



Photo by Kurt Weidner

The bear on the butcher shop floor belongs to Tom Space, Noxen. The bear came from Diamond Swamp, South Mountain.

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TWENTY CENTS

Jackson Planning Group OK's 70 Unit Development

The Jackson Township Planning Commission met Nov. 25 to consider the plan proposed by James Veras, president of V.P. Associates, for the sub-division of the recently acquired Bulford Farm on Sutton Road. The farm measures approximately 181 acres and Mr. Veras expects to sub-divide it into about 70 building sites ranging in size from 1½ acres to over five acres.

All roads planned for the development will be 18 feet wide and the homes will be set back at least 60 feet. All of the utilities will be underground. Each home will have an individual well and septic system. In compliance with the Department of Environmental Resources, 16 percent of the sites were tested for on-site septic tanks and only two lots were found to require an alternate system of sewage treatment.

Mr. Veras showed the members of the commission pictures of the homes which he intends to construct on the property. He emphasized that there is nothing comparable to this plan in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The planning commission voted unanimously to recommend to the supervisors of Jackson Township the acceptance of the V.P. Associates' sub-division plan as presented to them.

The planning commission also heard a presentation by Donald Smith, president, and James O'Boyle, planner, of Smith Miller and Associates. Mr. O'Boyle described the services which the firm could provide to compile a Comprehensive Master Plan for Jackson Township. He also spoke about implementation of the Master Plan. A new zoning ordinance and sub-division ordinance would be written,

based on the Master Plan, and tailored to the needs of Jackson Township. He indicated that "existing land uses" could be made to comply with the new ordinance when they are passed.

Mr. Smith advised the commission that his firm would submit a price estimate for Mr. O'Boyle's proposals in the near future.

The next meeting of the planning commission will be held Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the fire hall in Jackson Township.

Supervisors Approve Plan

A special meeting of the Jackson Township Supervisors was held Nov. 25 to consider the recommendation of the planning commission to accept the sub-division plan presented by James Veras, president of V.P. Associates, for the development of the Bulford Farm.

A letter from Ray Radomski, township engineer, indicated that Mr. Veras has agreed to comply with all township regulations concerning construction and maintenance of roads planned for the subdivision. Mr. Radomski also noted that the township expects to widen and pave Township Route 720, better known as Bulford's Road which dissects the development, within about two years in order to handle the increased flow of traffic on that road.

A letter from the Luzerne County Planning Commission stated that the plan had been reviewed by them and they could find no conflict with any water or sewage plans they have for the county. Robert Culp, township zoning officer, also approved the plan.

Oscar Schnell asked if the "cap sewer ordinance" which has been proposed by Jackson Township Supervisors would have any effect on this plan. Mr. Veras stated that the state law provides that a well and a sewerage system can be put on a lot if it is one acre. His lots will be at least 1½ acres and as much as five acres.

John Filip, chairman of the Jackson Township Sewer Authority, expressed the opinion that "Jackson Township has a poor record for on-site sewage systems". Felix Niedjaco, chairman of the supervisors, took exception to this statement. He said, "Since Robert Culp has been the zoning officer and making inspections, we have had no failures of on-site sewage systems". He also pointed out that there is now an alternate system or "turkey

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Bear Hunting: Many Try, But Very Few Succeed

by Kurt Weidner

"I heard a big commotion several hundred yards back in the woods. A couple minutes later I heard her coming - heading for the swamp. She was about 100 yards away. I found her in the scope and stopped her on the edge of the swamp."

Thomas Space, Noxen, shot the 130 lb. bear last Monday morning about 11:30. He used what seems to be the standard tool in this area for deer hunters - a slide-action 30-06. He put a 180 grain bullet behind the bear's front shoulder. When he approached the bear, probably a minute later, a slight movement indicated to Mr. Space that the bear was still alive. He finished her with a shot from his side arm in the neck.

None of the four successful bear hunters we talked to gave us any profound information on exactly how one goes about hunting bears. They had all been hunting several times before but had never spied one during the season.

