

Unique citizen loved by many



This woman who appeared anonymously in the Oct. 17 issue of the *Rocket* turns out to be one of Slippery Rock's leading citizens.

By CINDY KONCHAR
Of The *Rocket* Staff

"...A charming lady whose diffusive love has reached and brightened the lives of countless members of our community...who has expressed a deep concern for the continued growth and well-being of the college and town, and has managed to find many ways to quietly translate this concern into affirmative action..."

When the Town-Gown Award, first presented in 1972, was awarded to Mrs. Mabel Poe Blyth she received a plaque which stated the above message.

In 1976 the highly coveted award, now granted annually to a student, a faculty member and a member of the Slippery Rock community, was renamed the Mabel Blyth Town-Gown Award.

Why? Replies Dick Manning of the Town-Gown Committee, himself a recent recipient of the award, "Grandma Blyth is a unique person who bridged a lot of gaps; a true believer in the Town-Gown concept of both segments of the community working together."

In the twenty-five years she lived in Blue House, her Main Street residence, Mrs. Blyth, now 82, adopted literally hundreds of Slippery Rock students, and became universally known as "Grandma Blyth," or simply "Gram."

Mother-of-the-Year

Her love for the students was perhaps best demonstrated in her relationship with the Theta Chi fraternity.

Tim Leary, a Theta Chi brother from 1967-72, now a teacher at the Slippery Rock Middle School, describes Grandma Blyth as "our unofficial Mother-of-the-Year every year." As Blue House was only two doors down from the Theta Chi house, the frat-

ernity brothers passed many hours in its homey, blue-papered rooms full of antiques and old photographs. "Her house was always open to us," asserts Leary.

He feels that the Theta Chi brothers who associated with Grandma Blyth benefited greatly. "She was the Grand Lady of Etiquette. Guys in the fraternity behaved in a more gentlemanly manner because of her influence."

Yet, her influence extended still further. While making dinners for the brothers, sneaking them presents, advising, counseling or befriending them, she encouraged them to be involved in campus activities. As a result, the Theta Chi's received top campus fraternity honors, the Dean's Cup, two years in a row, "the same two years our association with Grandma Blyth was the strongest," declares Leary.

Deanne Roemer, the elder of Mrs. Blyth's two daughters, recalls the beginning of the "love affair" between the Theta Chi's and her mother. In the early sixties when fraternities were new to the college, "some people were appalled that they would be living in the community," reflects Mrs. Roemer. "Sometimes the townspeople felt threatened by the growth of the college."

But Grandma Blyth, always concerned, felt a responsibility toward these young men. Thus, armed with a "roaster pot full of cookies," she went to the Theta Chi house and introduced herself with, "I'm your neighbor."

This, however, wasn't enough. Following introductions and their "cookie party" she took her concern one step further and explained to the brothers their responsibilities to the community. Smiles Roemer, "She did it in love and they accepted it the same way."

In 1970 the Theta Chi fra-

ternity inducted Grandma Blyth into the Daughters of the Crossed Swords, an exclusive organization for girls who were pinned, engaged or married to Theta Chi's, and in 1974 the National Theta Chi organization honored her.

"nothing they wouldn't do for Mother"

Of the Theta Chi brothers Roemer confides, "There was nothing they wouldn't do for Mother, from shoveling her walks and cutting her lawn to nursing her when she was ill."

Other residents of Slippery Rock benefited from Grandma Blyth's generosity. Rev. John C. Peterson, minister at the Presbyterian Church in town, speaks of many occasions when needy families had received a loaf of bread or a jar of preserves and comfort from Mrs. Blyth before he arrived. "Gram was everywhere!" His wife agrees.

Grandma Blyth, a poet, a painter, a seamstress, a hostess, but perhaps most important of all, she was a concerned member of the Slippery Rock community. The Town-Gown Awards, perpetuated by her and her family to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals in fostering good relationships between the college and the community, are the embodiment of an ideal for which she truly stands.

The award the committee gave her in 1976, to which she fondly refers as her "coronation," ends with this statement.

"Your unselfish and abounding efforts in fostering better communications and relations between the town and the college stands as a light and inspiration to those who aspire to walk the path of selfless service for the common good."

Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. *Shogun*, by James Clavell. (Dell, \$3.50.) Englishman's adventures in 16th-century Japan: fiction.
2. *Sophie's Choice*, by William Styron. (Bantam, \$3.50.) Star-crossed lovers and the nature of evil: fiction.
3. *Still Life with Woodpecker*, by Tom Robbins. (Bantam, \$6.95.) A sort of a love story: fiction.
4. *The Dead Zone*, by Stephen King. (NAL/Signet, \$3.50.) Terror tale of a man who sees into the future: fiction.
5. *Godel, Escher, Bach*, by Douglas R. Hofstadter. (Vintage, \$8.95.) Computer scientist's theory of reality.
6. *Shibumi*, by Trevanian. (Ballantine, \$2.95.) Intrigues of the perfect assassin and perfect lover: fiction.
7. *Memories of Another Day*, by Harold Robbins. (Pocket, \$3.50.) Saga of American labor movement: fiction.
8. *A Woman of Substance*, by Barbara Taylor Bradford. (Avon, \$2.95.) Successful woman & her children: fiction.
9. *Texas!*, by Dana F. Ross. (Bantam, \$2.75.) Life in Texas prior to statehood: fiction.
10. *Petals on the Wind*, by V. C. Andrews. (Pocket, \$2.75.) Children take revenge in horror sequel: fiction.

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New & Recommended

Karl Marx, an Intimate Biography, by Saul K. Padover. (NAL/Mentor, \$3.50.) Personal life of the philosopher and political activist.

The 65th Tape, by Frank Ross. (Bantam, \$2.50.) Intrigues of diplomat turned security agent & uses and abuses of power.

The Year of the French, by Thomas Flanagan. (Pocket, \$3.75.) French to the aid of 18th-century Irish uprising.

Association of American Publishers

Students instrumental at NAMT Convention

By CINDY DUBESKY
Special to the *Rocket*

Six Music therapy majors, along with Sue Shuttleworth, RMT, and Michael Cassity, RMT, represented Slippery Rock State College at the National Association of Music Therapy (NAMT) Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from Nov. 1-5.

Cassity presented a session on "Non-traditional Guitar Techniques," and Cindi Dubesky gave a presentation concerning "Legislative Aspects of Music Therapy." This presentation contained the procedures and results from a national project that was taken on by the music Therapy Club in April.

Slippery Rock was again put in charge of another national project, one which is being carried out by 64 col-

leges throughout the United States. Cindy Snyder was elected Parliamentarian of the national student organization of NAMT and was selected as a student representative to the Government Relations Committee.

Cindi Dubesky was selected as a student representative to the Public Relations Committee, and Sue Shuttleworth is currently serving as chairperson of the Student Affairs Committee.

Along with being active on the national level, Slippery Rock also belongs to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association of MARAMT. Diane Routsch is the student representative of Slippery Rock's Music Therapy Club to this organization.

Each year the organization completes a school project and presents it at the regional

convention in the spring. Currently the Music Therapy Club is working on a regional project concerning legislation.

It is possible that there are some students at Slippery Rock who have never heard of music therapists, but many music therapists throughout the United States know that there is a Slippery Rock because of the work that this college's music therapists do.

Winter formal

Youth ARC is sponsoring a Winter Wonderland Formal on Dec. 12 from 8-11 p.m. in the College Union Multi-Purpose Room.

Music will be provided by D.J. John Greer and the cost will be \$2 at the door.