

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Fire aftermath

This is the scene at the Thomas Guest Home, Sweet Valley, following a tragic fire last Tuesday morning that claimed the lives of seven people. The front porch of the home which housed 19 people at the time of the fire is seen in this photo.

Boarding

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Cross home is different from traditional boarding homes in that it provides basic health care for persons who do not require constant medical attention and are not bedridden.

"This (Cross Guest Home) was a life-long dream of mine and my husband's," Cross said. Her husband, Victor, died one year before the Cross Guest Home was opened.

Cross said routine fire drills, coordinated with the Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company, are routinely conducted at her guest home. The home also has smoke alarms and ceiling heat sensors in each room as well as a fire alarm system and fire extinguishers. The Cross home currently has four fire escapes. The front of the building is equipped

with two steel fire doors and the back exit has one steel door. Both sides of the home also have steel fire escape doors.

Advisory

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Joe Moran. All are residents of Harveys Lake.

"This EAC ordinance has been established for protection, conservation and management of Harveys Lake," borough solicitor Thomas O'Connor said Wednesday.

The new EAC council members will not receive a salary for the testing and studying of Harveys Lake, O'Connor said. But they will receive expense money for services provided while working for the EAC.

Harveys Lake Borough Council approved the EAC by a 7-0 vote. Councilman Bill Gallagher motioned to form the EAC and councilman Arnold West seconded prior to the unanimous vote.

Council resident Richard Boice said the EAC has been appointed with dedicated people and that Harveys Lake Council will assist EAC in making the lake studies successful.

"I can foresee a dedicated effort from the people sitting on the borough council and the EAC," Boice said. "And we will (Harveys Lake Council) do everything we can to help."

Boice continued by saying the EAC was established to do long-term studies to determine what causes the algae to form in the lake.

Lake

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tion, they have scheduled to increase parking space by extending the parking lot towards Lakeside Drive where a grass section now exists. The project is expected to take six weeks to complete.

"We (PFC) have known that we needed to expand the parking at the boat launch for over 10 years," Smith said. "Coincidentally, Harveys Lake Borough, through its Water Authority and the Protective Association, has applied pressure to construct a public sanitary facility at the launch," said Smith.

Smith said the restroom facility will have running water and it will be connected to the Harveys Lake sewer system. The restroom, Smith said, will include three stalls and

4-H programs attract many

This year, nearly 135 youth between the ages of 8 and 19 belong to one of the nine 4-H horse clubs in Luzerne County. It takes the assistance of many to conduct a successful horse program including members, leaders, parents, community minded citizens, and the Extension agent.

The 4-H horse program is administered by the Cooperative Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State University. The Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs and materials without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, handicap, or age as provided by law.

"I have never tried to beat a law required by the state since I have been licensed," Cross said. "I want this home to be safe and it will continue to be a safe place to live."

Cross has been active in the health care since the 1960's when she completed a American Red Cross home nursing course and was later employed by Valley Crest hospital in Wilkes-Barre. From 1972 to 1978, Cross worked for the Rural Health Agency and for the Committee for Economic Growth (CEG) of Northeastern Pennsylvania, where Cross says she became aware of the need for quality boarding home facilities.

"I think they (the state) need to clamp down on some of these homes," Cross said. "While I was out in the field for CEG, I saw some really bad boarding homes. I even discovered one boarding home that had residents living in the attic of the building."

Cross said that the best construction of a boarding home is the "single-story" building because

staff members can easily monitor the residents 24-hour-a-day. The Cross home has at least one staff member on duty all day and night, as required by state regulations.

"They (staff members) are on duty 24 hours-a-day," Cross said. "The residents are checked every hour by a member of our staff. The staff member opens the individual bedroom doors and looks in on them," Cross said.

Cross said that the 24-hour staffing is important and the residents deserve it because "these people are paying for this kind of care and they expect it, along with some tender loving care."

When asked if she was worried about a fire similar to the one at the Thomas Guest Home, Cross "No, I do not feel that at all. We are very well staffed and trained. Everybody knows what to do."

Staff members at the Cross Home are trained in Red Cross first aid, shock treatment and CPR.

— JOHN F. KILDUFF

"We expect a very good working relationship."

DER officially lifted the swimming advisory at the lake on Monday July 22. Anabaena algal levels at four testing spots on the

lake were well below the 500 parts per milliliter, which DER says constitutes a swimming advisory.

The swimming advisory was issued by DER two days before the

Fourth of July weekend, causing many residents and businessmen to complain to borough officials. The

EAC concept was spawned one week later when borough officials, Pennsylvania Fish Commission officials and DER held an emergency meeting to discuss plans to apply copper sulfate to the algae problem.

Ecoscience Company of Moscow applied over 2,200 pounds of Copper Sulfate on Tuesday July 16. Ecoscience officials and DER say that over 90 percent of the anabaena algae have been killed.

