

victim succumbs to accident injuries

Carl Weaver, 34, of Noxen died April 14 at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital where he was admitted April 4 following an automobile accident on Route 29 in Lake Township.

According to Police Chief Henry Stefanowicz, Fletcher Whitesell of RD 2, Hunlocks Creek, was operating a car in which Mr. Weaver was riding when he lost control of the vehicle. The 1960 Buick sedan traveled from the northbound lane into the southbound lane, continued off the pavement and hit a utility pole.

Mr. Whitesell was not injured, but Mr. Weaver and another passenger, Guy Robbins of Nescopeck, were taken to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in the Harveys Lake Ambulance.

Born in Noxen, Mr. Weaver served in the Mediterranean while serving in the U.S. Navy. Survivors include a son, Michael, Edwardsville; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weaver, Noxen, with whom he resided; brothers, Ralph, Jersey City, N.J.; Ronald and David, both of Noxen; sisters, Ruth and Mrs. Howard Keller, both of Noxen.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon from the Nulton Funeral Home at Beaumont with the Rev. Jerry Tallent of Independent Bible Church of Noxen officiating. Interment was in Orcutt Cemetery, Noxen.

charges dismissed

A kidnapping charge brought by Peter Skopic of RD 1, Hunlock Creek, against his wife was dismissed by District Magistrate Leonard Harvey following a brief hearing Monday afternoon at 1 p.m.

Mr. Skopic testified that Joan Skopic, his wife of seven years, left him Sunday, April 18, and took with her their 5-year old daughter Joan. He had not seen his child since that date, Mr. Skopic stated, although he had contacted his wife and his wife's relatives seeking information as to the child's whereabouts.

"She had no authorization to take the child away," Mr. Skopic replied to questioning by his counsel, Atty. William Keller.

Defense Attorney William Valentine retorted that the charge was "not only ludicrous but illegal."

He referred to opinions filed in the cases of Burns vs. Commonwealth and Commonwealth vs. Myers which state that kidnapping charges may "not apply to contests between, or the lawful efforts of parents to secure possession of their children."

"The proper procedure for settlement of an issue of this nature," Mr. Valentine asserted, "is a habeas corpus hearing for custody of the child."

Magistrate Harvey concurred, suggesting that "this case is not in the right court—it belongs in domestic court."

He declared that a prima facie case had not been established and ruled the defendant not guilty.

Dallas scouts work on Project SOAR

The Boy Scouts of Troop 281, Dallas United Methodist Church, recently contributed to Project SOAR, by splitting up into groups to clean up trash from the roads and highways in the Dallas area.

John Juris, Scoutmaster said the boys did a fine job and he wishes to congratulate them. The scouts worked from early morning until late afternoon, renewing their attack on the growing pollution problem.

CANDIDATE

(continued from PAGE ONE) efforts to obtain federal grants had been mis-directed in the past, Mr. Rubino advocated that the school board "examine carefully what we have before deciding in which areas we are most eligible for aid."

Ernest Ashbridge, vice president of the Hanover National Bank of Wilkes-Barre, confirmed his belief that while the "cost of a good education should not be exorbitant," he would not countenance "cutting the budget so thinly as to jeopardize the school system."

A second Democratic candidate, Leonard Norfors, was not present at the forum.

Resolution 3 on Ballot To Strengthen Environment

(continued from PAGE ONE) As an aid to voters deciding which way they stand on the proposal, Mr. Kury prepared a question and answer statement, which follows:

Q. What is Joint Resolution 3?

This is one of the five referendum questions which will appear on the ballot for voter approval or rejection at the May 18 primary election. It deals with conservation and it will read: "Shall Article I of the Constitution be amended by adding a new section guaranteeing the people's right to clean air and pure water and the preservation and conservation, by the Commonwealth, of the State's natural resources for the people's benefit?"

Q. If approved, what will this resolution or amendment do?

A. Joint Resolution 3, as a constitutional amendment, would add a new section to the State Constitution's Declaration of Rights. The basic provision of the amendment would give the people of Pennsylvania a fundamental legal right to a decent environment. The amendment also establishes that the public natural resources of the commonwealth belong to all the people, including future generations, and that the commonwealth is to serve as trustee of the natural resources for future generations.

