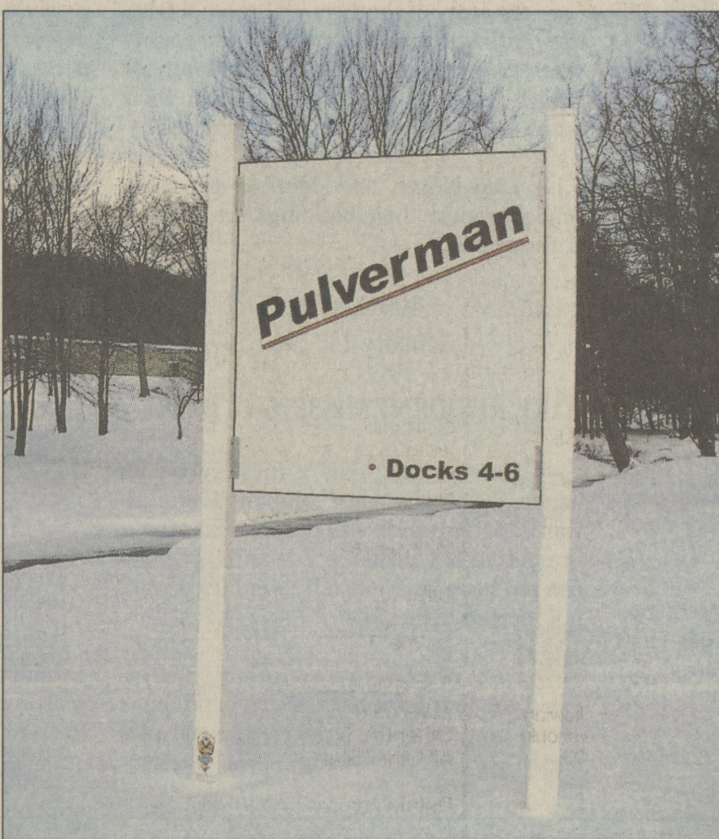
ship with Diamond Manufacturing in Wyoming.

Last year was a banner year for the company. "I think our growth was close to 50 percent," Mark said.

The company quickly outgrew an addition, constructed a year and a half ago, to the Courtdale property, doubling

the company's square footage.

Mark said the former ENCON property has about 80,000 square feet, a cafeteria and a full maintenance department and — as a plus — is aesthetically attractive. "It's a beautiful property. We're on 15 acres and there's a pretty little stream out front."



The Pulverman sign has gone up at the former site of Energy Converters off Lower Demunds Road in Dallas Township.

## Council decides to hold trash pickup rate

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**HARVEYS LAKE** — Borough Council voted January 20 to keep the annual trash pickup rate at \$85.

Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Blaine said the day before he would propose a \$20 rate increase that would allow the borough to break even on the annual \$130,000 bill. He said \$10,000 of the bill is paid for out of the general fund.

At Tuesday's meeting, Councilman Ed Kelly said council "went back and forth" on whether to raise the rate, but said in the end the group was opposed to saddling borough residents with another increase. Harveys Lake Municipal Authority voted January 7 to raise its annual fee by \$111 to \$639.

"We felt it was too much for the residents to take on at this point," Kelly said.

He said it is likely an increase will be needed in the future. The issue will be brought up again at the end of the year, when the contract with the borough's trash collector, Waste Management, expires.

The vote was 6-1, with Blaine voting against the motion. About 15 residents attended the meeting.

In other matters, council voted unanimously to draft a letter in support of enacting a 45 mph speed limit on the water. The limit would be in effect the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day. The letter will be given to the Harveys Lake Protective Association, which has been working for several months to gather support for the limit.

Resident Lewis Evans asked council to take over Jones Road which he characterized as unsafe and often impassable. He said its condition often prevents his handicapped son from

obtaining necessary door-to-door services.

He presented council with a petition in favor of the change, signed by his neighbors.

Council President Betty Jane West said council would review the matter before the next meeting.

Resident Arlene Sulewski, was back to again ask council for help in reducing what she termed as constant smoke coming from a neighbor's home.

Sulewski has visited council several times in recent months complaining about thick acrid smoke that sometimes forces her out of her home.

Sulewski said she called other municipalities to compare their standards with Harveys Lake. "Smoke is not tolerated like that in Wilkes-Barre, Kingston and Nanticoke," she said. "I find it hard to accept that nothing can be done."

Sulewski suggested council pass a law that would prevent such burning. Currently the borough doesn't have an ordinance restricting indoor burning and the property owner's outdoor burning permit has already been revoked.

Solicitor Charles McCormick said council "will take up possible ordinances to restrict burning in houses."

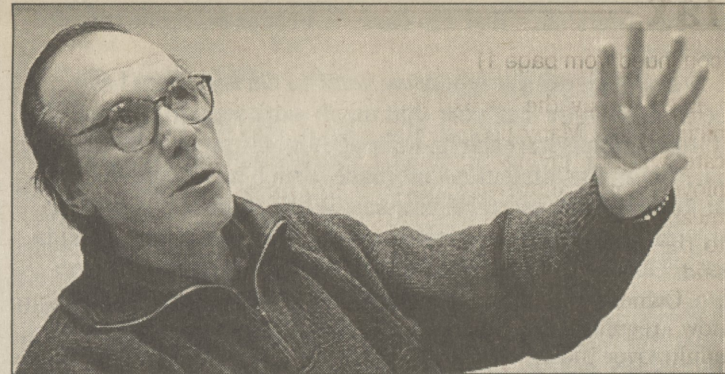
West also suggested Sulewski call councilman Larry Lucarino when the burning again gets out of hand. Lucarino agreed to respond to a call and investigate.

In other business:

- Bruce Hanson resigned from the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority.

- Council approved Borton-Lawson's "Corrective Action Plan for the Elimination of Sewage Overflows."

- Sara Marks was hired as crossing guard for Lake-Noxen Elementary School.



FOR THE POST/FRED ADAMS

Harveys Lake resident George Andrews spoke at Tuesday night's meeting on a proposed \$20 increase to residents' annual garbage rate. The increase was not passed, although the current rate of \$85 reportedly does not cover expenses.

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