"It should stay clear and clean for the rest of the year," said Jones. "However, there is no guarantee; there never was."

Old Noxen Road. Jones did say, however, that those using the borough access area will have to park in the Hansons' parking lot for a \$1 charge.

Sunset Marina, Jones said, will also allow boat launching for a \$3 charge during the week and \$5 on weekends.

— JOHN F. KILDUFF

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Smell

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atmospheric inversion," Bagley said. "Our plant is encircled by mountains which makes it difficult for the winds to carry it (odor) away."

Atmospheric inversion is a natural process whereby on a clear day the sun's rays shine down on the earth surface, warming the ground. The warm earth surface causes warm air to rise up into the atmosphere. This process is repeated while the sun is shining, causing what are known as convection currents. These currents continually move warm surface air upward, allowing cooler air to move in which will again be heated by the sun's rays. A circular air current is created.

This current of air usually will carry away any odors emanating from the DAMA plant. However, during early morning and evening hours when the sun's rays are not as hot, the odors are actually trapped between the mountain ranges which encircle the DAMA plant because the convection currents are not moving as rapidly.

DAMA was built in May, 1972 for an estimated \$11.5 million. It is considered a secondary treatment plant capable of eliminating up to 90 percent of the pollutants associated with raw sewage waste water. The three municipalities which use DAMA are connected by more than 65 miles of collection system piping.

Bagley said DAMA currently receives over 1.2 million gallons of waste water a day and that biological communities (bacteria) break-down and feed on the organic material in the waste water.

Only one percent of the waste water received makes up the organic waste. The other 99 percent is sewer waste water.

"One percent of the waste we receive is causing the problem at plants like this," Bagley said. "Only a very small amount creates the largest impact."

DAMA receives its sewage by way of a gravity retrieval system. There are no pumps used to flush the sewage to the DAMA plant. The raw sewage flows through a series of smaller pipes and into a large 30-inch pipe which feeds DAMA.

"DAMA is located on one of the lowest points in the Back Mountain," Bagley said. "This saves us from having to pump sewage to the plant."

Bagley said DAMA's customers are hooked up to a very sophisticated collection system which directs the sewage of some 4,000 Equivalent Dwelling Units (hook-ups) to the plant for the following biological treatment process.

Raw sewage enters DAMA through a "screening room" which removes large pieces of debris and cloth. The screening room protects the plant equipment from damage. After the raw sewage flows through the screening room it enters the "Biological Contact Tank" where communities of bacteria (which thrive on organic material in sewage) are mixed together with the raw sewage.

The biological contact tank nurtures the growth of more bacteria by converting the organic matter in the sewage into carbon dioxide which releases into the air. This process creates what is known as activated sludge. The activated sludge is actually large communities of bacteria feeding on the organic matter in the sewage.

The activated sludge is then channeled from the contact tanks into a clarification tank where the bacteria (which are heavier than water) settles to the bottom of the tank. The sewage waste water in the clarification tank spills over and is funneled into a chlorine disinfection tank. After the chlorine treatment, the water is released into Toby's creek, which runs through Luzerne.

"Before we release the chlorine-treated water in Toby's creek we must make sure that the level of chlorine is strong enough to kill the bacteria and mild enough so we do not kill fish," Bagley said.

The activated sludge which settled on the bottom of the clarification tank is them drawn through a pumping system and put into stabilization tanks where the bacteria further digest the organic matter in the raw sewage.

After this process the activated sludge is returned to the contact tank in step one, where new raw sewage and the larger community of bacteria meet in a continual process.

"Essentially what this plant does," Bagley said, "is allows biological communities (bacteria) to constantly feed on the sewage."

