



Edna Lynn, Executive Director of the Columbia County Historical Society, tells us of two homes, still standing, in Espy that were used as part of the Underground Railroad.

At one time Mrs. Lynn's uncle resided in the house that had been used as a station. It contained a "crawl space" between the upper and lower floors measuring approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in which the slaves were hidden.

An underground tunnel connected this home to a home on the other side of the street. Mrs. Lynn speculates the fugitives were ushered through the tunnel from one home to the other if slave-catchers were in the area.

To our northwest Pennsdale and Williamsport both had well known stations.

A home in Pennsdale known as the "House of Many Stairs" caused utter frustration to many a slave-catcher. The builder of the home adjusted his plans for the house to the hillside terrain. This resulted



**VERTICAL**



FREE  
**GROOVER EDGING**  
With purchase of  
*Groover Insert Blind*  
until March 29th.

**EXTRA 10% OFF - TOTAL 35% OFF**  
ON SELECTED PATTERNS  
PRICE GROUP 1 TO 10 TILL MARCH 1ST  
**HOUSE OF FABRICS INC.**  
120 WEST MAIN ST. - BLOOMSBURG  
PHONE: 784-1860

in an abundance of stairways, seven in all. A slave-catcher could become quite confused by the tangle of stairs wondering if he had already searched a room or not.

The hidden room which actually served as shelter for the slaves had its passage through a small attic door with a sliding panel at the very top of one of the stairways. The home was a stage coach stop and tavern therefore all the activity aided in confusing the slave-catcher.

Until a few years ago, when it was destroyed by fire, there was a house in Williamsport known as the "Hughes House". Daniel Hughes, an American Indian chief and his black wife, Anne were the agents and conductors there.

Most often Daniel would pick up the fugitives by canal boat on nights when the moon was obscured by thick layers of clouds to shield them from the eye of the ever present slave-catcher. There were three caves on the Hughes property in which the slaves were hidden.

The route to the property was treacherous due to a rocky, winding path and thick undergrowths of vines and bramble bushes, but the path caused a problem to the hunter as well as the hunted. Often vines

**STITCH 'N BEE**  
FABRICS, CRAFTS & NOTIONS  
58 E. MAIN STREET BLOOMSBURG  
**CLEARANCE SALE**  
DRESS FABRICS, SWEATSHIRT,  
CORDUROY, WOOL, CRAFT,  
HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS  
2 FULL RACKS PLUS MORE  
**ALL 50% OFF**



784-2115

MEMBER NATS-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEMPORARY SERVICES

**RUSSOLI**  
**TEMPS**

Clerical - Technical  
Bookkeeping - AR/AP Clerks  
Data Entry - Word Processing  
Light Industrial/General Labor

*"Providing reliable, qualified employees  
and payroll-benefit management."*

459 East Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 (717) 784-6880

a highway stretched across it throwing  
 free slave-catcher riders from their  
 horses, giving the slaves time to  
 reach the caves.

Dramas of life and death were  
 played out with frequency by the  
 participants of the Underground  
 Railroad; some 60,000 slaves gained  
 freedom through it, and our Susque-  
 hanna Valley played an historic  
 role.

## FARM, GARDEN, AND WINDOWSILL



### FEBRUARY'S WORLD OF PLANTS

#### COFFEE BEANS

Hey, how ya doin? Or wanna cuppa  
 coffee? , are two of our most  
 popular expressions. In the frosty  
 month of February, the latter is  
 probably more popular than the  
 former.

Coffee was first consumed in the  
 dark ages of Ethiopia. Consumed is  
 the right word because these early  
 people "ate" their coffee. And why  
 not? Raw coffee contains about 12%  
 protein. It was an edible for  
 centuries in Africa but when some-  
 one discovered how to roast, grind  
 and brew the coffee seeds, a world  
 beverage was born.

Coffee reached England in time  
 for Captain John Smith to bring it  
 to the new world where today - if  
 you are an average American - you  
 drink between three and four cups  
 a day.

"Moca" is a nickname for just  
 plain coffee. Moca, a coastal city  
 in Arabia, was a big export center  
 for this crop in the early days.

"Java", another nickname, was  
 acquired when some early Dutchman  
 stole some coffee seed from Moca  
 and planted them on the Indonesian  
 Island of Java where they prospered.

The coffee bean is not a bean at  
 all. Scientists call it a drupe.  
 Cherries, peaches and plums are  
 also drupes; a large seed covered  
 by a pulpy mass inside the skin.

This pulp must be removed by the  
 coffee grower before we see it as  
 a grindable "bean".

And finally, why is coffee so  
 expensive? Several reasons: first,  
 hand-picking is necessary. The  
 beans do not ripen all at once.



### SUPPLY, INC.

. WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS .  
 PLUMBING - HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
 255 EAST 7TH STREET  
 BLOOMSBURG, PA. 17815  
 PHONE 784-3263

WILLIAM A. COOMBS

## BOOKS & BOUTIQUES

"YOUR PAPERBACK EXCHANGE CENTER"

BIBLE  
 HEADQUARTERS

221 CENTER ST.  
 BLOOMSBURG

PHONE: 784-3765

TRADE  
 YOUR  
 BOOKS  
 FOR OURS

We are your

## Vacation Specialists

- Airline Tickets
- Car Rentals
- Tour Packages
- Hotel - Cruises
- & Much, Much, More!

You've got the time, we've got  
 great places for you to go!

**STOP IN TODAY FOR A TOMORROW  
 OF FUN AND RELAXATION!**

## Royal Travel

318 Ferry Street, Danville 275-6000

New Hours: 9 to 6 Daily;  
 Friday 9 to 8, Sat. 10 to 3