

● Read what both sides have to say in  
Lehman Township's political feud

● Local man recalls 'holocaust' experiences  
with Warsaw underground

● Part II of the Drug Survey--Local students  
tell attitudes on drug usage.

● Local photos feature minstrel show, boys  
baseball, students ad honors, and much,  
much more.

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## HL Taxpayers Assn. seeks 'report card'

Harveys Lake Borough Taxpayers Association this week issued a survey questionnaire to residents of that community asking them to rate local council members and inviting opinions on a number of local issues.

Association President Ben Orfaly, an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of the borough in the 1977 primary, signed the survey letter, announcing that the group planned a meeting May 23 at Lake Elementary School to form plans for the future.

The survey asked if respondents believed the incumbent borough council at Harveys Lake was 'responsive' to 'people's needs' and asked if council appointments were based on friendship, sympathy or qualification.

A listing of council members follows with rating choices including 'good,' 'fair' and 'poor.' The survey also asks, by the name of each council member if the respondent would vote again for the particular council member.

The survey also requests resident opinions on the effectiveness of the

police department and the continuation of borough garbage collection. Garbage collection was recently dropped from borough services to save money, effective in the second half year.

The questionnaire includes items on the need for recreational facilities and asks for a rating of local cable television service. It also asks, 'Do you think dogs, stray or otherwise' should be allowed to roam unsupervised?'

Another question asks if residents would like to see a horsepower limit for motorboats or limits on the times

power boats could be operated.

The survey also asks if the respondent would support a petition to return the borough to Lake Township, the municipality from which it was excised in the 60's.

The final question is for a rating on the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority noting that the question of Lake sewer operations has 'become a thorn in our collective sides, upper and lower.'

Orfaly indicated that the meeting of his association would begin at 8 p.m. at the Lake Elementary School on May 23.



HISTORICAL PAINTING-- Sue Hand sketches and paints Kunkle's barn, one of the historical paintings she has done during the past several years. This season she will conduct a workshop in historical sketching and painting for the Back Mountain Cultural Center.

## FREE WANT ADS

See P. 18

## Hellersperk after the Holocaust: "...adjust to heaven"

by Liz Seymour

In the summer of 1939 Stefan Hellersperk and his new wife, the former Melania Kocuvan of Wilkes-Barre, sailed for Europe to spend a honeymoon with Hellersperk's family in Poland.

Nine years later Hellersperk left Poland in the hold of a freighter bound for Sweden, after five years of fighting with the Polish underground army and more than three years in a series of Soviet slave labor camps.

Mr. and Mrs. Hellersperk now live in a neat white clapboard house in West Dallas. From the outside the house is pure American, but inside, with its polished wood panelling and wall of books in many languages, one can almost imagine oneself in a European country house.

Symbols of Hellersperk's pride in his Polish heritage abound, from the handcarved Polish eagle over the fireplace to the two decorations, framed and mounted on velvet, that Hellersperk received for his work in the underground during the Second World War.

The panelling, the eagle, and much of the furniture in the house owe their beauty to Hellersperk's craftsmanship. For many years he operated a furniture making and refinishing business. Perhaps his best known work is the beautifully carved furniture he created for the Polish Room at Wilkes College.

Hellersperk's first career was that of a diplomat. He spent seven years in France before being transferred to

the United States, working first in Washington, D.C. and then in Chicago as commercial attache. It was there that he met his wife.

On Sept. 1, two weeks after the Hellersperks arrived in Europe, Nazi troops marched into Poland, annexing that nation and beginning what was to become a six year global conflict.

Hellersperk enlisted immediately in a Polish cavalry unit. "We were fighting only for about four weeks," he explains. "Horses against tanks. I was wounded in a battle, but luckily the Germans did not take me. I stayed with a peasant family for three weeks, but when I was feeling better I found a bicycle and rode 250 miles to Warsaw."

When he returned to Warsaw, Hellersperk made contact with the Armia Krajowa, the Polish underground. Because of his German-sounding name, the legacy of an Austrian great-grandfather, Hellersperk was investigated very carefully, but after about a month his credentials were accepted and he was sworn in.

For the next five years Hellersperk and his wife worked in secret against the Germans. Hellersperk held two important posts simultaneously: officer of a military unit, and head of Section Six, in charge of information and publicity.

To aid them in this latter work, the Hellersperks were given by the underground army a powerful radio which they kept hidden under the floor boards under a couch. Every evening

at 6 the BBC would broadcast a special Polish program from London, where the government was in exile. Mrs. Hellersperk would take shorthand notes of the news, and these notes would be carried by secret courier to the underground newspaper.

Late in the war the Allies made an effort to arm the underground army in preparation for an uprising against the Germans. The underground had three secret airfields in the area around Hellersperk's village, a suburb of Warsaw, and it was the Hellersperks who would receive information about when drops of arms and ammunition would be made.

The Allies had detailed maps which had been smuggled out of Poland, showing the location of the airfields. Every week following the usual Polish broadcast the BBC would play a program of Polish music. The songs were chosen and the sequence in which they were played formed a code which indicated to Hellersperk when and where the next drop would be made.

As soon as he had the news Hellersperk would send his courier to alert the troops. That night, after the ten o'clock curfew, he and 30 of his best soldiers would leave the village.

"The best soldiers in my unit of 470 were Boy Scouts," he says. "Some were only 12 years old. You know, an American mother might think it was cruel to use boys this age for such important and extremely dangerous work, but believe me, I was

sometimes forced by the mothers of these boys to take them into my unit. All in all I had about 40 Boy Scouts in my unit--28 were Explorers and the rest were ordinary Scouts."

Half of the boys meeting the air drop would be armed, and the other half would carry only flashlights. At about one o'clock they would reach the airfield, and the armed boys would be placed strategically as guards. The other 15 would stand around the field, holding their flashlights ready.

