

news letter

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EXPLORING a safer TOMORROW

SAFETY
WEEK
18-22
APRIL
1-9-8-8

Inside This Issue

First Impressions	8
Acronyms	9
Community Colleges	4
Safety Week	2-3



Ross in what turned out to be the most hotly contested match of the afternoon. In the second match, Ed Soloka defeated John, thus eliminating the possibility of a father and son showdown in the next match. In the third match, John's son, John Camp IV, defeated Ed, setting the stage for the championship final between the two 17-year-old bowlers. John Camp, after an early lead, cruised to a 192-169 win, netting him a cool \$200; John McGinty collected \$100 for his second-place finish.

Those bowling the high game scratch during the qualifying rounds picked up \$50 Savings Bonds: Mike Miley in the men's division, Denise McAlexander in the women's division, and John Camp IV for the juniors.

Mary Lynne Neese, 5 lbs., 10 ozs., 18½ inches tall, was born on February 13 to Kathy and Stephen Neese. Kathy is with the National Computer Security Center.

Note: Births must have taken place within 6 months prior to submitting birth announcements.

★Granville Gilbert of the Telecommunications and Computer Services Organization, and Larry Lindsay of the Operations Organization, both have cross-stitch projects featured in the March-April issue of the *Just CrossStitch* magazine. Both men have been avid cross-stitchers for several years and have completed a number of elaborate works. Granville's *Blue Lady* by Lanarte and Larry's Norman Rockwell scene have both been displayed at an area cross-stitch store. Word has it that they may soon be displaying here at NSA, so needlecraft fans, keep your eyes open!

"Any government, like any family, can for a year spend a little more than it earns. But you and I know that a continuance of that habit means the poorhouse."

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt

★Youth won the day at the second annual CWF Bowling Classic, held at the Crofton Bowling Center on Sunday, February 7. The tournament's two youngest participants, both 17, dominated the event from start to finish. At the end of the qualifying rounds, John McGinty II led the field of 160 bowlers, rolling a blistering 916 (including handicap); John Camp IV was in second place with an equally impressive 893.

The step-ladder finals began with John Camp III defeating Mike

Solve the Cipher, Find a Treasure

The world of cryptography has many secrets and mysteries. One whose solution would immediately result in substantial material profit is the mystery of the Beale cipher.

In 1817, an individual named Thomas Jefferson Beale and his company of 30 men were tracking buffalo north of Santa Fe. The men were camping for the night in a small ravine when they made an unexpected discovery--gold. For the next 18 months they mined huge amounts of gold and silver from the area, with Beale and 10 of his companions later returning to



Virginia to bury it for safekeeping. Digging a ditch 6 feet deep "in the county of Bedford about four miles from Bufords," the men hid about \$13,000 worth of jewels, 1 ton of gold, and a half a ton of silver. Beale then returned to the West, leaving behind him a locked box with instructions inside it regarding the buried treasure. The box was given to a tavern keeper, Robert Morris, who was told to open it only if Beale himself had not returned in 10 years.

Twenty years passed without Beale's return. When the box was opened it was found to contain information on the treasure and two papers filled with enciphered writing. Although the key to the ciphers--whose text described, among other things, the exact location of the buried valuables--was not provided, one of the ciphers was eventually broken, the Declaration of Independen-

dence having been its key.

To encipher the page marked "paper no. 2," Beale had numbered each word in the Declaration and used the word's number in place of the original text characters. Unfortunately, however, the same key had not been used to prepare "paper no. 1." To this day despite repeated attempts by various cryptanalysts and others, the 496 numerical groups have never been broken. And the enigmatic "paper no 1" has not yet yielded the secret of its cipher key, or of the location of the treasure buried somewhere in Virginia.

"He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals."

—Benjamin Franklin