

Perspective

Opinion

Harvey's ruling makes no sense whatsoever

District Justice Leonard Harvey and baseball's American League president Lee McPhail would get along just fine - both of them have recently rendered decisions contrary to already-established rules.

McPhail, who ruled that a home run hit by George Brett in a game between the Kansas City Royals and the New York Yankees would stand, despite the fact that Brett's bat was illegally coated with pine tar would have been proud of Harvey and his decision to let a Mountaintop couple get away with only a hand-slapping for violating a zoning ordinance in Harveys Lake Borough.

Harvey, who admits that Mr. and Mrs. Adam Burick of Mountaintop slept in their Harveys Lake boathouse on several different occasions, sees no reason why the couple shouldn't be allowed to do that.

With all due respect to you, Magistrate Harvey, the reason is simple - the borough has a zoning ordinance that states boathouses or cabanas are not to be used for residential purposes. And, when a person sleeps in his or her boathouse, that boathouse therefore becomes a residence and that person is therefore violating a borough ordinance.

Most of us would tend to agree with Harvey in that the practicality of the whole situation seems that the Buricks - or anyone with a boathouse equipped like theirs - should be allowed to sleep there if they so desire. (Attorney Joseph Casper, Harveys Lake Borough Solicitor, reported the Burick's boathouse is equipped with bedrooms, a kitchen, heat, insulation, sewers, a washer and dryer.) After all, if the people live a distance from the lake and want to spend a weekend at their boathouse, why should they have to drive back and forth instead of simply sleeping at the boathouse and enjoying the entire weekend at the lake?

The reason is taxes. Boathouse properties are assessed at a much lower tax rate than residential properties. That idea in itself tends to lead us into sympathizing with the residential taxpayers in the borough and allows us to understand fully the reason why the Harveys Lake Taxpayers Association filed charges against the Buricks in the first place.

Casper, who admitted the borough issued a permit to Burick, said the permit was for the construction of a boathouse or cabana. When construction began on Burick's property and borough officials realized the structure was a little more sophisticated than a boathouse, a stop order was placed on work at the site.

It was at that time, Casper reported, that Burick signed a statement attesting to the fact that he would

not use the boathouse for a residence.

Harvey, who seems to feel that since the borough issued a permit to Burick and the Department of Environmental Resources issued a permit for sewer hook-up, then those two parties were condoning Burick's use of the property as a residence.

Sorry, Mr. Harvey, but that idea doesn't make it in our books. The issue at hand during the hearing on the charges filed against the Buricks was whether or not they were guilty of violating an ordinance in the borough - an ordinance that clearly states no boathouse or cabana shall be used as a residence.

When the decision was handed down saying that yes, the Buricks did use their boathouse as a residence, but no, they are not in violation of the borough ordinance, the whole situation got kind of sticky.

Casper, who said the decision makes no sense to him, feels the sad part of the whole affair is that the charges against the Buricks are only a summary offense and, to the best of his knowledge, the decision cannot be appealed by the prosecution.

Casper, however, reported that the taxpayers association will continue its surveillance on the Buricks as well as on other boathouse owners who are believed to be in violation of the ordinance. And, he says, regardless of Harvey's decision, they will prosecute Burick again if necessary.

An underlying possibility - as remote as it may be - in this entire matter is that maybe, just maybe, some good will come out of Magistrate Harvey's decision.

If people who own boathouses at Harveys Lake want to sleep in them, maybe the borough officials will find it necessary to rewrite their zoning ordinance and, thus, the borough will be able to tax those people accordingly. The outcome in a situation like that, of course, would only mean more money for the borough.

Maybe that will happen - and, then again, maybe it won't!

Whatever the final outcome after this whole situation is laid to rest, however, was not the issue when the Harveys Lake Taxpayers Association prosecuted Adam Burick and his family for violating a borough zoning ordinance. The issue was whether or not the Buricks were guilty of violating the ordinance.

If the ordinance states that boathouses are not to be used as residences and the Buricks admittedly used their boathouse as a residence, the fact that they were found not guilty of violating the ordinance is incomprehensible.

