

400 attend meeting

Re-assessment explained to area residents

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

At a filled-to-capacity public meeting held at the Old Noxen School House, Tuesday night, upwards of 400 Wyoming County residents heard Gene Porterfield, a county-wide assessor, say the recent reassessment of some 14,000 properties was "way past due for the past 15 to 20 years."

Porterfield, who is president of County-Wide Appraisal and Consulting Services, Greensburg, Pa., was the main speaker Tuesday night as the result of a request of Noxen resident Alice Lane.

Lane, coordinator of the meeting, called Porterfield in an attempt to have him explain the reassessment process and possible tax rebates due elderly property owners.

"Every property in Wyoming County (12,932 taxable properties) was re-assessed in order to assess its current market value," Porterfield told those in attendance. "Re-assessments of this kind will continue," Porterfield continued. "If they (county and local government) don't tax real estate, they're going to tax something else."

The re-assessment, which began in October of 1982 and recently was completed in May 1984, was followed by the mailing of 10,932 re-assessment notices to Wyoming County property owners. The notices included the old assessment value and the new assessed value as well as the expected increase of taxes for 1985.

According to Porterfield, whose firm is in charge of the re-assessment process, 6,960 properties had up to a 10 percent increase in tax dollars due while 4,597 parcels were

reduced up to five percent. Some 1375 tracts retained the same assessed value of last year.

Porterfield said that following a re-mapping of the entire county his firm estimated that between 17-18 percent of property deeds contain outdated or incorrect deed descriptions. The new re-assessed evaluation reportedly takes current market value figures of the various properties and the latest deed descriptions into account when determining a new assessed value.

Porterfield told the crowd that his firm was not required by law to hold the meeting but decided to comply as a service to Wyoming County property owners.

Porterfield informed the taxpayers that if anyone had a complaint about their re-assessed value they should schedule a personal meeting with the county assessors office in the courthouse, Tunkhannock. This type of meeting, Porterfield said, would clear up any misunderstanding either the assessor's office or the property owner may have.

The meeting also included a discussion about the 1975, 319 Clean and Green Act, designed to lessen the tax burden of property owners with 10 or more acres of land.

The Act reportedly divides property of 10 or more acres into "use and soil" types. The various types include farm, timber, brush and residential. Depending on which type of property an owner has, his tax bill is estimated according to the current selling price of similar tracts.

The Clean and Green Act, Porterfield said, is primarily for property owners who plan to keep their property or transferring it to a relative. The reduced assessment tax (See TAX, page 8)

Monsignor notes 50th anniversary

Msgr. Francis A. Kane, of Immaculate Conception Church in West Pittston, will observe the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on July 28 at 4 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Church. Most Reverend Bishop, James C. Timlin will preside and offer remarks. Msgr. Thomas C. Horan, Pastor of St. Rose Church in Carbondale, and a classmate of Msgr. Kane will give the homily. A Testimonial Dinner will follow at Genetti's Best Western Hotel in Wilkes-Barre at 6 p.m. The principal speaker at the Dinner will be His Honor William J. Nealon, Federal District Judge of Scranton.

Msgr. Francis A. Kane was born in Moosic, Pennsylvania, son of William J. and Ellen Moran Kane. His early education was in the Moosic Public Schools, but with the



MSGR. FRANCIS A. KANE

building of St. Mary's Parochial School, Avoca, he was in the first class to finish from that school. Graduated from St. John's High School in Pittston, he took two years of College at St. Bonaventure University at Olean, New York, and then was adopted for the Diocese

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DER issues advisory against swimming

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

The Department of Environmental Resources has issued an advisory against swimming in Harveys Lake, DER spokesperson Mark Carmon said Tuesday afternoon.

Carmon, who explained that his office does not have the authority to order people to refrain from swimming in the lake, says he highly recommends people do not swim in Harveys Lake at this time.