"Then would come an extremely important and exciting moment," Hellersperk explains. "At about two o'clock you would see a light, and you could hear the bomber coming. The airplane would flash its lights in code to us and we would answer with our flashlights."

The supplies and arms dropped from the airplane would be transported in a farm wagon back to a headquarters and distributed. Even Hellersperk's mother sometimes would carry an unassembled gun under her clothes, its part strung together and hung around her neck.

"You know, the spirit of the Polish people is so wonderful,"

Hellersperk says. "After one year of my work in the two units, a minimum of 500 people knew about me. The Germans offered prizes in cash and food for information about me, but over the five years not one word came out.

"Only once, in late 1944, one of my sergeants was arrested and tortured

by the Gestapo. During the questioning they asked him if I was the person they knew only as a code name. Our organization was so good--we had people everywhere--that the next day I got the message from this boy that he had been asked about me.

"I left home for two or three days, but nobody came. This was late in the war, and at that time the Germans were so disorganized that I think they forgot about me."

Hellersperk watched the recent "Holocaust" program shown on NBC. "You know, the Germans murdered not only the Jewish people," he says. "During the occupation they murdered also about four million Polish people.

"In this film, 'Holocaust', they did not show how bad it really was in the Warsaw ghetto. The ghetto was seven or eight city blocks only; it was much worse than they explained in the film."

The Polish underground did what it could to help the Jews in Warsaw. "We were helping with arms, and with food. When you are counting in the thousands and thousands, maybe hundreds are not very much, but I would say that in my village there were about 500 Jewish children, hidden between the Polish people."

The Russians invaded from the east, driving the German army back. In January, 1945 the Russians liberated Poland.

"When the big day arrived we were

(Continued on P. 20)



Stefan Hellersperk, at age 28, in the uniform of the Polish Cavalry, World War II.

## Local students know drugs 'bad', still use

(Editor's Note: Last week the Dallas Post presented the first in a three-part series summarizing the student drug and alcohol survey sponsored by the Back Mountain Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The first article indicated that most Back Mountain students grades nine through 12 had at least tried marijuana, a considerable majority were at least occasional drinkers of alcoholic beverages and slightly less than half are smokers. Dr. Keith Kilty, associate professor in the graduate school of social work at Marywood College, served as consultant to the council and author of the survey. This second part in the series summarizes attitudes of Back Mountain high school age students on drug-related subjects.)

Sizable majorities of students residing in the Dallas and Lake-

Lehman school districts acknowledge that cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs produce 'bad' effects on their health.

Respondents to the Back Mountain Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse survey agreed overwhelmingly (91.9 per cent) that cigarette smoking was bad. A strong majority of 76.8 per cent acknowledged that alcohol was bad with another 10.8 per cent stating that they 'don't know.'

Psychodelics, barbituates, amphetamines and hard drugs were all recognized as 'bad' for health by sizable majorities, ranging from 81.1 to 94.2 per cent of the survey respondents.

Marijuana received the smallest majority with only 55.9 per cent recognizing it as 'bad' for health and another 12.8 per cent stating that they didn't know about marijuana's effect on their health.

Survey consultant Dr. Keith Kilty of Marywood College noted that the teenaged survey respondents were very similar to their parents and other adults in recognizing the potential damaging affects of certain drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and then proceeding to use the substances anyway.

Kilty pointed to the sizable percentage using alcoholic beverages (87.1 per cent of the males and 76.1 per cent of the high school age females) while 76.8 per cent of the same survey group considered it 'bad' for health.

The group tended to disagree with a statement that 'using one drug leads to another'--except in the case of marijuana. The 'one drug leads to another' statement was rejected by 77.4 per cent when applied to cigarettes and by 73.5 per cent when applied to alcohol. But with marijuana only 33.6 per cent

disagreed.

In other drug related 'attitudes', the high schoolers agreed as follows:

-that alcohol is a drug (61.7 per cent)

-that alcohol is a 'dangerous' drug (60.45 per cent)

-that marijuana is a drug (73.6 per cent)

Only 45.25 per cent agreed with a statement that marijuana is a 'dangerous' drug. And slightly less than half (48.75 per cent) agreed that 'there is a drug problem' in the Back Mountain.

The survey replies tended to downgrade parental performance in dealing with drug problems. Slightly more than half of the students agreed with a statement that parents were not really doing anything to stop drug abuse.

A summary total of nearly 70 per cent of the students said they had only

talked with their parents a 'few' times about alcohol and a higher percentage indicated they had talked only a few times with their parents regarding drug usage.

More than 60 per cent agreed with a statement to the effect that 'parents drinking affects a child's drinking.' Slightly more than 36 per cent indicated that a parent's use of drugs affected a child's use of drugs.

When asked if students felt free to use various sorts of drugs on school grounds, about four out of five students indicated that students feel free to smoke cigarettes. Only about one-fourth agreed that students felt free to drink on school grounds.

But nearly one-half agreed that students feel free to use drugs.

More than half of the males and more than 30 per cent of the females said that drugs were sold frequently or occasionally on school grounds.

About three out of five students surveyed agreed that the school should contact police when students are found using drugs at school.

This figure contrasted sharply with the number who would be willing to assist authorities in enforcing drug laws. Nearly 70 per cent said they would not report a drug dealer if they could do so anonymously.

The survey respondents had surprisingly good attitudes toward local law enforcement officials with more than 50 per cent acknowledging that local police are 'fair.' Only about 12 percent indicated that local police are 'too tough' and the remainder indicated that police were 'not tough enough.'

Only a few, slightly more than 25 per cent, believed that local churches were doing anything to stop drug and alcohol use among young people.

(Continued on P.4)