- DOTTY MARTIN

Only yesterday

Dallas Borough faced hot primary election

50 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 18, 1933
A deluge of petitions promised Dallas Borough the hottest primary election in years. Wesley Himmeler, Corey Gordon, Peter Clark, George Stooky, James Franklin, Harry Garrahan and Clark Hildebrandt sought seats on the borough council while Arthur Dungey, F.M. Gordon, Donald Frantz and M.B. Coolbaugh sought the position of tax collector.

Scott Van Horn was elected general chairman of the third annual Community Day Celebration held by Shavertown Fire Company. Van Horn was assisted by Harry F. Goeringer, Andrew Fisher, Ralph Bertram and R.M. Shaver.

You could get - Pink salmon 2 tall cans 23c; potatoes 15 lb. 39c; sugar 10 lb. 49c; bread, 20 oz. loaf 9c; watermelons 33c ea.; baked beans 16 oz. can 8c; raisin bread 10c loaf.

40 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 20, 1943
Thieves entered Titman's Store, taking \$30 in change as well as candy and cookies. Merchandise stolen led Police Chief Walter Covert to believe that a "local talent" was the guilty party.

Conrad Honeywell, 15, Dallas Township High School freshman was resting comfortably while recovering from a bout of infantile paralysis.

Engaged - Marion Brace to Pfc. Clarence Felger. Married - Edna Fritz to Dr. Benjamin Shortkroff; Eleanor Jane Dunclee to Lt. Robert Fleming; Josephine Crossen to Hilbert Edwards.

Deaths - Freece W. Cragle, Hunlock Creek; Rosa Shaver, Truckville.

You could get - ASCO coffee 24c lb.; milk 6 tall cans 54c; sugar 5 lb. bag 32c; Philadelphia cream cheese 3 oz. pkg. 12c; picnic hams 29c lb.; bacon 19c 1/2 lb.; Lux soap 3 bars 20c; Mason pint jars 55c doz.

30 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 21, 1953
Rev. Arthur B. Mayo was newly appointed pastor of Truckville Methodist Church. A native of Oneonta, Mayo had previously served at Bennett Memorial Church, Glen Lyon, Campdown and St. Paul's Churches.

Engaged - Virginia Lee Brunges to Frank Warren; Margaret Sponseller to Garwin Tough.

Married - Judith A. Dickinson to Ralph Cornell; Naomi Dodsom to Robert Pye.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smolowitz, 26 years.

Deaths - Frank Wall, Beaumont; Donald Veitch, Dallas.

You could get - Chuck roast 37c lb.; rib roast 59c lb.; fryers 49c lb.; duck 49c lb.; veal roast 49c lb.; seedless grapes 2 lb. 33c; pineapple 8 buffet cans \$1; red salmon 61c for lb. can; lemon pie filling 3 pkg. 25c.

20 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 22, 1963
Robert C. Cicon, Ann W. Pfautz, Carol Palermo and Sylvia Price joined the Dallas Area School District teaching staff.

Conclusion of a contract of sale of the empty Armour Tannery plant at Noxen continued to hinge on a fine legal point in the contract of the sale.

Engaged - Marilyn Ann Meeker to Robert M. McCue; Marlene Jones to John J. Reed.

Married - Linda Smith to Harold R. Grey; Nancy Alice Hand to Charles H. Schmauch; Naomi F. Lech to William W. Ward.

Deaths - Evelyn Hauck, Shavertown; Fanny King, Pikes Creek; Jane Ann McCarty, Plymouth; Emma D. Harry, Oakdale.

You could get - Cod steak 49c lb.; Little Neck clams 3 doz. 99c; fresh crabmeat \$1.19 lb.; pork loins 69c lb.; Delmonico steaks \$1.39 lb.; prunes 2 lb. 29c; bananas 10c lb.; white seedless grapes 19c lb.; cauliflower lg. head 25c.

10 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 23, 1973
Condemnation of the Shavertown Elementary School brought 45 distressed parents and interested persons to the Dallas School District Board meeting.

Sr. M. Leonita RSM, was appointed principal of Gate of Heaven School. A native of Wilkes-Barre, she had taught sixth, seventh and eighth grade mathematics for two years prior to her appointment as principal.

