

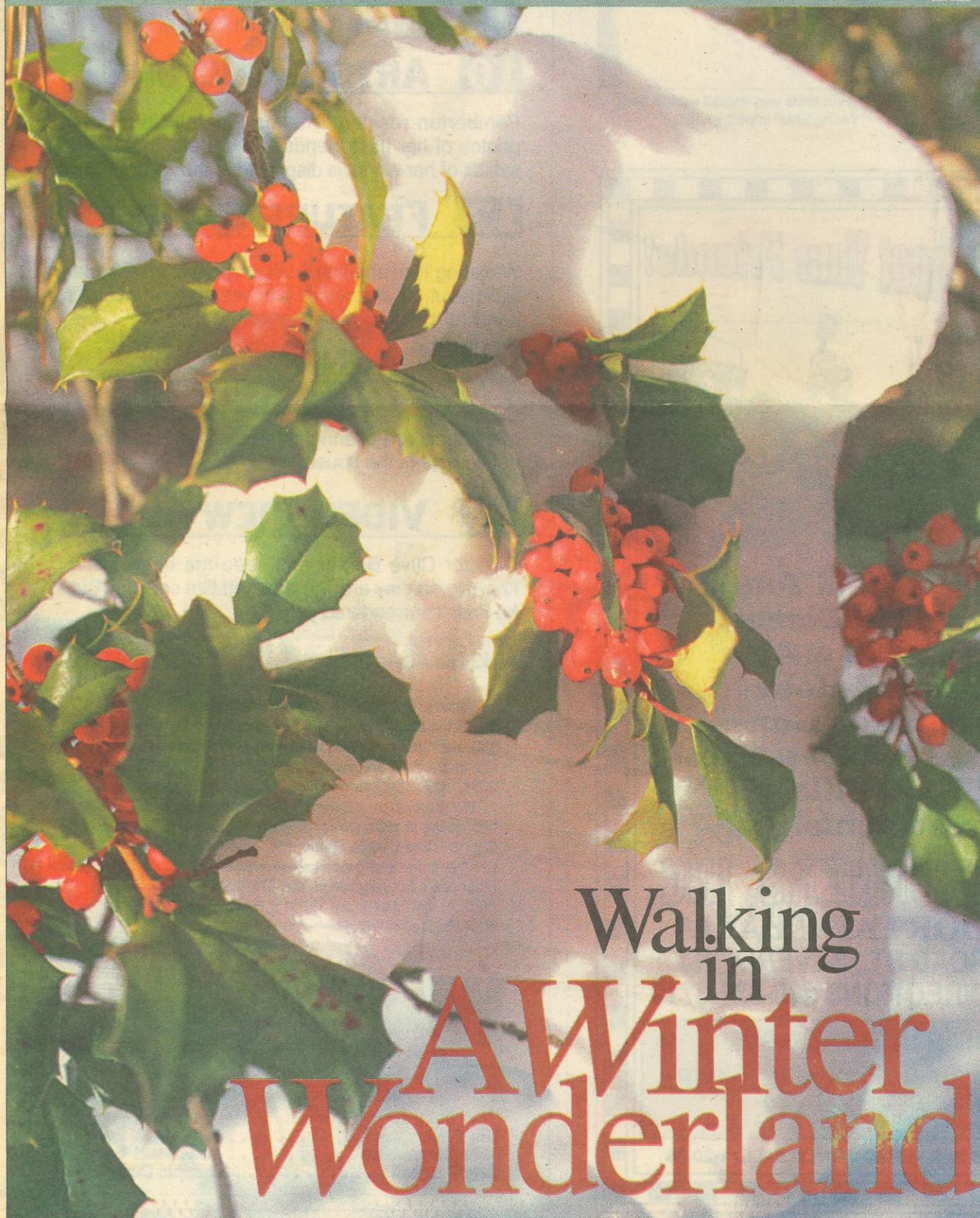
What's HAPPENING!

