



Raina Wensell and Rob Heist, a couple from Dallas, practice their steps during a ballroom dancing lesson.

In step with the times

Packed ballroom dancing class a sign of its popularity

By JENNA PREKEL For The Post

"I think the number of movies and television shows that have come out about ballroom dancing have opened people's eyes. The pop-

Lehman teacher has doggone good time

By M.B. GILLIGAN Post Correspondent

It's probably safe to say that few people from Northeastern Pennsylvania are terribly excited one local resident who recently appreciate it." fulfilled a lifetime dream by attending the famous Iditarod.

Jackson Elementary School. "I had special passes from the Caalongside it."

Race" – takes mushers and their cal dogsled race. team of dogs along 1,151 miles of dogs. The race began March 4 turn. and winner Jeff King crossed under the "burled arch" on March whole thing, but especially with 15 to earn his fourth career victo- the dogs," said Holdredge. "You ry. He finished the course in nine would think with 58 teams there days, 11 hours, 11 minutes and 36 would be a lot of barking but they seconds to win \$69,000 and a were really quite. It was unbenew truck.

in the Iditarod for years and in 1990, started to get his students involved.

"Every year we collect toys from McDonald's and we send them (to Alaska)," said Holdredge. "The mushers put them about a dogsled race that takes out on the trail wherever they place in Alaska every year. That stop and the Eskimo children is not the case, however, with come and get them. They really

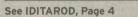
Each toy has a postcard attached and many of the recip-"It was fantastic," said Judson ients have returned the cards, Holdredge, a teacher at Lehman- usually with some information about their lives in Alaska.

Holdredge has collected a lot belas tour group to be close to of memorabilia about the race, the trail. I was able to stand right the dogs, and the mushers. He even has a dogsled and in past The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog winters when there was enough Race-known as "The Last Great snow, treated his students to a lo-

This year, he finally made the trail from Anchorage to Nome. trip to Anchorage with his wife This year's race featured 83 Ellen. He enjoyed it so much that mushers, each with a team of 16 he's already making plans to re-

"I was so impressed with the

Holdredge has been interested See IDITAROD, Page 4





rom military duties in Korea when he met Lois Miller in January 1953. The couple had a great time dancing the night away in Plymouth. Nine months later, Hartman was discharged. Four months after that, the couple was married.

And they're still dancing together.

The Dallas couple gave ballroom dancing lessons to 25 people at Apple Tree Terrace in vision shows that have come out about Newberry Estate earlier this week. Hartman ballroom dancing have opened peoand his wife Lois recently started Ballroom ple's eyes," he said. "The popularity is Barn, which offers group ballroom dance lessons every Tuesday night.

"We used to dance in the basement of St. Therese's Church," said the 77-yearold Hartman, a retired insurance agent.

"We went from square dancing to round dancing to ballroom dancing. We love to dance. We kept getting better and better."

Hartman yelled simple commands over the ballroom music "quick, slow, quick, quick, slow" and "forward, together, recover" as he taught beginners how to dance. He says the exposure of allroom dancing on tele-

DALLAS - Ned Hartman was on leave ularity is mushrooming. People are jumping on the bandwagon."

Ned Hartman Ballroom dance instructor

vision and the big screen has led to its in- mushrooming. People are jumping on the creased popularity.

"I think the number of movies and tele-

Instructors Lois and Ned Hartman perform one of the moves during the ballroom dancing class.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/ JONATHAN J. JUKA

bandwagon." Lois Hartman described the crowd as

a "nice young group that seems to be having fun."

> "It's a great form of exercise and it's a great social activity," she said.

John and Jean Moses enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next week's dance class. Jean stated she would wear short sleeves because dancing is like exercise. The Hartman's believe this healthy

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STAPLES GUEST SPEAKER AT AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Northeastern Pennsylvania resident Suzanne Fisher Staples was the special guest speaker at the 18th annual Luncheon with a Special Author at Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate in Dallas. The event was sponsored by The Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. More than 160 people attended the luncheon. Staples is a former news reporter, editor and author of six award-winning books. She was born in Philadelphia and grew up at Chapman Lake. She has worked for United Press International and The Washington Post. Her books include "The Green Dog," "Under the Persimmon Tree," "Shabanu Daughter of the Wind," "Haveli," "Dangerous Skies," and "Shiva's Fire." At right, Staples discusses a book with Iris Levy and Sally Kishbaugh.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

FOR THE POST/JONATHAN J. JUK

Local historian Charles Petrillo talks about amusement parks in the Back Mountain during a recent meeting of the Back Mountain Historical Association.

Learning about local history

than 200 people packed the icordia and the Luzerne County Banks Student Center's Kennedy Lounge at College Misericordia last week to hear local historian Charles Petrillo talk about former amusement parks in the base, log on to www.backmoun-**Back Mountain.**

The presentation "Amusements of the Back Mountain" took place during the bi-annual meeting of the Back Mountain 674-6420. Historical Association. Petrillo state's largest natural lake - such as Hanson's Amusement Park. The author of the book "Harveys Fernbrook Park.

the Back Mountain and works in Marion Rogers at 674-3341.

An overflow crowd of more conjunction with College Miser-Historical Society to collect photographs and oral history interviews.

> To review the photograph datatain.org. If anyone is interested in donating photographs to the database, contact Harrison Wick, College Misericordia archivist, at

The association holds meetdiscussed the attractions at the ings twice a year, usually in April and October. The next meeting will be held Oct. 25 in Kennedy Lounge. The topics will be Hill-Lake" also discussed for former side Farms and the former Himmler Theater. For more in-The Back Mountain Historical formation about the Back Moun-Association collects history of tain Historical Association, call

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