You've got to go where you know there are bears," Mr. Space said. "I was posted on some ledges where I could see the swamp, with a big field of fire, just like deer hunting. Some guys further down took seven or eight shots at her and she ran into me."

Mr. Space was hunting by Diamond Swamp on South Mountain, about six miles north of Noxen in Wyoming County. He had seen bear in the area on eight different occasions in about 12 years of hunting.

It is interesting to note that the four were all highly successful deer hunters. Mr. Space has never missed getting a deer since he started hunting, and all but one or two were bucks.

Thomas Raskiewicz, Church Street, Larksville, is another successful deer hunter who got a bear this year. In 19

years of deer hunting he shot 17 bucks and two doe. "I spend a lot of time at it. I always hunt the whole first week of deer season," he said.

He has been going out in bear season for the last several years "but I never saw a bear in the woods before this year."

Mr. Raskiewicz and his nephew, Mark Shumbris, Dallas, planned to use the day in woods to locate a good spot to hunt deer. "I never imagined I'd get a bear," he said.

Mr. Raskiewicz was also posted by a swamp. It was snowing off and on all day. "All of a sudden a big bear ran out. I put the scope up but the thing was fogged. I tried to sight over it, took two shots and missed clean. It disappeared over a ridge. I went running up the ridge to see if I could catch sight of it again, cleaning the scope on the way," he said.

Mr. Raskiewicz and his nephew, who was also on the ridge by that time, decided to try to chase the bear back. Mark stayed there while Mr. Raskiewicz started making a circle. When he got near the swamp again another bear ran out and he shot it in the chest from about 50 yards away. This bear weighed 125 lbs.

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Public Hearing Slated On Subdivision Ordinance

The Swoyersville Planning Committee is seeking citizen response to the first draft of a proposed subdivision ordinance for the borough. A meeting will be held at the borough building Dec. 11 at 7:30 and the first draft will be made public.

Because the borough does not have its own ordinance it presently comes under

the minimum restrictions offered in the county ordinance.

Council president Joseph Piazza told assembled borough residents and council at Monday's council meeting that "up to this point developers have been getting away with murder in this town. They do the absolute minimum work on the roads and then the borough has to use town tax money to straighten out the mess."

He mentioned several areas in town where this situation was prevalent and cited Birch Village as a prime example.

"The developers make money hand over fist on these projects," Mr. Piazza said, "from now on they are going to have to comply with the ordinance, submit plans for a complete development, and then we can make them live up to it."

Council expects to have the ordinance in effect shortly after the first of the year.

At the meeting, borough solicitor Andrew Puhak was instructed to meet with Pagnotti Coal Co. attorneys to draw up a deed for purchase of Roosevelt Park. The Redevelopment Authority will pay \$55,800 for a portion of the property and the coal company will donate the rest. Deadline for state and federal funds for the purchase is Dec. 16.

Mr. Piazza read the first draft of the borough's 1975 budget at the meeting. The budget will total \$325,748. A copy of the draft is now available for public scrutiny at the controllers office in the borough building.

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Annual Madrigal Dinner At College Misericordia

The first trumpet of Christmas, so to speak, will sound Friday evening at College Misericordia as the college again presents the annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner.

Complete with traditional holiday feast, madrigal singers, wandering minstrels, page boys, and heralds, the madrigal will transport its guests back to a Christmas celebration of 16th century England. Everyone will be "lords and ladies in this hall," as the herald says, for at least a few hours as they enjoy what has become one of the holiday highlights of the community.

Liveried page boys will escort guests to their tables amid a setting taken from the pages of old England's history. Merrick Hall will be transformed to a great hall of an English manor house for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening performances, complete with torches, boughs of holly, and authentic coats of arms.

Before the madrigal begins, the Pro Musica Antiqua will set the mood with period carols. Then a trumpet fanfare will announce the madrigal singers who carol and curtsy, bow and greet their way to the head table.