Thursday, January 18, 1996

Burlington County Times

FEATURE STORY

12



Walking
in
**A Winter
Wonderland**

BCT photo/DENNIS McDONALD

Snow-kissed holly berries at Whitebog Village are an example of some of nature's offerings that can be seen during a hike there.

MOVIES

5



Dreyfuss, message
make 'Mr. Holland's
Opus' ring true

CONCERT SCENE

8

Ozzy Osbourne
is back at Spectrum
after brief retirement

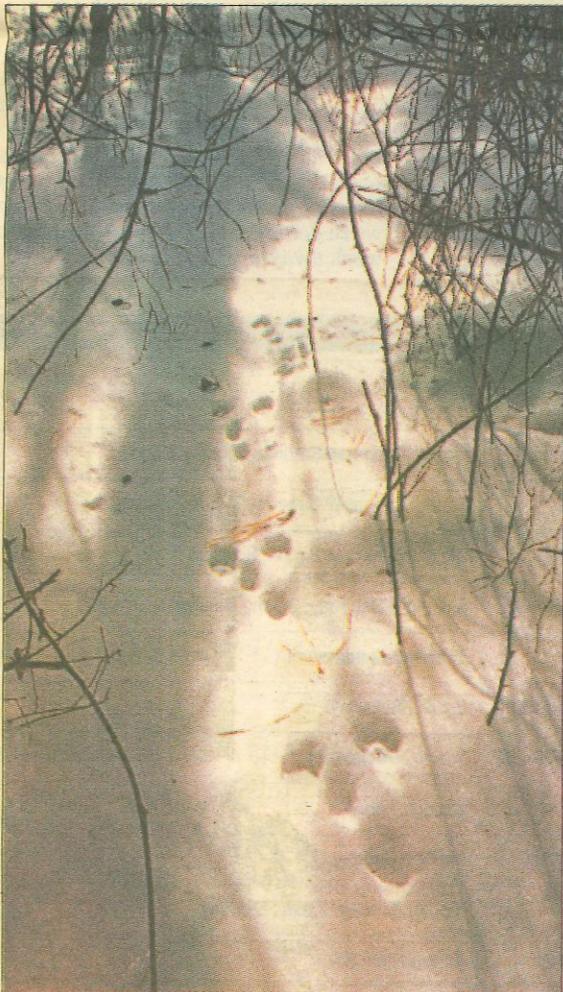
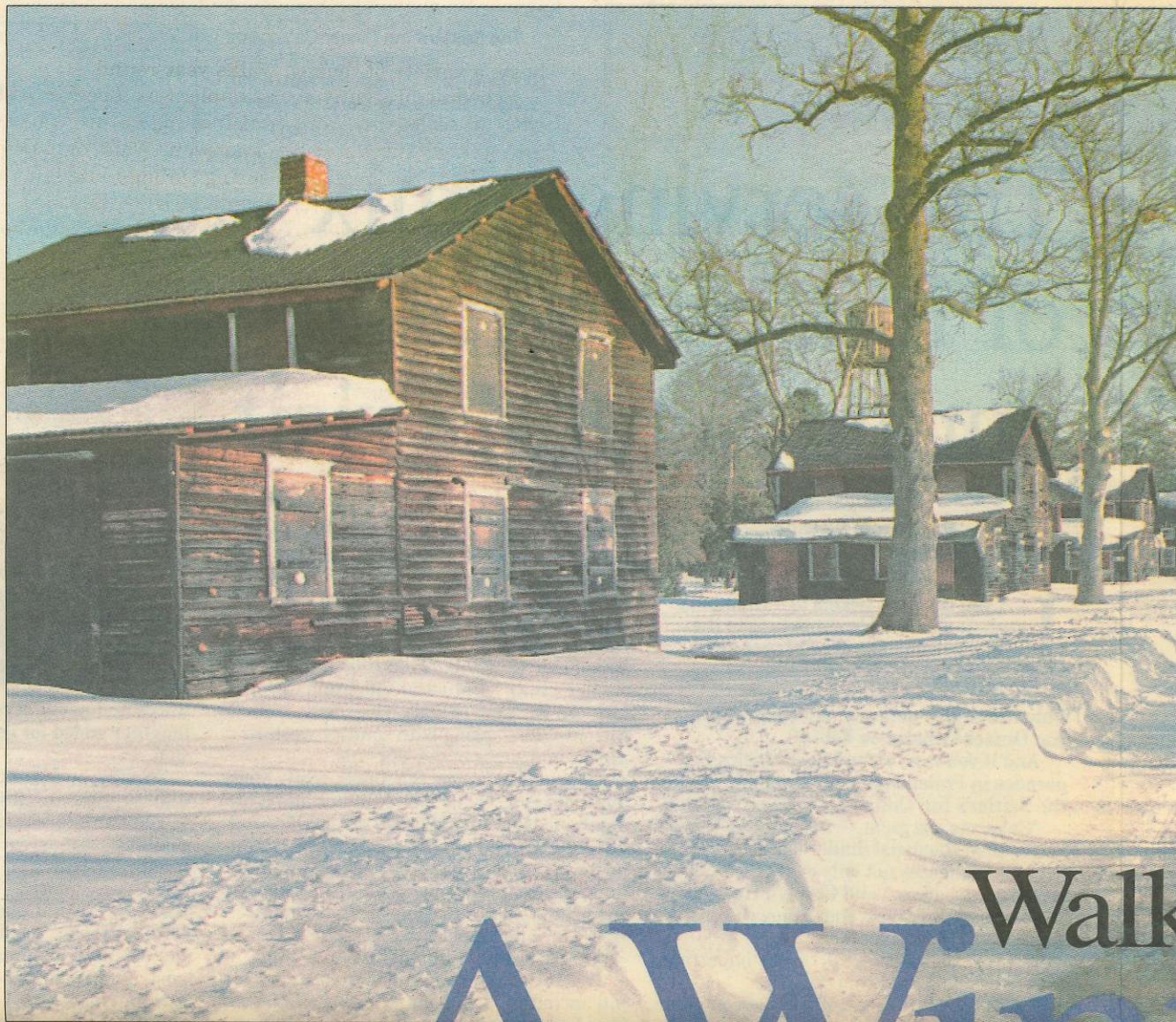
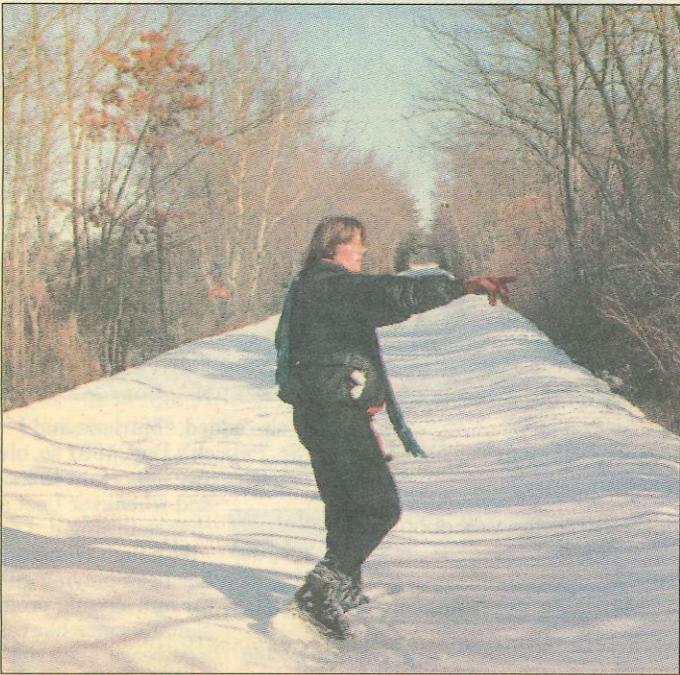
STAGE, ETC.