Married - Linda D. Farrar and William R. Livingston; Roxanne M. Sith and Carl Andrew Risch.

Engaged - Kathryn Anne Motyka to John F. Baloh, Jr.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewis, Lehman residents, 50 years.

You could get - Frying chickens 65c lb.; pork butts \$1.19 lb.; sweet corn 69c doz.; potatoes 99c 10 lb. bag; pineapple juice 2-46 oz. cans 69c; med. fresh eggs 69c doz.; nectarines 3 lb. \$1; watermelons 99c ea.

Cheers for this congregation

Hats off to the parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Church at Harveys Lake for their tremendously successful fund-raising efforts over the last two months.

With a new parish community center in mind, the congregation started a campaign in June to raise money. Their goal of \$250,000 has been reached and already surpassed in just two short months.

It's comforting to know that with our high rate of inflation, people can still work together and are willing to give what they can for such a worthy cause.

The people of Our Lady of Victory Church can be most proud of themselves and of their future parish community center.

- DOTTY MARTIN

Letters

Reader feels prisoners have more rights than necessary

The author of the following letter is referring to an Associated Press article that appeared in a Sarasota, Florida newspaper, describing the wedding of Carol Hoffman of Reading and Albert G. Reppert, an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas who were married in a ceremony held at the Correctional Institution. The letter is entitled, "An Open Letter to

Joseph M. Ryan". Ryan was the acting warden at the Correctional Institution at the time of the wedding.

DEAR MR. RYAN:

The old saying, "Crime Doesn't Pay!" doesn't apply in this shocking article about your "fair" city of Dallas, does it?

I was always under the impres-

sion that when one disobeyed the law, he was punished! Is this punishment?

Whether you are aware of this or not, you and all the rest of the United States taxpayers are supporting these people. These men should have no rights - what about our rights, those of us who obey the laws, try to live decent lives and be an asset to the world around us?

We are now paying Medicare, Social Security benefits, Medicaid, plus their room and board which amounts to some \$25,000 a year for this - so then they marry and we will support their wives and offspring - via welfare and whatever!

Do you want your children and their children paying for these lawbreakers' upkeep?

And they were married in a "country club atmosphere" yet. Are you also planning, in the future of course, to give each one of these couples, a honeymoon in Bermuda, the Bahamas, or perhaps Hawaii?

Or, better still, this seems to be an open invitation to all the young people in the country, bent on a criminal future, to believe that no matter what they do, the very worst that can happen to them (since capital punishment certainly seems to be dead) is to go to jail, get married, have three meals a day, a roof over their heads, plus entertainment, television and all the rest of these "goodies." And even their clothes are furnished, as are barber facilities and dental care.

I'd say the taxpayers have no rights, nor do the victims, but the criminals really do, via corrupt lawyers, money hungry judges, who keep "appealing" over and over again and lining their pockets. And, then one must wonder about the wardens, too!

DISCOURAGED

1980 census results available

By HOWARD GROSSMAN

The long awaited results of the 1980 Census are now becoming available through the cooperative efforts of the state and local agencies concerned with the 1980 Census.

The data includes information on the region's population, economy, housing stock, and other factors which dictate how decisions are reached in the next eight years until the full Census of 1990. There may be a mid-decade Census of Population.

Among the results of the 1980 Census are the following conclusions which have already been developed by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP), an Affiliate Data Center to the State Data Center, which is located at the Penn State Capitol Campus in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

(1) The number of people living in the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne in 1980 was 907,819 - up 3.9 percent from 1970.

(2) The number of households in Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1980 was 331, 830 - up 16.1 percent

from 1970.

(3) In 1980, the median age of people living in Northeastern Pennsylvania was 33.6 years. This compared with a median age of 32.2 years for Pennsylvania and 30.0 years for the United States.

(4) In 1970, the median age of people living in Northeastern Pennsylvania was 35.8 years compared with 30.7 years for Pennsylvania and 28.1 years for the United States.

(5) Income per capita for Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1979 was \$6,097 compared with \$7,077 for Pennsylvania and \$7,313 for the United States.

