

Firemen see underground works

by Ella Louise Altland

August 28, 1976 was Elizabethtown, Mount Joy Forest Fire Crew Day at the defense civil preparedness agency's region two underground operations center at Olney, Maryland.

Thirty-seven forest fire crew members, family, friends from Elizabethtown-Mount Joy, PA, were invited for a briefing and tour of the facility.

It is one of eight federal region AL centers located throughout the nation.

The Center, under the direction of John E. Bex, is the hub of federal activity for the coordination and communication exchange of the emergency operations conducted by the five states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, their local governments, and The District of Columbia.

In the event of a civil defense emergency, representative staffs of various federal regional agencies who have emergency responsibilities would relocate at the center.

The center was constructed in 1971 at an initial cost of three and a half million dollars. With furnishings and special equipment, the total cost exceeded ten million dollars.

Pat Brown on college hockey team

Patricia Brown, a sophomore at Indiana University of PA is starting her second year at left wing for the University's Women's Varsity Field Hockey Team.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Brown, Mount Joy, and is a 1975 graduate of Donegal High School.

Parachutist course finished by Pvt. Irvin

Private Dale E. Irvin, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Irvin, 623 Church Street, Mount Joy, PA recently received a Parachutist Badge upon completion of the three-week airborne course at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA.

During the first week of training, he underwent a rigorous physical training program and received instruction in the theory of parachuting. The second week tested his ability through jumps from the 34-foot and 250-foot towers. The final week he was required to perform five static line parachute jumps.

Pvt. Irvin entered the Army in March 1976 and completed basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ.

He is a 1974 graduate of Donegal High School.

On a day-to-day basis, the center houses the defense civil preparedness agency's region two, The National Civil Preparedness Computer Center, The U.S. Army Communications Command, which includes The National Warning Center, and Engineering Elements of The North Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Being the largest communications center of the eight defense civil preparedness regions, it contains 24 separate communications systems utilizing every mode of conveying messages.

The center has its own wells, sewage treatment plant, diesel generators,

food and other survival needs required to sustain its personnel for 30 days.

Mr. Joseph F. Mealy, Deputy Regional Director, welcomed the group and talked on the importance of civil defense at all levels of government. Mealy said "Visits to us from local officials, civic groups, and interested citizens do much to keep us responsive to your needs and problems."

The Center, being as much as 40 feet underground, was very interesting and the group ate at the underground cafeteria after the tour.

In the afternoon, several hours were spent touring the 'International Village', several miles south of Gettysburg.



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6. Bainbridge Firehouse
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