



## ALL IN THE FAMILY Sarah Child

I remember once showing a friend a picture of our son dressed up in his grandfather's fishing basket and waist high waders in my parents' backyard in northeastern Pennsylvania.

She was supposed to exclaim how cute he looked. Instead she looked at the super lush greenness of the backyard and exclaimed, "Pennsylvania! But, I thought the whole state was given over to coal mining and steel production, etc., etc., etc."

I informed her as best I could as to her mistake but I shrink to think how many other people have the same mistaken notion about the state where I grew up and which will always be home.

Home is the most fertile of valleys stretching between hills and mountains covered with stands of pine and sugar maples. It is beautiful streams rushing down mountain sides and through fields, wide enough to need a few stones if you want to cross, deep enough for trout to swim and inviting enough to dam up for a swimming hole.

Pennsylvania is bobcats, black bears and white tailed deer.

It is picking blueberries growing along a dusty dirt road and finding wild strawberries in an abandoned field and the most incredibly fragrant forests anywhere.

Pennsylvania is walking through woods so deep that the sun filters through to show fern fronds, leeks and an overwhelming variety of wild flowers from tiny fisherman's baskets to the wood violet.

There may be coal miners and steel workers in Pennsylvania. But my Pennsylvania is peopled with farmers and hunters and small town industry workers and trades people.

The Encyclopedia Britannica says that half of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is forest area, thanks to the work of Gifford Pinchot and the state's scientific forest conservation program. That's more than 15 million acres.

It is also the home of the Monongahela, Susquehanna, Allegheny and Delaware rivers, some of whose tributaries have flowed around all the houses I ever lived in as a child and in whose water we sailed rafts, washtubs and makeshift boats. Pennsylvania, which means Penn's woods, is still aptly named.

## Mercy Sisters To Open Camp

A summer day camp, Camp Silver Birch, will again be sponsored and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy July 2-August 3 at the Mercy Motherhouse grounds on Blossom Road. The camp will operate Monday through Friday from 9:30-2:45. Campers may sign up by the week.

Registration applications will be accepted until June 15 and are available at 1437 Blossom Road or from Sister Kathryn Wahl or Sister Theresa Bolha at 663-5856.

### NAVY HONORS YMCA

Each of the nine YMCA's in Monroe County recently received a blue and gold "Go Navy/Fly Navy" basketball in recognition of the YMCA's contribution to youth. Basketballs were also awarded to each of the winning high schools teams of the Section Five Basketball finals.

Rochesterian Bill Cox, an ex-Navy Chief Petty Officer, and former Olympic medal winner, assisted in the presentation, held at the Navy Recruiting Office in downtown Rochester.



"Pull Here!"

Photo by Susan McKinney

James Barnard, left, gives Paul Weber some pointers on launching his kite at the Kite Flying Day for Cub Pack 212, held on School 43 playground Sunday, April 15. Several kites fell casualty to utility wires.

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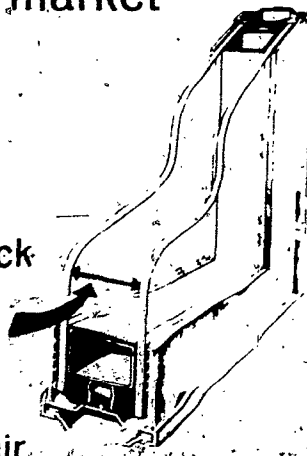
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