11



Shots of her pets
are basis of exhibit
by photographer

Martha Windisch (below), a naturalist with the Whitebog Preservation Trust, walks down a Pinelands road in Whitebog, pointing out various things to see on the walk. A view of Whitebog Village (right).



A rabbit's footprints in the snow go through the brush at Whitebog.

Walk Winter Wonderland

By Lysbeth Bledsoe
Special to the BCT

Normally, if someone tells you to go take a hike in the middle of winter ... especially a winter with the remains of more than 20 inches of snow blanketing the ground ... you respond coolly, "Go take a

hike yourself."

Unless, of course, that someone is Martha Windisch and the hike is an easy four-miler sponsored by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust around Historic Whitesbog Village, in Lebanon State Forest, off Route 530 in Pemberton Township.

Windisch, a Woodland resident and naturalist at Historic Whitesbog since last spring, will lead the Saturday afternoon Winter Wonderland

IF YOU GO

Winter Wonderland Walk

Where: Historic Whitesbog Village, at Mile Marker 13 on Route 530 (Lakehurst Road), east of Route 206, in Pemberton Township

When: Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

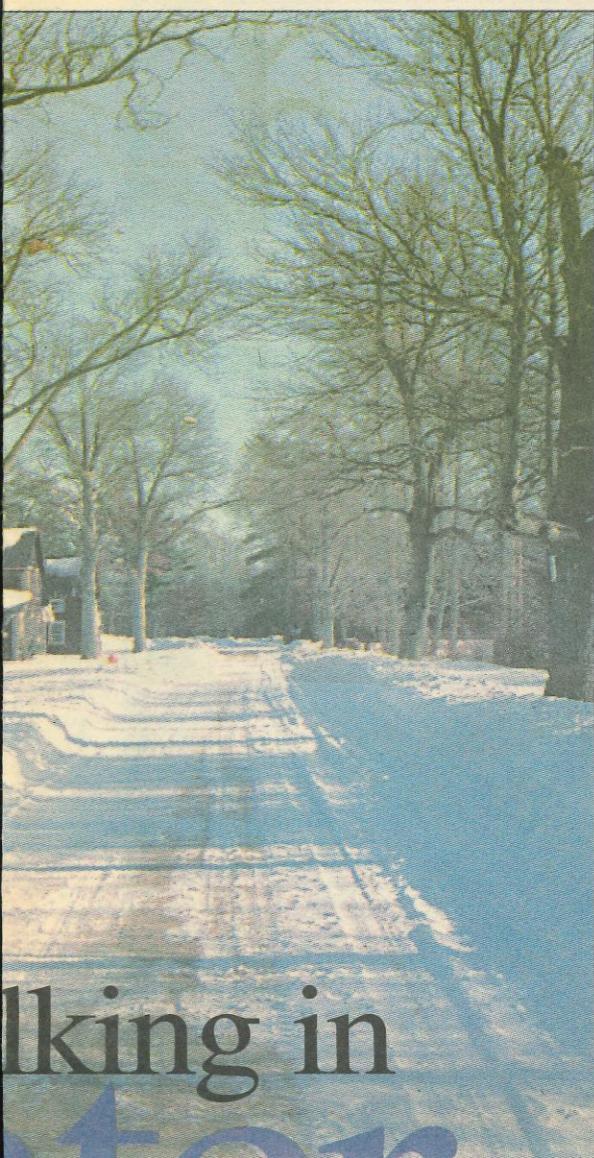
Admission: \$4 per person, \$9 per family, including post-walk refreshments

Information: Call 893-4646 before starting out. Wear warm clothing along with gloves and boots, the more insulated the better.

Walk along plowed sand roads, with the boughs of pines and hardwoods above and, below, the tiny tracks of animals embedded in the snow.

