

Busses arrive —see back page for story

# SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

Vol. 77 No. 19 May 18, 1977

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy  
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY

FIFTEEN CENTS

RALPH M SNYDER  
R.D. 2 BOX 3040  
MOUNT JOY, PA. 17552

## (mock) Disaster!

—imaginary airplane strews  
“bodies,” flaming wreckage  
over landscape

It sounded like the worst aviation disaster in Lancaster County history. Ambulance, fire and rescue companies raced to the abandoned quarry near Bainbridge, where a spotter plane had located the flaming wreckage.

Our reporter found one rescue team trying to get an injured man out of a tree. After setting up a ladder, they carried him down and put him on a stretcher. An “official observer” walked up to the crew chief, who was trying to decide what to do next.

“Forget it. He’ll be dead in a few hours,” said the observer.

“Dead? His tag says he’s just unconscious!” said the chief. Strangely enough, the victim had a tag on his leg, stating his condition.

“Terminal radiation burns. It says so right here on the sheet.”

“Well, we can forget about this one,” said another crewman, and turned the litter over, dumping his victim on the ground.

The dying man laughed and climbed back on the litter.

Leaving to look for more gory photos, our reporter ran into a man carrying a large box of medical supplies. “He just died,” said the reporter.

The crewman turned around saying, “Then I can take this stuff back.”

“But they don’t know it yet,” said the reporter.

The man cursed, turned again, and went back up the hill with his burden.

The explanation for the rescue workers’ strange behavior is simple; this was not a real accident. It was a practice drill. Firemen arriving at the scene had not been warned that the drill was scheduled. They had to figure it out for themselves,

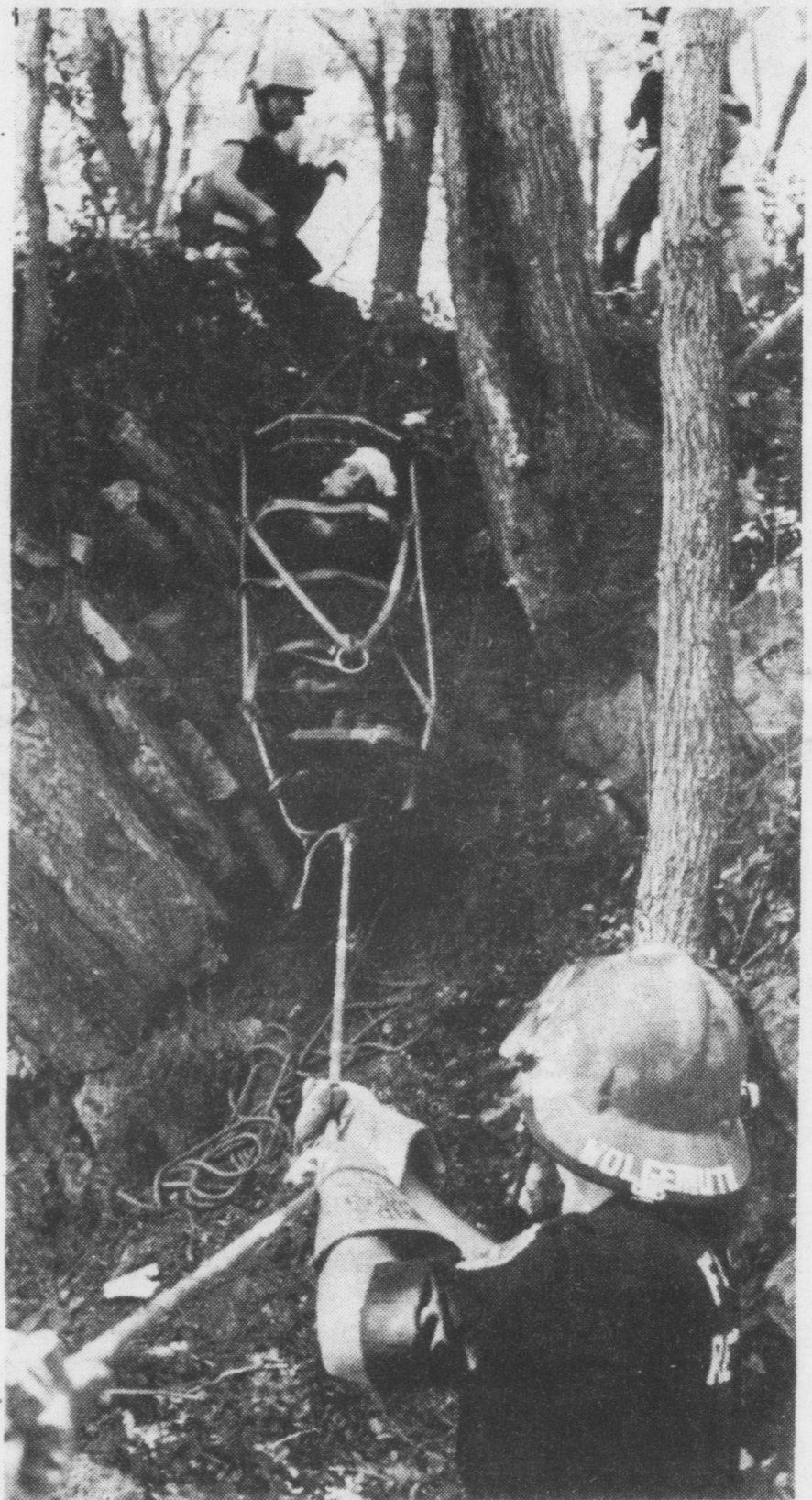
Civil Air Patrol members, who sponsored and planned the “crash” did their best to make the drill realistic. **Susquehanna Times** reporter Nick Bromer filed this report from the scene:

At 10:22 last Saturday flight Crunch 01 advised Harrisburg Airport control that they were having trouble with #2 engine. Six minutes later they radioed again: two crewman had bailed out, #2 engine was on fire, and they were losing altitude rapidly. Two minutes after that Harrisburg heard the plane’s “ELT” signal indicating a crash (the Electronic Locating Transmitter) turns itself on on impact). Crunch 01 did not answer on frequency 118.8.

Fifteen minutes later a search plane came zooming in at tree-top level over a small clearing near Bainbridge. One glance told the pilot what had happened. He radioed the position in.

The arriving ambulance was confronted with a strange and terrible scene. Fires were burning all around the area, bodies were strewn across the landscape in contorted postures, a girl was running in circles, screaming hysterically. One man was dangling from a tree: he had parachuted from the plane moments before it crashed but too late. He was seriously injured.

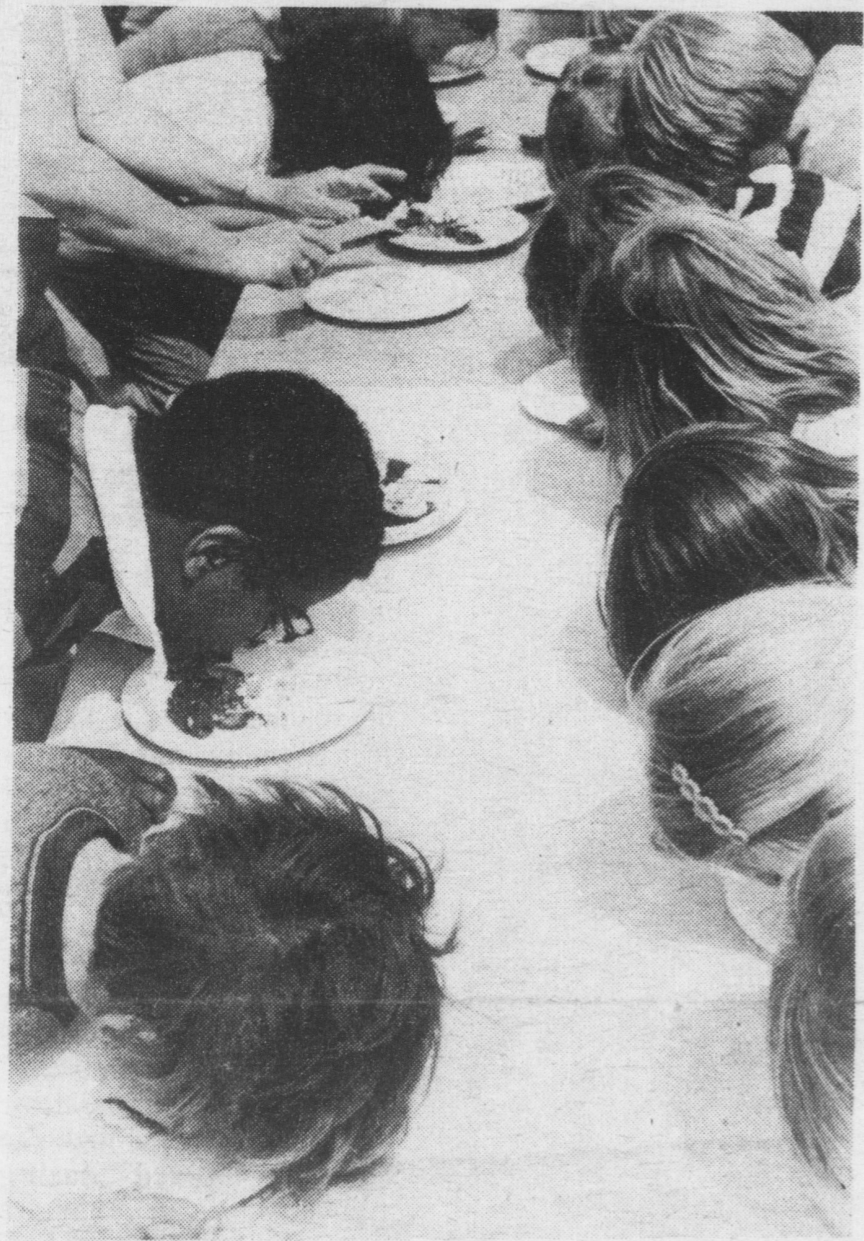
There was a lot of work to do, but the ambulance crew decided to first calm the hysterical girl, later identified as Bonnie Drace of Maytown. They wrestled her screaming to the ground and tried to calm her, to obtain information. Unfortunately, she only screamed some more, so they found a bystander to watch her and moved on to the injured passengers, some of whom were trapped in wreckage.



Rescue workers lower a ‘casualty’ from a cliff following the the crash of flight Crunch 01 near Bainbridge.

Drace, a Civil Air Patrol member, had not been on the plane when it crashed. She just happened to be there, along with about 40 other Air Patrolmen, five reporters, 7 SERCOM communications personnel, and several observers. Most of these people shamelessly rubbernecked and refused to help. Instead, they chatted and joked at the carnage.

