

SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

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FIFTEEN CENTS



Mr. Groundy Groundhog, prognosticator. He holds the ceremonial carrot. [Photo courtesy of Gourmet Groundhog, Ephrata, run by Jessie Nissley, whose sister is Mrs. Harry Riley of Marietta.]

Groundhog Day

Numerous festivities are planned
in hopes of an early spring

It seems our article of last week's issue entitled "Groundhogophilia" was well read. We heard that Jessie Nissley has received a record number of phone calls from our township about her party.

The Times recently got a press release from Gourmet Groundhog that contained more details on the gala groundhog party on Thursday the 2nd [Groundhog Day].

Last year 500 people showed up to celebrate, and at least as many are expected tomorrow. Everyone will get balloons, candy, wooden nickels, and a groundhog calendar. If Groundhog Day is your birthday, you'll receive a free Gourmet Groundhog sweatshirt.

The festivities will climax at 4 PM when Ephrata Mayor Lloyd Gerhart cuts the giant groundhog-shape cake.

Jessie's groundhogs eat 650 pounds of carrots and lettuce per week, and her wild birds eat 50 pounds of sunflower seeds and crack-

ed corn in the same time. This puts a strain on Jessie's retirement budget, but, she says, "I don't mind. The joy I get from the groundhogs and other animals and birds is much more than my husband and I can get from vacations or any other form of entertainment."

The Times got other groundhog press releases this week, from Quarryville and Ocean City, NJ. Inspired by Jessie Nissley, we decided to print both of them. —ed.

From Quarryville:

The Slumbering Groundhog Lodge of Quarryville, PA, will conduct its 70th annual vigil of known groundhog borrows on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, in an effort to determine if six more weeks of winter lie ahead or if spring is just around the corner.

In the 69 previous years of issuing forecasts the [continued on page 3]

Girls' Basketball Team says "We're No. 1!"



"We're Number One!" — The Donegal Girls' Basketball team shows how they feel about being the undefeated section leaders since they narrowly beat Hempfield, the only other previously undefeated team, last week.

Coach Bill Earhart predicts a successful season for his girls "if they keep their noses to the grindstone and their feet on the ground." He noted that there are five games left in the season, the last of which will be again against the tough Hempfield team, whom the

Donegal girls beat last time by only three points, 51-48. If the girls keep up the hard work, they have a good chance to take the section championship.

Kneeling in the front in the photo above are, left to right, Tanya Merchant [No. 52], Darla Kelly [54], Alice Musser [22]; standing are, again left to right, Jeanne Hopwood [32], Karen Albright [40], Sharon Hershey [24], Sherri Kinsey [42], Pam Kolp [50], and Beth Keffer [14].

The snow is all cleaned up — situation normal

The worst is over — for now, anyway.

Except for a few massive sheets of ice on back roads here and there, Donegal Township seems to be in good shape. Both Marietta and Mount Joy managed to dig out from under the snow, and Marietta avoided serious flooding.

According to Bill Breckline of the Marietta Civil Defense, there was some minor flooding on Front Street. Sewers backed up near Shank's Tavern, and at one point there were 29 inches on water on the 400 block of East Front. The Chiques Creek overflowed its banks.

Marietta experienced 12 flooded cellars. The Civil Defense, the Pioneer and Columbia No. 1 Fire Companies, and the Zone 7 Fire Police all helped out, and the four private snow removal companies did a good job, according to Breckline. "If they hadn't moved the snow as soon as they did, everything on the south side of Market Street would have been flooded," he said. There was "plenty of work," he added.

The Salvation Army also lent a hand by delivering food. The Red Cross was ready to provide shelter in case of serious flooding, which fortunately didn't

happen.

Mr. Breckline had been working down at Safe Harbor, which he described as "a mess." As to Marietta, he said "We're not expecting any more trouble, but you never know." A quick thaw could cause flooding.

In Mount Joy, the only reminders of last week's storm are ice sheets at places on the roads, according to mayor James Gingrich. "Everything's under control," he said.

The ice spots are being cindered, but it's not helping a great deal.

Last Tuesday the mayor went rode along with the

snow removal crews from 2 in the afternoon to 12:30 at night. "I went along to help out and keep them awake," the mayor said, noting that hours of staring at snow can cause great fatigue. He enjoyed the work, he said.

Mr. Gingrich considers the snow removal "a job well done."

In spite of being far from the river, Mount Joy had many flooded basements, as did Maytown, Bainbridge, and the rural areas of the township. Mount Joy dispatcher John Lutz said that there were about 70

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