(6) Total personal income received by Northeastern Pennsylvanians in 1979 totaled 5,535,239,126.

As an Affiliate Data Center, the Council has placed into its computer selected Census results and has made much material available to interested parties who have need for this type of information. Reports will be published from time to time outlining some of the data from the 1980 Census as well as evaluating information which can prove useful to interpreting the future of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Information on the Census can be obtained by contacting the Economic Development Council, Box 777, Avoca, Pa. 18641.

Library news

Family makes library its home

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

We have a family living in our reference room: mother, father, daughter, son and a new baby.

They are living in a beautiful yellow two story colonial house. They are dolls and are living in a doll house which is on a table in the reference room.

This house and the furnishings in it have been loaned to us by Tracy Davis of Dallas. The house was originally purchased as a kit and built by Tracy and her parents, Helen and Skip Davis.

During the building, the house underwent some minor alterations from the plans. Some of the furniture was bought, much of it was handmade. The roof is made of single shingles, which took many hours to complete. The curtains in the house were all hand made as was the petit point rug in the living room.

There are three floors in the house; living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor; bedroom, bathroom and children's room on the second floor and a study and sewing room on the third floor. There is a lovely patio and greenhouse combination off the kitchen door.

The house was started about six years ago and additions are still being made.

Tracy will be a junior at Dallas High School this fall and we thank her for allowing us to enjoy this lovely doll house. The doll house will be at the library until Sept. 7. Stop in and see our almost real family!

New books at the library:

"The President's Child" by Fay Weldon is a powerful, humorous, fast-moving story about Isabel who has everything - a sharing husband, an enviable career, a lively child, a lovely home. She also has a secret which begins to unravel.

"The Anodyne Necklace" by Martha Grimes features Richard Jury, the brilliant superintendent from Scotland Yard. A not-so-irresistible murder is committed, with a severed finger as the first clue. A mystery with classic English atmosphere and bracing suspense!

"The Seduction of Peter S." by Lawrence Sanders is the story of an out-of-work actor who's been around New York too long. A lady of mystery takes a shine to Peter and gives him the big break. Shocking, Scary, Provocative. Brimming with suspense and surprise.

Full privileges of the Back Mountain Memorial Library are now enjoyed by thousands of area residents who consider their library card the most valuable "credit card" they have. But many of the area's residents are not availing themselves of the services of the library. Why? Is it lethargy? Are they too busy? Have they forgotten how to read? Are they satisfied to let the changing world pass them by? Perhaps they feel their education is complete and their store of inspiration sufficient for a lifetime.

Don't cut yourself off from the stimulating world of books. Cash in on your right and start using our books!

Congressman supports jobs bill

Legislation creating new job training opportunities for chronically unemployed Vietnam veterans and displaced workers who served in the Korean War was recently passed by Congress.

Rep. Bob Edgar (D-PA), a member of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment which originally approved the bill, said that 100,000 should be aided by the new law over the next two years.

"We expect that the first year's funding will be included in September's Appropriations bill," said Edgar. The bill calls for \$300 million in funding through Fiscal Year 1985. The bill, H.R. 2355, would author-

ize new on-the-job training and retraining opportunities for these veterans by paying 50 percent of their starting wage to employers. A maximum nine-month training period is provided in the legislation, which can be extended to 15 months for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities. Employers must certify that they will hire the veteran after the training period in the position for which he is trained.

According to Edgar, the unemployment rate among wartime veterans rose in February of this year to the highest level since World War II. Unemployment among Vietnam Era veterans alone remains at levels significantly higher than among non-veterans of the same

age group. In June of this year, at least 619,000 Vietnam Era veterans were unemployed and looking for work. Of this number, 365,000 between the ages of 25 and 44 have been out of work 15 weeks or longer.

"This emergency measure will provide thousands of job-training opportunities for Vietnam and Korean War veterans displaced from their old jobs and in of new skills," said Edgar.

The Pennsylvania Congressman emphasized that the new program "is designated not just to get veterans working again, but to narrow the gap between veterans and their civilian counterparts whose education and employment were not interrupted by military service.

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