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Peggy poses with a Navajo blanket.

## Peggy Shenk returns from Navajo country

D.H.S. graduate Peggy Shenk spent the last few months living with Navajo Indians. She is home now, and living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Shenk of Mount Joy R.D. #1.

Lancaster County is a long way from the Navajo Mission at Farmington, New Mexico, where Peggy worked from November until last week. Lancaster is also a lot more prosperous than the Navajo reservation.

The main purpose of the mission is to provide homes for Navajo orphans and children whose mothers are too poor to feed and clothe them. Peggy spent a lot of time babysitting for foster parents Jim and Kay Baker, two transplanted Lancasterians who worked at the mission.

She also learned to eat mutton stew and "fry bread"—two Navajo staples. She didn't learn to like them, but she learned to eat them.

The poverty on the reservation came as a bit of shock. Most Navajos live in

log and mud "hogans," without electricity or running water. Their entire livelihood comes from small herds of sheep, which survive on sparse desert browse.

Many families live 20 miles from the nearest neighbor, and the only means of transportation is often a horse.

Those conditions prompt some Navajo mothers to leave their children at the mission. Peggy says, "If the mother gets enough money, and thinks she can afford to raise the kid, she comes and gets him. Somehow it doesn't seem fair... the foster family has gotten so attached."

Some Navajo customs are very different from ours. For example, all property is owned by women, and is passed from mother to daughter. "The women pretty well run the show," says Peggy.

"I learned a lot about the Navajo people and how they live," she says, summing up her stay at the mission. "It was a really great experience."

## Democrats to choose local slate at rally

A public rally for registered Democrats interested in running for public office is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 1977, at the Mount Joy Borough Hall, 21 E. Main St., at 7 p.m.

Posts to be filled in Donegal are 1 supervisor, 1 auditor, and 1 tax collector in East Donegal Township; the mayor, 3 council members, a tax collector in Marietta Borough; the mayor, 5 council seats, and

1 tax collector in Mount Joy Borough; 1 supervisor, 1 auditor, 1 tax collector in Mount Joy Township; and 3 Donegal school directors.

Offices for one judge of election and one minority inspector are also open at each of the eight district polling places.

Special guest speakers from county headquarters and state committees will attend. The public is invited.

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