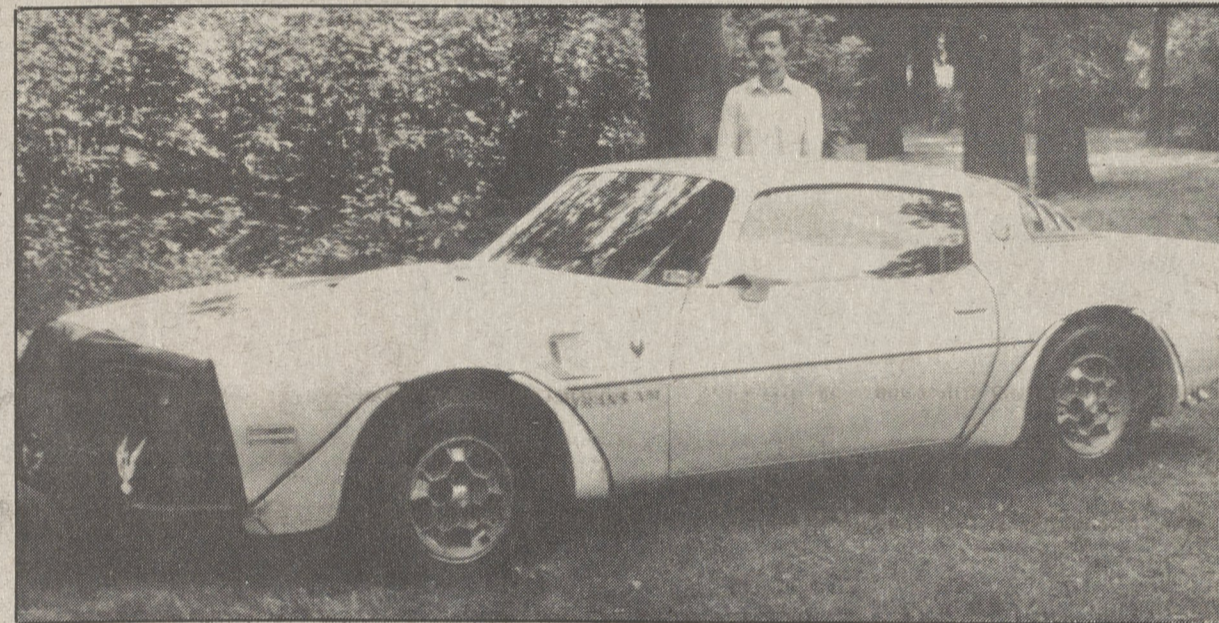
During this process, DAMA creates a large amount of excess bacteria known as sludge waste which is moved into a thickening tank where the concentrated bacteria grows and feeds on organic matter rapidly. The sludge waste, also known as biological sludge, is then pumped into aerobic digestion tanks where the bio-sludge is mixed and aerated for several weeks.

This sludge is then stored and later pressed into sludge cake by the use of DAMA's belt filter press. The \$50,000 sludge cake process makes the shipping and disposal of the sludge much more economical by pressing and thereby eliminating the majority of water weight in the sludge.

DAMA then ships nearly 100 percent of the sludge cake to the Manzoni Brothers Farm in Jackson Township where the sludge is used as a fertilizing agent. The use of the Manzoni farm is monitored by DER to be certain that the sludge cake (which is now a rich fertilizer) is not misused.

DAMA employs five people including manager Bagley and they receive most of their operating budget from the \$151 annual sewer treatment bill.

"This is a very sophisticated and well-run operation," Bagley said. "It is time we get credit for what we do instead of always getting complaints."



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Store owner

John Newell of the newly-opened Eire Auto Parts Store in Dallas is shown here with a Pontiac Trans Am, the apple of his eye.

Eire's has old-fashioned quality

By KATHY SUDA
Staff Correspondent

If you believe in quality, selection, and low prices in caring for your car, there's a new automotive accessory store in Dallas that you should take note of.

Eire Automotive Accessories, located at 38 Main St., is a five week old business that stocks quality merchandise to beautify the exterior and interior of your car. Owner-operator John Newell says he studies a product before he buys it to sell at Eire's. He also tries to stock only American-made products unless the technology of a foreign-made product is far greater. Newell says he tries to stock his shelves with merchandise that he would like to buy for his car. By doing all this, Newell is a consumer protection agent of sorts.

Although Eire's (pronounced eye-er) is open now, Newell said Eire's will be stocked and set up the way he wants in about three months. Eventually, Newell said, Eire's will have products with a K-Mart price, A&A Auto store selection and the older American Auto Store's quality. By "buying right," Newell hopes to achieve this. Newell buys from several different vendors and watches prices carefully.

Among the quality product's Eire has are the Mother's line of car waxes and polishes, Edelbrock speed parts, Wagner head lamps and Canadian-made Astra louvers. If it's interior beauty you're concerned with, Eire's orders custom made Delfast car mats in 23 different colors and 3 styles.

Newell said the name Eire is Gaelic for Ireland. The store itself sports the colors of the Irish flag.

Eire's is located next to the Hearthstone Pub and is open daily from 10 to 8 and Saturdays, 9 to 6.

Ride Against Cancer needs bikers

Organizers of the Pennsylvania Bike Ride Against Cancer are looking for bicyclists to participate in a six-day ride through the picturesque countryside of our state.

Riders will begin in Allentown on Sunday, August 4 and travel 500 miles together by bicycle before returning to the city on Frieday, Aug. 9. Overnight lodging, dinner and

breakfasts will be provided free of charge to the riders, thanks to volunteers along the way who are supporting this effort. Participants will be responsible for soliciting pledges for the A.C.S. before the ride begins.

The United Methodist Church,

Wilkes-Barre, will provide overnight housing on August 7 and the Y.M.C.A. facilities will be available for showers for the cyclists.

To raise funds and to enjoy the company of bicyclists on this scenic ride, call the A.C.S. office, 825-7763 for an application.

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