The herald is next, describing the evening that is about to be experienced, promising "an exceeding good and sumptuous feast of rarest sort in the tradition, as I have heard once, of old and merrie England, a Yule-tide tradition of Christmas cheer and feasting where all will seek to please your gracious selves with bright song-mirth."

From that point on, the guests will enjoy a holiday experience not available anywhere else in this area. Dinner will be Wassail cup, penzance prime rib de boeuf au jus, Yorkshire pudding, Canterbury carrots in honie, Winchester chef salade, Saxon scones, flamed London plum pudding, rare spiced tea, and coffee from ye newe colonies.

During dinner, wandering minstrels will entertain each table, and following the feast, the madrigal singers will present a concert of period carols from England, Spain, and France.

Finally, the singers will leave the hall, wishing the guests a "Merry Christmas," as the herald bids, "Sweet Thames, run

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Santa Claus In Back Mtn. Every Sunday

Every Sunday afternoon from now until Christmas, Santa Claus will be in the Back Mountain area to visit with the children. Assisted by Frosty The Snowman, Santa has set up his workshop on the front porch of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Perks on Mount Olivet Road, about one mile from the entrance of Frances Slocum State Park. From 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. each Sunday, Santa will distribute candy canes to all the "kids" who can also talk with Frosty.

Children who address letters to Santa at his temporary workshop will receive a personal, handwritten reply from Santa. Write to: Santa, Box 210, RD 3, Wyoming, Pa., and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Mr. and Mrs. Perks began helping Santa in December, 1972 after the flood when they presented a free show for 1200 children at the Irem Temple. The following year they presented the Christmas show at the Nanticoke Area High School for 1400 children. This year they have decorated their porch as Santa's home with workshop. Everyone is invited.

Deer Hunters Take 5,800 On First Day

Initial reports indicate 5,800 deer were taken in the 13 county Northeast District of Pennsylvania, despite cold and windy weather mixed with snow and rain for the first day of antlered deer season.

Game Commission officials at the Northeast District headquarters at Dallas said the first day figures were comparable to the number taken on the first day last year.

Although it is too early to draw any conclusions, Game Commission officials said the comparable kill figures could be due to an increased number of hunters in the field. In other words, there were more hunters in the field, but the bad weather caused some to quit early, keeping the kill down to last year's figures.

Game Commission officials in Harrisburg estimated there would be 850,000 hunters in the field the first day.

In the southwest portion of the state hunters were hampered by 12 to 18 inches of snow. Deer hunters had various opinions on the rain and snow and their effects on the deer. A consensus seemed to be that in bad weather the deer stay bedded down in thick cover such as hemlock, usually on the side of a hill that protects them from the wind.

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United Penn Records Largest Dividend Ever

An all-time record fourth quarter dividend of 25 cents per share has been declared by the board of directors of the United Penn Corporation. The dividend is payable Jan. 6, 1975 to stockholders of record as of Dec. 20.

"This is the highest dividend to be dispersed in the history of the corporation," said Robert L. Jones, president of United Penn Corporation and United Penn Bank. "It represents an increase of 11.1 percent over the fourth quarter dividend of 1973 and reflects earnings for the year to date which is the highest in the corporation's history."

Briefly reviewing major mile posts of the past 12 months, Mr. Jones noted that 1974 saw United Penn's entry into the rapidly growing Hazleton area through

the acquisition of The Miners Bank and Trust Company of West Hazleton.

"Most recently," he remarked, "we were the innovators of a major new program to combat inflation, when we launched our Anti-Inflation Moneysavers (AIM) campaign, in co-operation with hundreds of area merchants.

"We enter the new year with our momentum of growth undiminished, our resources at an all-time high, and our faith in the future unlimited."

Additionally, the boards of directors of United Penn Bank, Wilkes-Barre, and West Side Bank, Scranton, have mutually agreed to terminate plans for the proposed merger of the two institutions.

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