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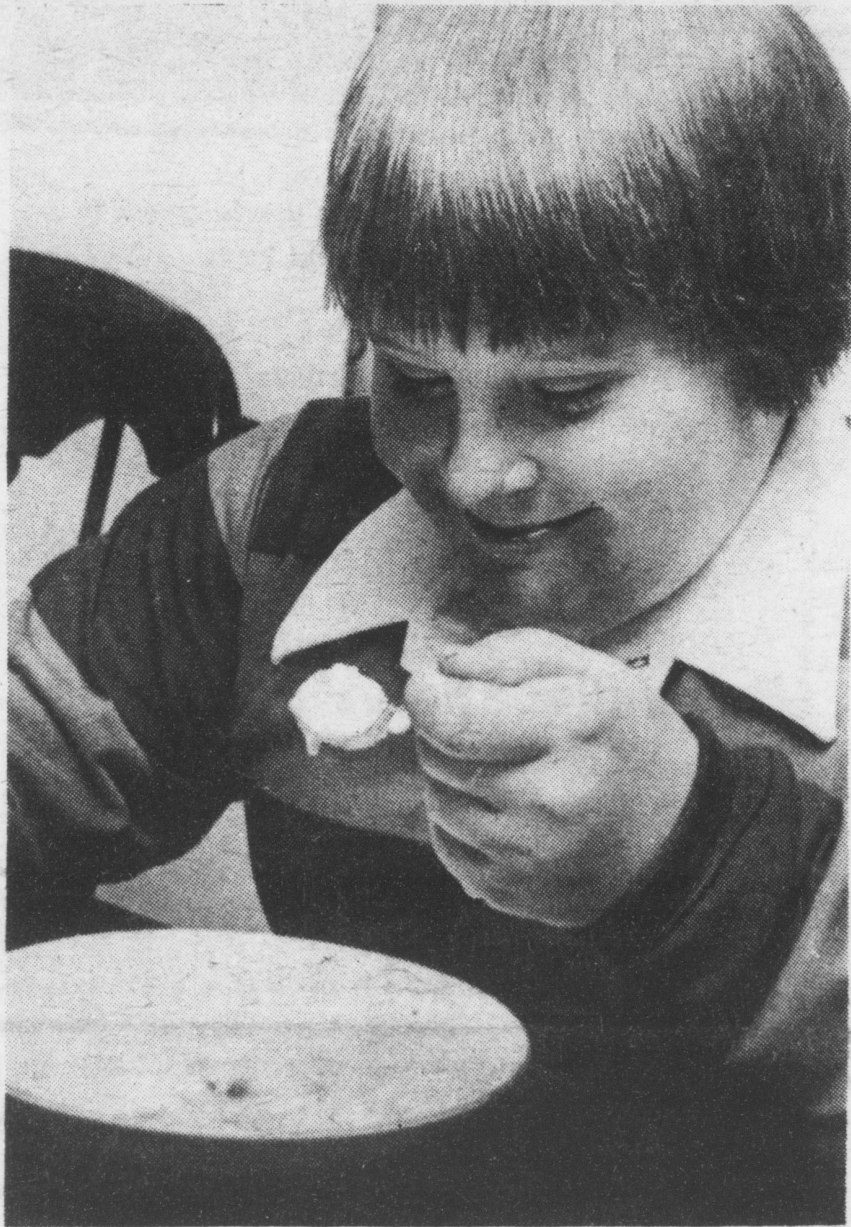
SUSQUEHANNA

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FIFTEEN CENTS



Deane Portner enjoys a dish of Susquehanna River ice cream.

Good time to make ice cream

As we all know, there's a good side to everything. Right?

Anyway, the **Susquehanna Times** has discovered a good side to the recent cold weather! This is the perfect time of the year to make Susquehanna River ice cream.

According to the Portner brothers (Joe and Ed) of Marietta, river ice makes the best homemade ice cream.

The ice, mixed with salt,

is used as a freezing agent. Since it never touches the ice cream, a skeptic might doubt that the river ice could influence the flavor of the finished product.

However, the Portners are experienced ice cream makers, and they maintain that Susquehanna ice is the best.

In warm winters, the Portners have been forced to use snow to freeze their ice cream. "It just doesn't work as well," says Joe's wife Loretta.

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Bus service coming to Marietta

Someday, the bus will stop in Marietta.

Reed Rodman, executive director of the Red Rose Transit Authority, says bus service to the Borough of Marietta will begin within the next 2-3 months.

The bus will travel up

route 441 from Columbia and will turn left on Market St. in Marietta.

The exact route through town and the number of stops have not been determined. The authority would appreciate suggestions from citizens about route and number of stops.

