

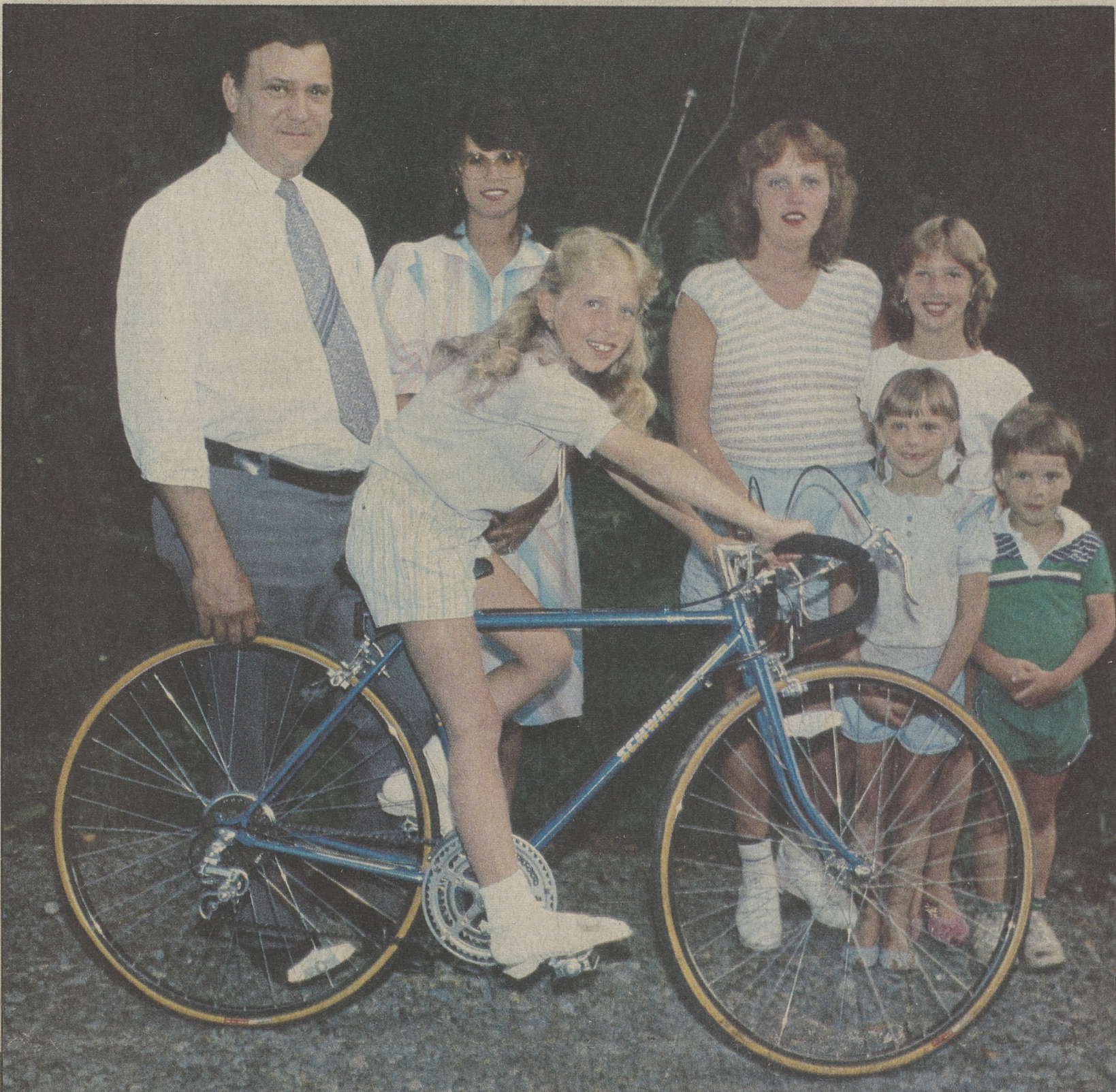
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Eighth life claimed

Arsonist responsible for tragedy

By DOTTY MARTIN
Editor
and JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

The cause of a fire that claimed the lives of eight people and injured 12 others at the Thomas Guest Home in Sweet Valley last Tuesday has been determined to have been arson. The announcement of investigation findings into the cause of the tragic blaze was made yesterday afternoon by Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie.

The eighth victim of the fire, 59-year-old Elizabeth Stania, passed away Tuesday in Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, from burns sustained in the fire.

According to District Attorney Gillespie, several points of origin of the fire were discovered throughout the Thomas Guest Home. And, in at least two points, a flammable substance was found, according to the District Attorney's report.

