

# DID YOU HEAR?

George Jenkins of Marietta was named to the honors list at Lancaster Bible College. George is the son of Mrs. Jean M. Becton of 128 N. Gay Street. He is majoring in Bible and Christian education.

SSS



**Scott Baker**

Airman Scott Baker, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Baker of 129 S. Market St., Mount Joy, has completed basic training and been assigned to Lowry AFB in Colorado. He will now study munitions and weapons maintenance.

SSS

Navy operations specialist Tom Olson, the son of Carl E. and Barbara A.B. Olson of RDI Bainbridge, has reported for duty on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.

SSS

Mrs. John (Dora) Wittle of Mount Joy will celebrate her birthday on February 25.

SSS

Mrs. Helen Wealand of Mount Joy will celebrate her birthday on February 28.

Marine 2nd Lt. Dennis Werner, the son of Paul and Betty Werner of RD2 Mount Joy, recently graduated from The Basic School at Quantico, Va. The school prepared him to command a rifle platoon.

He studied land navigation, communications, and military instruction methods.

Dennis is a 1974 graduate of Donegal High and a 1978 graduate of Delaware Valley College.

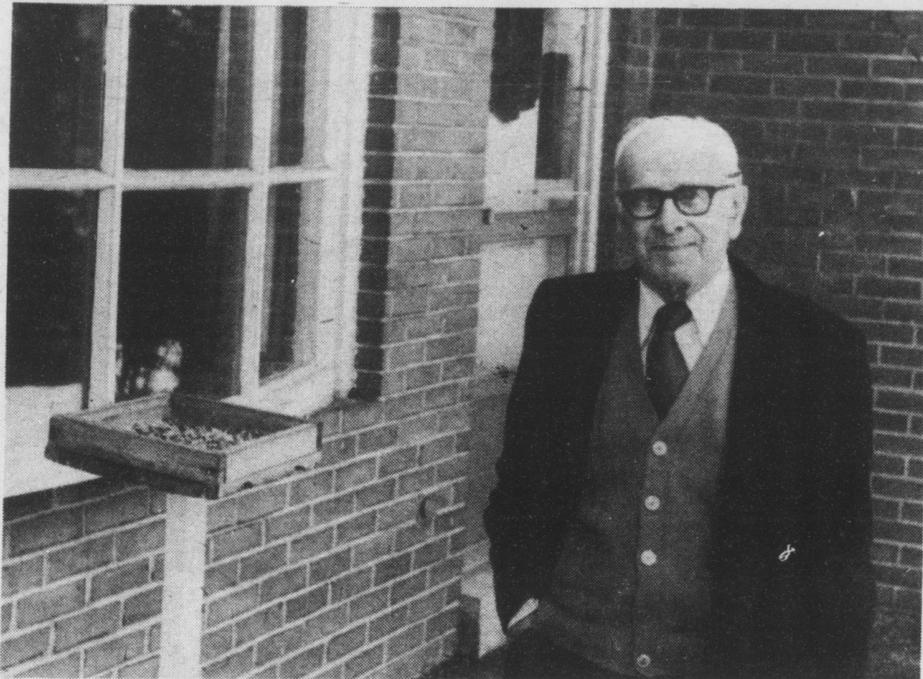
SSS

Dr. Jay Lehman, formerly of Mount Joy, has been promoted in his job as a research scientist for Norwich-Eaton in Norwich, NY. He graduated from Donegal High School in 1960.

SSS

Pvt. James Messersmith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Messersmith of 940 W. Church Street, Mount Joy, recently completed his training as an armor crewman in the U.S. Army.

SSS



Mr. Lew Libhart, who lives on Colebrook Road near Marietta, is shown above with one of his six birdfeeders. So far this year he has bought 435 pounds of bird food. He fills every feeder each morning. He has been feeding birds for decades.

Deborah Herman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Risberg of 218 Ziegler Street, Mount Joy, has been promoted to senior airman in the Air Force. She is a radiology specialist and is stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Deborah is a 1972 DHS graduate.

SSS

Joel D. Heisey, of RD2 Mount Joy, will study in Germany this spring.

Joel will go under Penn State's Foreign Studies Program. He will carry a full course load at the German school.

## Ashes to ashes,

## ashes to concrete

PP&L has a lot more ashes than anyone else around here, because they burn a lot of coal to make electricity. Up 'til now, the ash has been worthless. But PP&L is planning to change its ash collection methods and thereby make a profit on the coal's waste.

Dry ash has many uses. It can be spread on icy roads, used in "sand-blasting" gear, as an ingredient in concrete and plaster, and in making fireproof materials and tape.

Right now PP&L is selling its "bottom ash" (the heavy ash that collects in the bottom of power plant furnaces) for some of these purposes. However, the lighter "fly ash" that goes up the chimneys is not collected in useable form, since it is washed out of the chimney collectors. Only dry ash is useful.

A vacuum collector, scheduled to be installed in 1982 at one plant, will collect the fly ash dry.

Fly ash is a sort of cement. The ancient Romans used it to make roads. They got the ash from volcanoes.

# ALPHABET SOUP

The *Susquehanna Times* recently received a copy of a list of acronyms—words formed from the initial letters of phrases—drawn up for the personnel of the Donegal School District.

The list is remarkable mainly for its length—no less than 259 pseudo-words are listed on ten pages.

The acronyms start with "AA," standing for "Athletic Association," and end with "3M," which is Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing.

Most of the acronyms translate into gibberish words—AAHPER, HSM, JA, and MENC—but there are quite a few that form words from initials. ABLE, for instance, stands for Adult Basic Literacy Education; the next entry, ABLEST, stands for Adult Basic Literacy Education Skills Text. These seem to have been named this way on purpose, to aid memory and, perhaps, to stand out among the other 258 acronyms.

Others of this type are: CALM (Competent Assistance in Labor Management), CHILD (Children with Hearing Impairment and/or Language Delay), DITTO (Donegal Indian Teenage Tutor Organization), ESTEEM (Encouraging School Transportation Effective Energy Management), GRASP (Grandview Reading Adventure for Supportive Parents), IDEA (Institute for Development of Education Activities), RISE (Research and Information Services for Education), SHOP (Sharing Helpful Operating Practices), SLAP (Student Library Assistant Program), TIME (Teacher Inservice for Mainstreaming Education), VEIN (Vocational Education Information Network), and WORK (Widening Occupational Roles

Kit).

Some of the acronyms listed for the school employees are familiar to all. VD stands for Venereal Disease, IBM for International Business Machines—but USSR stands for Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading, not Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Other familiars (with the usual meanings) are UFO, UN, CPR, DIG, HACC, HEW, PSAT, PTO, TM, and UNICEF.

The majority of the acronyms in the list are of the unfamiliar gibberish type. It's no wonder that some who name programs and organizations, knowing their names will be reduced to alphabet soup, seek to work out a short, punchy, easily remembered set of capitals.

The use of acronyms is increasing—and posing a danger to communication. If the trend keeps growing, confusion will result: every ordinary word will have a matching acronym, and only context will prevent confusion in speech. There is no threat to written meaning, because the acronyms are always written in capitals.

As people in the communications business, we at the *Susquehanna Times* hope that our educators—and others, who are equally at fault—will refrain from drowning us in a deluge of words that are, like detergent names, unrelated in any way to their usage.

If it goes on much longer, people will be crying for HELP (Help Eliminate Lumpy People). And if their outcries lead to organizational names that actually mean something in themselves, we will be the first to say, "YEA!" (Youth Education Association!).

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