Q. Will the amendment make any real difference in the fight to save the environment?

A. Yes, once Joint Resolution 3 is passed and the citizens have a legal right to a decent environment under the State Constitution, every governmental agency or private entity, which by its actions may have an adverse effect on the environment, must consider the people's rights before it acts. If the public's rights are not considered, the public could seek protection of its legal rights in the environment by an appropriate law suit. The resolution would benefit all of the people, and would go a long way toward tempering any individual company, or governmental body which may have an adverse impact on the natural or historic assets.

In short, the amendment will incorporate three broad principles into our legal system:

1. The people have the right to a decent environment.
2. The public natural resources belong to all the people, including future generations.

3. The state is the trustee of these natural resources for future generations.

Q. How do you read all of this into the short Resolution 3 stated on the ballot?

A. Because of space limitations on the ballot, the Secretary of State is required to condense the actual text into as brief a space as possible. The complete text of the Resolution, which was passed twice, and unanimously, by both Houses of the State Legislature, reads in its entirety: "Section 27. Natural Resources and the Public Estate.—The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Q. Will there be any "teeth" in the law, if passed?

A. It will be up to the courts to apply the three broad principles to legal cases. However, having this law passed will strengthen substantially the legal weapons available to protect the environment from further destruction. In the words of Robert Broughton, associate professor of law at Duquesne University, the amendment "will, if passed, effectively change the balance of legal power and give environmental quality (and the human race) at least an even chance in the coming years."

Q. Is this bill supported by both Democrats and Republicans?

A. Yes, it has bi-partisan support. Joint Resolution 3 passed two successive sessions of the legislature with unanimous support by members of both parties. Both the Democratic and Republican legislators apparently feel that the state needs this bill to protect the environment against air, water and land pollution, and because it will expand the base for citizens' legal action.

Q. What organizations are supporting this amendment?

A. Leading organizations are quite interested in seeing that Joint Resolution 3 is passed. Among them are: the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the League of Women

Voters Pennsylvania—all known for their vigor in championing and protecting the rights of the individual. It should be noted that New York and Michigan have already enacted a similar amendment.

Q. Will Joint Resolution 3, if passed, benefit individual citizens personally?

A. Yes. At present individual citizens legal rights in the environment are basically limited to protecting their property or person from actual or threatened damage. Joint Resolution 3 broadens these legal rights to include a legally protectable interest in the whole environment—including the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the esthetics of the landscape.

Q. Will there be any cost involved?

No. Joint Resolution 3 will cost the taxpayer nothing. Resolution 3 will create no new state agency, bureau or commission. The amendment strengthens people's rights, it does not expand the government. It is a rare form of legislation. It will give, you won't.

Q. If passed by the electorate, how long will it take to make Resolution 3 law?

A. Resolution 3 becomes part of the State Constitution immediately. It will be an amendment to Pennsylvania's Declaration of Rights which is the state's version of the Federal Bill of Rights.

Q. Won't the right of eminent domain still exist?

A. Yes, however, it will have to be exercised in conformity with this amendment. A highway department or utility company could not take land without fully considering the public's right to a decent environment. Joint resolution 3 should force a much more judicious use of eminent domain.

Q. Do most Pennsylvanians know about this resolution?

A. Not enough! This is why it is so important to spread the word. It has been proved that when people see referendums on the ballot, if they do not understand the question as stated, they may automatically vote "no." In this instance a "no" vote would be a tragic mistake. This is why an effort is being made to make every Pennsylvanian aware that he is vitally needed at the May 18 Primary, and that he should vote "yes" on Joint Resolution 3 which deals with conservation of our state's natural resources.



The Dallas Post (J. KOZEMCHAK SR.)

Members of Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas, are stopped by The Dallas Post photographer as they hike along Huntsville Road picking up litter. Left to right are Tom Howard, Dave Casselberry, Brian Jacobson, Glen Kozemchak, and Gregg Cook.



From a spot at the top of Bunker Hill, photographer James Kozemchak Sr. caught the long lanes of traffic which were held up at the scene of the fatal accident on Rt. 309 Friday afternoon. At left center, vehicles are parked off the highway as a crowd gathers above the wreckage in the creek. At lower right is the site of the new sewage plant under construction.