Gillespie reported that a relative of one of the fire victims expressed some concern at the time of the fire, explaining that the victim had been treated for suicidal tendencies. The victim, a woman, was allegedly responsible for an arson fire in Wilkes-Barre early this year.

The district attorney's office, however, is not releasing the individual's name, pending further investigation. He explained his office is

seeking a court order to review mental health records of the individual and is still conducting tests to determine what substance was used in the fire.

Sweet Valley Fire Chief Bob Walsh reported to The Dallas Post on Monday that officials were awaiting the results of tests taken on electrical wiring and other electric equipment removed from the two-story structure last week.

"We are sure it (the fire) started in the front of the building," Walsh said Monday. "We believe it stems from the sitting and television room area."

According to Walsh, he and other fire department personnel as well as ambulance crews, had been concerned with this type of tragedy in boarding homes for many months prior to the July 23 blaze.

"I have been concerned about the boarding homes and their safety for some time," Walsh said. "I was afraid of the problems that might occur in trying to get the people out (in the event of a fire)," Walsh said.

Walsh said that through training and visits to the boarding homes in the area, many lives were saved during the Thomas blaze.

"We probably would have lost a lot more people if it was not for the tremendous job the firemen and ambulance crews did at the fire," Walsh said.

Grand prize winner

Ruth Ann Selenski is shown here with the brand new 10-speed Schwinn bicycle which she won as the top subscription seller in a recent drive held by the Back Mountain Little League and The Dallas Post. Shown here with Ruth Ann are members of her family. From left, Mary Ann Selenski, Ronald Selenski Sr.,

Ronald Selenski Sr., Ruth Ann's father; Jean Brutko, circulation manager, The Dallas Post; Ruth Selenski, Ruth Ann's mother; and Laura Lynn Selenski. Absent at the time of the photo was Ruth Ann's brother, Hugo Selenski.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Ruth Ann Selenski wins bicycle

Ruth Ann Selenski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Selenski Sr., was the recipient of a brand new 10-speed Schwinn bicycle, the grand prize in a recent fund-raising drive sponsored by The Dallas Post and the Back Mountain Little League Organization.

Ruth Ann, who plays softball in the Back Mountain Little League, sold the most subscriptions to The Dallas Post (above 10) during the two-week period the drive was

conducted, thus entitling her to the grand prize.

The Dallas Post also donated \$2 to Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. for every subscription sold by a Back Mountain Little Leaguer during the fund drive.

Ruth Ann, who reportedly went to one house no fewer than 17 times to make a sale, was elated when told she was the grand prize winner. She would like to thank all those who

purchased a subscription to The Dallas Post for making it possible for her to win the bicycle.

Management of The Dallas Post would also like to thank the officials of Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. for their cooperation in this drive. Staff members of The Post would like to thank all those who purchased subscriptions during this drive.

Eleven named

Advisory Council appointed at lake

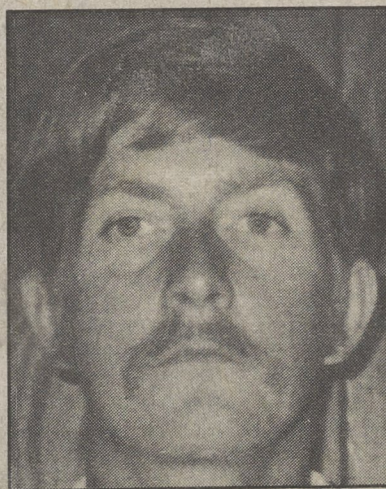
By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

In a move designed to anticipate possible future anabaena algae blooms at Harveys Lake, Borough Council last Wednesday night appointed seven members and four advisors to an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC).

The EAC, which will act as an independent agency, will periodically take water samples from Harveys Lake on a year-round basis and will make determinations as to what solutions are available if an algae bloom should reoccur. The EAC will report its findings to the Harveys Lake Borough Council which will make all final decisions on lake treatments.

EAC appointments are as follows: Robert Albee of Harveys Lake, Chairman, three-year term; Rachael Dziak of Harveys Lake, Treasurer, three-year-term; Georgine Petroskos of Harveys Lake, Secretary, two-year term; and Ron Debalko of Harveys Lake, liaison between EAC and the borough council for a term of two years.