As was reported last week, DER has been monitoring certain sections of Harveys Lake for anabaena (a species of algae) levels. Carmon reported to The Post that three testing periods were conducted — May 24, June 26 and July 2. The sections of Harveys Lake tested during those times included the Alderson section, Sandy Bottom and Warden Place.

During the May 24 testing, the algae levels were 332 for Alderson, 145 for Sandy Bottom and 137 for Warden Place. Algae levels had risen considerably by the July 2 testing and showed 950 at Alderson, 875 at Sandy Bottom and 450 at Warden Place.

"We get concerned at 450 units," Carmon said Tuesday. "And we're way above that. The problem is real."

Carmon explained the algae problem is the same type of problem that occurred at Harveys Lake three years ago. He said that because the weather has been cool, the lake begins to "work" when the weather gets warmer. Thus, algae is spawned.

Carmon said that people who are boating or fishing at Harveys Lake should have no problems, however, swimming in the algae-infested water may cause skin rashes and, if the water is swallowed, upset stomachs may prevail.

Carmon reported that his office has noticed the Pennsylvania Fish Commission as well as the Harveys Lake Borough Council of the problem. The council was expected to hold a special session last evening prior to its regularly scheduled meeting.



Littlest skier

Rocky Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis of Harveys Lake, makes water skiing look easy — even if he is only 13 months old. Rocky, whose mother and father are water-skiing instructors, was skiing on the livingroom rug when he was first able to stand on his own.

Believe it or not! Water skiing at 13 months

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard the old wives' tales — "You've got to learn to crawl before you can walk, or You've got to take one step at a time?"

Well, don't let "Rocky" Davis of Harveys Lake hear you make such claims.

You see, Rocky literally blew both tales out of the water this past May when he dawned a pair of specially-designed water skis and took to the high seas at the dubious age of 13 and a half months.

No, it's not another "Ripley's Believe it or Not" tale. It's a true story about a remarkable young child who actually learned how to water ski before he even took a single step.

Rocky, the son of Jack and Jackie Davis, RD 1, Harveys Lake, negotiated the waves and white water all by himself while on vacation at Cyprus Gardens, Florida.

According to Rocky's parents, his seemingly amazing feat was not all that unusual. In fact, they actually expected their son to ski like an old pro.

"I really believed that he would be able to ski," Rocky's dad said Saturday. "We had pulled him around on skis on the floor for months and months. We made sure he wouldn't be afraid of the water by occasionally dunking him under the water in a swimming pool."

And Rocky, who weighed only 20 pounds at the time he soloed, was reported to be completely accustomed to the water prior to challenging the warm Florida surf.

"He wasn't afraid of the water at all," Mother Jackie Davis said, while recalling her son's skiing adventure. "He went (skied) for about a mile before he fell," Jackie said. "And the fall didn't bother him at all. He went under, Jackie said, and he didn't cry. He seemed very calm."

If you're still not impressed, try the fact that Rocky only took his first few steps one month before he splashed on the Florida scene.

Still not impressed? How about learning to ski at 10 months? Well, how about learning to grasp the tow line handle at six months old? Not bad, huh?

Apparently Rocky, unlike other children, had an additional toy in his play-pen besides the familiar rattle and stuffed doll — a water skiing handle.

"We had him playing with his water skis very early," Jack said. "It wasn't long after that he would play with his skis and the handle in his play-pen."

It should be said that Rocky had a little assistance before he skied across his first wake. Both Jack and Jackie have been water skiing for a combined 32 years.

Jack, a physical education instructor and wrestling coach at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, gives private skiing lessons at Harveys Lake on weekends for beginners and experienced skiers. Jack, who says he guarantees a student of his will learn to ski on most levels within a week of training, apparently taught his youngest pupil, Rocky, very well.

Rocky's next challenge will be the Harveys Lake depths once the water begins to warm up, Jackie, a grade school teacher at Clarion School district said.

"Once the water warms up, he'll be out there skiing again," said his mother, the former Jackie Adams of Lake-Lehman, said.