"How those trees and animals survive in winter will be the theme of this walk," Windisch said. "Along the way, for instance, I'll point out broad-leaved trees like gray birch and sassafras, that drop their leaves in fall and go dor-

ma
tion
the
nee
lea
lea
ery
tha
A
han
a m
Un
"tuc
dee
tect
ing
I
the
citi
ma



Walking in Winter and

...mant in winter to prevent unnecessary evaporation from leaf pores, since frozen ground means they can't easily draw up all the water they need.

"Then, too," she said, "I'll point out broad-leaved trees like hollies, which retain their leaves in winter but, notice, they're thick, leathery and covered with a protective waxy coating that keeps water from evaporating readily."

As for animals, many stay active even in the harshest winter, continued Windisch, who holds a master's degree in ecology from Rutgers University.

"Squirrels, for one, will eat the tiny seeds tucked deep into pine cones," she said, "while deer will bed down in a grassy field or area protected by greenbriers, then go out to feed mornings and evenings."

In addition to its Winter Wonderland Walk, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, a non-profit citizens' group formed in 1982 to safeguard and maintain the 19th-century agricultural enclave,

hosts a variety of themed walks year-round.

Scheduled recently, for example, was a beaver walk, with an ecology walk, habitat-hunting nature walks, bird and wildflower walks, and even "Walk Your Dog in the Bogs" walks offered spring through late fall.

Upcoming is a Winter Moonlight Hike, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.; a Whistling Swan Tour, Feb. 10, 9 a.m.; another Moonlight Hike, March 2, 7 p.m., and a St. Patty's Signs of Spring Walk, March 17, 2 p.m.

"In 1994, the Pennsylvania-based William Penn Foundation awarded the Trust a three-year grant to run interpretative programs," Windisch said, "and, through this year, we're using the money to operate year-round nature walks and seasonal events like a late June blueberry festival, early fall cranberry harvest tours, fat-tire bike rides, astronomy evenings with the Toms River (Ocean County) Astronomy Club, and holiday activities at Halloween and Christmastime."

Whitesbog is worth the attention.

The 3,000-acre property, crisscrossed by 10-15 miles of roads and trails, was acquired in the 1860s by James Fenwick, a New Lisbon cranberry grower who observed wild cranberries flourishing on the site and travelers stopping their horse-drawn buggies there to pick them.

Fenwick's daughter married another New Lisbon grower, Joseph J. White and, together, they created the biggest cranberry bog in New Jersey. Naturally, it was called Whitesbog.

For craftspersons employed at Whitesbog year-round, White built a permanent village, today Historic Whitesbog Village, complete with homes, a general store, packing building, barrel storage warehouse, barrel factory, and schoolhouse.

Today, the homes are rented to private residents and the commercial buildings are closed, except for the general store, which is opened for special occasions.

In addition, White constructed two residential villages, Rome and Florence, for the 400-600 Italian seasonal workers who came from South Philadelphia to hand-pick the berries during the fall.

Rome and Florence are long gone, Windisch

said, victims of fire and vandalism.

In the 1920s, White's daughter, Elizabeth, joined with botanist Frederick Coville to provide a second crop for bad-cranberry years.

The combination of White's land and manpower and Coville's expertise yielded the country's first cultivated blueberry, a plump, juicy version of the tiny, wild huckleberries found beside the cranberry bogs.

From 1911 to 1920, Whitesbog grew, harvested and packed blueberries, shipping them across the country from its own post office.

Over the years, however, technological advances left Whitesbog behind and, today, blueberries are no longer actively cultivated here, although cranberries are still grown on a small portion of the acreage by the J.J. White Co., operated by White's descendants.

"Eventually, the White family sold most of Whitesbog to the state, which incorporated it into Lebanon State Forest," Windisch said. "You can see the farmland returning to nature while, in the village, the Preservation Trust has done a lot to keep existing buildings intact."

"The village may be quiet now, especially in winter," she added, "but there's still plenty to see and enjoy."



BCT photos/DENNIS McDONALD

A thrush feasts on a greenbrier berry on the Whitesbog property in Browns Mills.



The exterior of one of the Whitesbog Village workers' houses.