Dallas Boy Scouts prepare for summer

A busy summer is close at hand, and Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas United Methodist Church, is busily preparing for it.

At a recent meeting, John Juris, Scoutmaster, briefed the boys on upcoming scouting events. The District Two Camporee, a chance for scouts to compete with others, is approaching, and the boys will show their ability in scouting skills in competition. A definite time and location has not been set. Mr. Juris also briefed the patrol leaders in the importance of patrol camp campouts and hikes.

A contest of compass was given by Dave Dierolf, leader of Mountaineer Patrol. Contests differ each week, and give each patrol a chance to compete with other patrols in the troop.

Mountaineer Patrol came in first with no errors; Cougar Patrol was second; and Green Bar, third.

After the contests, classes for advancement in rank were held and Walter Kozemchak, a troop committee member, held a board of review for the boys, testing them on what they have learned while earning rank.

A first-aid merit badge class was held.

The Cougar Patrol, Dave Casselberry, leader, conducted the opening ceremony and Scott Slocum conducted the closing. Scott, assistant Senior Patrol leader, also led the Pledge to the Flag and the Scout Promise. Inspection was held by Top Dog Award holders, Shawn Magee, Jody Adams, Tom Howard, Craig Stone, and Garry Kuras, passed without error.

Troop 132 Boy Scouts Hold Campout

Troop 132 attended a campout at Schooley's Field, Shavertown, over the weekend. The boys worked on merit badges, advance class, forestry, camping, cooking, signaling, knot tying, first aid, compass, and map reading.

The boys slept in their new tents, bought from money coined by the sale of pens.

Church services were held Saturday evening. Father McGrath was the guest speaker. A camp fire followed.

James Keiper, district committeeman spoke on camp Acahelia in the Poconos. The boys in each patrol put on a skit. The staff and the fox patrol tied for blue ribbons.

Boys attending the camp out were Reed Richardson, Jack Thompson, Dave Thompson, Mark Hozempa, Kevin Harter, Bret Hunter, Dennis Dunham, Chuck Hann, Eddie Hann, John Griffith, Wayne Goode, Jim Kanarr, and Ronnie Vanderhook.

Scout master is Dave Kopetchny; assistant scoutmaster, Phil Neiman. Committeemen who helped were Walter Davidson, Ian Richardson, Charles Hann, Park Griffith, Kenneth Hunter and master Troy Hunter attended as a guest.

FATAL ACCIDENT

(continued from PAGE ONE)

The official police report stated that one victim was pinned under the wreckage; three remained in the car.

The vehicle was uprighted by passersby in order to extinguish a fire around the motor.

Reportedly, Mr. Kazokas had only recently secured a driver's license. His car was said to have been bought approximately two weeks ago. Family members told Chief Lange he had been fishing at Harveys Lake.

Although not definitely established, it was believed the three college students were hitch-hiking from Dallas to Wilkes-Barre when they accepted a ride with Mr. Kazokas.

Complete identification of the girls was not made until several hours after the crash, as their luggage, purses, wallets, etc., were strewn about the interior of the demolished machine. They were identified through the efforts of the Rev. John Martin, college chaplain, Sister Miriam Theresa, president of the college, and members of the school's faculty.

Dr. George Hudock, Luzerne County coroner, reported Miss Lynch and Miss Durso died from multiple traumatic injuries. Miss Feaster died from a fractured skull.

Back Mountain Police Department officers making the investigation were Chief Lange and Patrolman Paul Sabol, with assistance from Patrolmen John Appel and William Pugh. Policemen from nearby communities and the State Police also assisted.

Kingston Township Ambulance, with crew of Harry Smith and Frank Hinkleman, and Luzerne Borough Ambulance transported the victims. Dallas Community Ambulance was on standby.

Miss Lynch died at the hospital at about 4:15 p.m. some 10 minutes after she was admitted. Miss Durso was pronounced dead on arrival. Removal of Miss Feaster's body from the wreckage was not made until about two hours after the accident. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The wrecked car was removed to a Dallas service station. Chief Lange has not released the car as yet to insurance agents of the driver. Investigating team from the State Police checked the car Monday.

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