Soon other ambulances and fire crew arrived.  
[continued on page 2]



## Let them eat pie

Kids at Riverview lined up for a pie-eating contest. It was pretty messy. **More on page 9.**

## Hobbies & Crafts

coming soon to Mount Joy

Next Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22 are the dates for the Mount Joy Hobby and Craft Show. More than 50 craftsmen and hobbyists will be displaying and demonstrating their wares. Some of the displays and demonstrations will include chair caning, quilling, modern ammunition reloading, Eisenhower items, quilts, candle making, homemade jewelry, plastic art, covered bridges, reverse painting, rug hooking, weaving, macrame, string art, crewel work, needlepoint, coins, and Mount Joy items.

The affair will be held in the W.I. Beahm Junior High School and is being sponsored by the Mount Joy Historical Society. Times for the show Saturday will be from 1 to 8

P.M. and on Sunday, times will be 1 to 6 P.M. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from members of the society.

Proceeds from the affair will be used in the establishment of the Mount Joy Historical Center. W. Bernell Heisey is president of the local organization.

Forty-year-old films of Mount Joy will be shown every 90 minutes. These films were taken by Joseph Sheaffer and were originally shown at a special program entitled “Home-town Movies.”

William Barto and Ralph Berrier are co-chairmen of the display area; Eugene Bender, tickets; Mrs. Marian Brubaker, refreshments; Mrs. Warren Heisey and Mrs. William Barto, display tables.

**MOUNT JOY MEMORIAL DAY**  
The Mount Joy Memorial Day Community Fund is seeking the support of every person, business, industry, or organization for money contributions to pay for the Memorial Day parade, fireworks, and community activities.  
Contributions can be mailed to Mount Joy Memorial Day Community Fund, Mount Joy, PA 17552.