



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Jack Houser, left, Willis Ide, center, and Bob Besecker grab breakfast at an ecumenical men's breakfast group that meets every Tuesday morning.

## BREAKFAST

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en. The men donate the money each week to different causes, including Meals on Wheels and the Thomas Kane Family, fire victims. A total of \$4,920 was collected and disbursed by the group in 2008.

When just about everyone is finished eating, a speaker addresses the group. Speakers are Back Mountain pastors or sometimes guests, such as Senator Lisa Baker, who donated an American flag and a state flag to the group.

Charles Lemmond, a former state senator and a member of the breakfast group, invited the group to the state capital before he retired and presented a copy of a group photo from the trip to every man who attended.

The Reverend Roger Griffith, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas, spoke on Jan. 20 about dreams and how they relate to the Bible.

"Some of the speakers are really unique," said Bill Banks, who, along with sever-



Jack Houser, left, Harold Hae-fefe, center, and Willis Ide sit down for a weekly breakfast with a ecumenical men's group.

### IF YOU GO...

Back Mountain Men's Ecumenical Breakfast Group  
Tuesdays from 8 - 9 a.m.  
Pickett's Charge, Dallas  
Cost: \$5 each week

al other men from the group, volunteers at the Back Mountain Food Pantry after the breakfast. "It's amazing how many guys volunteer here."

Following an hour of food and camaraderie, the men conclude the breakfast by standing and singing, "God Bless America."

Deeble says the men are looking to increase their numbers and that all men are welcome to attend the breakfasts.

## FARMER

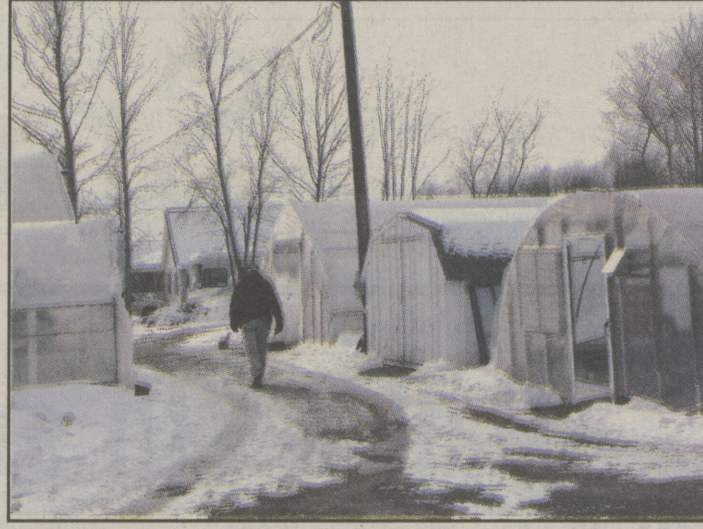
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Plainsville and his other brother and sister pursued different careers. Darling's father was getting older and Darling knew his dad would need assistance with the farm. He was right.

The Darling family lost everything on its Plains farm when the Susquehanna River spilled its banks the same year Darling graduated from high school. The river would once again destroy the crops on the farm during the Agnes Flood in June 1972 and during a flood in June 2006. A September hailstorm also obliterated the Dallas farm one year.

In 1955, Darling married his wife, the former Mary Pavidus. The couple has four children: Norman Jr., Joseph, Deborah Ann (Belenski) and Paul.

The following year, Darling built his first greenhouse on the Plains farm, thinking greenhouses were becoming a popular



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Norm Darling finishes up his planting and heads over to another greenhouse on his Dallas farm.

trend and would help the farm survive.

When Darling's parents died in the 1960s, he became the sole owner of the farms. After the Agnes Flood, he decided to move his family to higher grounds on his Dallas farm.

Farming is a job that never ends, according to Darling.

There is no set payday or quitting time and in order to be successful, he must plan ahead by months. From Christmas to Easter, he virtually has no income.

Despite all of the labor and worry involved, Darling takes pleasure in farming but wishes everyone else knew what goes in to creating and harvesting the

goods that people consume.

"There are a lot of children in the city who think milk comes from a supermarket," Darling said. "They don't know it comes from a cow."

Despite all of his labor, Darling found time to be active in several civic organizations. He was a 12-year volunteer of the Plains Volunteer Ambulance Association, a Boy Scout troop leader for Troop 100 in Plains, president of the Plains Lions Club, a master in the Masonic Lodge 61 in Wilkes-Barre and a noble grand for the Odd Fellows in Dallas.

Norman Jr. and Joseph took over the farm when their father retired at age 65. But Norman Sr. still works on the farms and greenhouses every day and in the summer he assists at the retail store.

"It's all I've ever known," Darling said of farming. "I still enjoy going out to work every day. I thank God I'm still able to do it. I can't sit around watching TV all day. That'd drive me nuts."

"And me nuts," added Mary, jokingly.

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