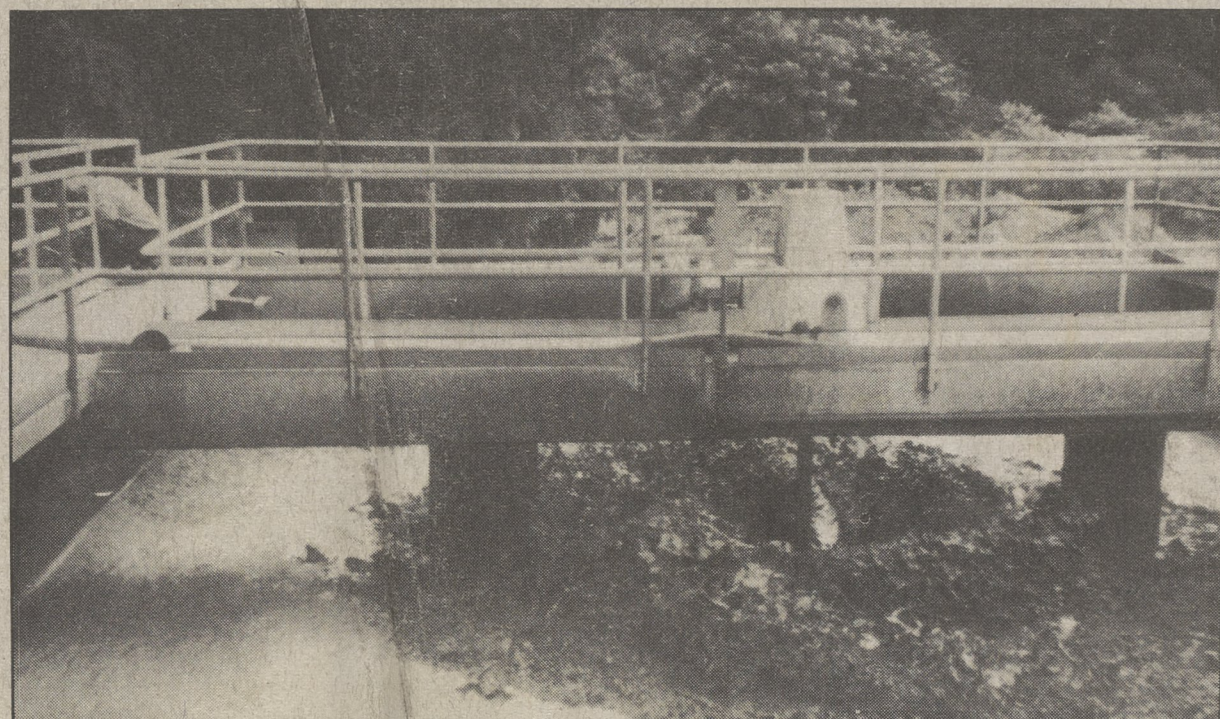
Appointed for one-year terms were Lorraine Scott, Jan Baloge and Michael Snell all of Harveys Lake. Joint special advisors are Dr. Charles Reif of Noxet, a well-known expert on lake studies; Joanne Jones, reportedly knowledgeable in the area of procuring state and federal grants; and businessmen Bruce Hanson and



BRUCE HANSON



JOANNE JONES



Mixing sludge

Large aerobic paddles mix and aerate thickened biological sludge in order for the bacteria to further break-down the organic material at the Dallas Area Municipal Authority building.

Dallas Post/John Kilduff

There is an explanation for that 'awful' smell on 309

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

Motorists entering or leaving the Back Mountain area along Route 309 near the boarderline of Courtdale and Kingston Township often complain of a strange odor lingering in the air.

The odor, which usually occurs during early morning and evening hours, is part of the daily operation of the Dallas Area Municipal Sewer Authority (DAMA).

According to DAMA plant manager Tom Bagley, the

treatment plant is the constant brunt of public criticism which Bagley says is unfair because of the plants' physical location and the fact that the DAMA treatment process is a completely biological system which does not release any chemicals into the atmosphere.

DAMA operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year in order to biologically treat raw sewage from an estimated 12,000 to 16,000 Dallas, Dallas Township and Kingston Township residents.

"The odor people smell is due to what is called

(See SMELL, page 10)

Remodeling planned at Harveys Lake

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Public Access Area next to Old Sandy Bottom Beach on Harveys Lake has been scheduled for the construction of a new public restroom facility and additional parking space, The Dallas Post learned Monday.

Eugene Smith, chief of construction and maintenance at the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's headquarters for engineering and construction projects in Pleasant Gap, Pa., told The Post that a 14 X 25 foot concrete restroom capable of servicing five people at a time will be built some time in late August or early September.

Along with the restroom facility, the PFC plans to repave the current boat launch and parking areas with one inch of new pavement. In addition,

(See LAKE, page 10)

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