600 still laid off here

At least 600 workers have been laid off at local plants as a result of the natural gas shortage. The lay-offs occurred at the Armstrong plant in Marietta and the National Standard Co. plant in Mount Joy.

Spokesmen for UGI, the

company which supplies gas to the affected industries, say there is little chance that the situation will improve for at least a week.

Fuel oil and electricity are still available locally, and businesses which use

those fuels have not closed.

Governor Shapp's request for a shutdown of all "non-essential" businesses last weekend went almost unheeded locally. Businessmen took the governor's request seriously, but felt that lowering their thermostats was more useful

than closing for the weekend.

The average store temperature in this area is now 62 degrees, a **Susquehanna Times** survey revealed.

Many local businesses also closed early during the chilly weekend.

Crazy priestess, crazy prices

The confusing story of natural gas

Natural gas has been causing confusion since pre-Christian times.

In ancient Greece, people tried to solve their problems by taking them to a priestess, who was called an oracle; sat in a temple in the town of Delphi. The temple was built over a spot where natural gas seeped up from cracks in the ground.

When the oracle had breathed the poisonous fumes for a few minutes, she began hallucinating and babbling incoherently. People assumed that the oracle's crazy answers to their questions were the words of the god Apollo.

Manufactured natural gas was invented in the early 1600's by a Dutch alchemist named van Helmont, who was trying to create gold in his laboratory. He didn't get rich, but he got high. The psychedelic effects of breathing natural gas impressed Von Helmont so much that he named the stuff "wild spirit." The Dutch word for spirit is **geest**. We've been calling van Helmont's discovery "gas" ever since.

Since those bad old days, scientists have learned that natural gas can kill you if you breathe it, but will keep you warm if you burn it. Gas is also used to manufacture synthetic materials and chemical reagents.

The American natural gas industry may be a model of modern efficiency, but the regulations governing the industry are as confusing as the oracle's ravings.

The federal government sets price ceilings on all gas that crosses a state line. A man who owns a gas well in Texas can sell his gas to Pennsylvanians, but he can't charge much for it.

The exact price a Texas gas producer can charge is determined by the year in which he dug his well. For a well that started producing last year, the price ceiling is \$1.42 per 1000 cubic feet of gas. A well dug in 1975 brings only 52 cents per 1000 cubic feet. On 20 year-old wells, prices may be fixed as low as 32 cents.

Since a gas producer can get \$2.00 in his home state, he is not likely to pipe his gas to Pennsylvania if he can help it.

The UGI company, which supplies Lancaster County, gets all its gas from Columbia Gas Transmission of Charleston, West Virginia. Much of our gas comes

from Texas and Louisiana.

If the federal government "deregulates" natural gas (stops fixing prices), it is possible that more gas will start flowing into Lancaster County immediately. Of course, the gas will also become more expensive.

UGI spokesmen don't know how much extra gas they could expect to receive if the government lifts its price freeze. Although Texans have plenty of gas, and Pennsylvanians have very little, there seems to be a general shortage in the U.S. as a whole. No one knows if there is enough gas for the whole country.

The government is considering several plans to force gas-rich states to send their gas north even if they lose money in the process. A UGI spokesman calls this "just shifting from the haves to the havenots."

Total de-regulation is the only long-term solution to

the gas shortage, the UGI spokesman continued, because it would "induce producers to get more holes in the ground - to go out and seek new sources of gas."

The government may not agree. Gov. Shapp has speculated that the gas shortage may be the result of a conspiracy among producers to get rid of the profit-cutting government rules.

Everyone seems to agree that government regulations caused the current mess. The disagreement is over who should take the blame - a resentful industry or a profit-slashing bureaucracy.

In the days ahead, legislators in Washington will try to amend the regulations, one way or another.

If they make the right moves, workers at Armstrong at National Standard will get back to work before Spring.

Mount Joy baby sweetheart contest gets underway

Voting is now underway to elect the 1977 Baby King and Queen of Mount Joy. The Royal balloting began Friday, January 28 and will conclude Friday, February 11 at 7 p.m. Pictures of the contestants have been placed in one of the following Mount Joy businesses: Union National Bank, National Central Bank, Stehmans IGA, and Hostetter Hardware.

The public is invited to cast their ballots to elect their favorite candidates by penny-a-vote. The boy and girl with the most vote will be crowned Sweetheart King and Queen at ceremonies to be held Saturday, February 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Mark's Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The votes will be counted by a bank teller Friday

evening, February 11. Winners will be announced at the crowning ceremonies. Registration for candidates is 10:15 a.m. February 12, in the Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds from the contest will be presented to the Donegal Dental Clinic the day of the crowning, compliments of the Mount Joy Joyceettes, sponsors of the Sweetheart Contest.