Although there is apparently no documented cases of children skiing earlier in Pennsylvania, Rocky is reported to be one of only a handful nationwide who challenged the waters at 13 and a half months.

So if you're out at Harveys Lake water skiing this summer, keep an eye open for a possible up and coming water skiing champion — Rocky Davis.

Board adopts budget

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Lake-Lehman school directors adopted the 1985-86 budget in the amount of \$8,128,615, by a 6-3 vote at a special meeting for general purposes on June 25. Real estate millage will remain at 113 mills for the district's Luzerne County residents. However, the millage for the district's Noxen Township residents in Wyoming County will be 128 mills.

Director Alan Keiper objected to the increased millage for the Wyoming County residents, but Director Daniel Hudzik explained that the millage is an equalization move to make the dollar value the same for property owners in both counties.

Board president Joseph "Red" Jones commended the board members and Raymond Bowersox, the district's business manager, for the many hours they spent in making it possible to hold the line on the property millage. Jones singled out Director Hudzik and thanked him for his efforts in working on the budget and driving home the fact that the school board could use Chapter II money and a \$60,000 subsidy to keep the millage at 113 and Noxen's at 128 mills.

Hudzik explained that Luzerne County property values are assessed at a higher ratio than Wyoming County, and the dollar value is now the same for property owners in both counties with the new millage.

Keiper did not agree, stating that state-assessed property values might be the same, but that is not necessarily the case for most taxpayers in the district.

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Encon is awarded

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award was recently presented to Energy Convertors, Inc.-ENCON.

The owner and president is Hanford Eckman, of Shavertown, who started the business.

ENCON, located on Lower Demunds Road in Dallas, has been in operation and an active member of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce for 11 years.

ENCON manufactures electric heating elements which are used in coffee makers, hot pots, traveling irons, sporting goods, automotive parts, electric heating products and also air conditioning systems.

The number of employees at ENCON ranges between 150 and 180 with an annual payroll of 2 million dollars. The business brings new dollars to the local economy from all parts of the United States and foreign countries. ENCON is also a high technology business providing jobs for local college graduates as well as direct labor employees.

Some of the selection criteria for the award include membership to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, being privately owned with 200 employees or less, and being active in the community. Other considerations included innovativeness of product or service offered, history as a successful business, visibility and image of business in the community, and an increase in sales and or unit volume.

The Small Business Committee, which chose ENCON as this year's recipient, is designed to help address the problems that small businesses may face. The Small Business Committee realizes that small business have been a major force in the generation of new employment opportunities.

Group plans trip to Holy Land

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Pillarella and 13 members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Dallas are planning a trip to Israel, Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, conducted by Wholesale Tours International (WTI), a trip they have dreamed of for a long, long time.

"This nearly lifetime dream of ours became a reality when a friend of Rev. Pillarella's convinced us to take this tour of the Holy Land," said Mrs. Pillarella. "He had just returned from a tour and his enthusiasm was so great we couldn't resist. That was about a year ago that we planned the trip and when others heard about it, they wanted to come. When Andy became ill, we debated, but his physician has given him permission to go."

There was no crisis at the time the Pillarellas planned the trip to the Holy Land. There were no hijackings, no kidnappings, no hostages. How did they feel about it now? Did they have any second thoughts?

No doubts at all, according to the Pillarellas. Those people planning to go have expressed no fears and they are most confident that everything will be fine. They believe that



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Discussing trip

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Pillarella of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Dallas, study the brochure about Masada in Israel, one of the places they plan to visit on their trip to the Holy Lands this Fall.

United States security is excellent as is that in Cairo, Egypt.

They will fly from New York to the Israeli Airport, then go directly to Tel Aviv, where they will stay at The Diplomat. The tour will not go to Greece, but there is a possibility

it might go to Rome.

A group from the Athens, N.Y. area will travel by bus to Dallas where they will pick up the Trinity group, then proceed to New York where they will meet with a group

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