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Vol. 96, No. 32

Wednesday, August 21, 1985

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In Toby's Creek

Badly decomposed body is discovered

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

Luzerne County Deputy Coroner Joseph Shaver told reporters late Monday evening that the severely decomposed body of an unidentified male found beneath the bridge spanning Toby's Creek along Route 309 in Courtdale will remain a mystery until State Police officials complete a check of their missing persons file. The body, which was found lying face down beneath the bridge, was described as a male, approximately six feet tall, weighing between 160 and 200 pounds. Coroner officials were unable to positively identify the body because of what Shaver described as its "severely decomposed state." The body was discovered shortly before noon on Monday by two

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation bridge inspectors. The two inspectors were reportedly doing routine checks on the underbelly of the bridge when they found the body. They immediately contacted the State Police, who, along with Luzerne County Coroner Office officials, arrived at the scene at approximately 1:30 pm. Shaver said Monday that he was unable to determine the cause of death or the approximate age of the body due to its decomposed state. Shaver also said that a medical examiner from Philadelphia would be called in to do further tests which would determine the cause of death. State Police officials indicated that they had "no clues" as of Monday as to the cause of death. State Police asked that anyone with information about the case should contact them at 287-2185. Results of the Philadelphia medical examiner's tests are expected to be released within two weeks.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Investigation begins

Officials from the Pennsylvania State Police and the Luzerne County Coroner's Office drag the badly decomposed body of what is believed to be a male up the bank from Toby's Creek along Route 309 in Courtdale. Police have begun their investigation as to the identity of the body.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Body found

Members of the Pennsylvania State Police prepare to make their way up the banks of Toby's Creek in Courtdale with a severely decomposed body. The body, believed to be that of a male, was discovered Monday morning by employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Death boat

Shown here is the Ski Naticque boat which Kim Krasner was operating at Harveys Lake last Wednesday. Krasner's boat crashed into a diving board at the lake, killing him instantly. The 31-year-old Krasner was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Harveys Lake man killed

Krasner death is 12th on Pa. waterways in year

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

The death of 31-year-old Kim Stanley Krasner of Harveys Lake last Wednesday morning was the 12th fatality this year on Pennsylvania Waterways, the state Fish Commission reported last week.

The death toll on Commonwealth waters, according to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Bureau of Waterways, is down in 1985 from a high mark in August 1984 when 23 were killed in boating related accidents. Of the 23 killed, over half were the result of drunken boat drivers.

The Krasner fatality is the latest boating-related death on Harveys

Lake since June 18, 1983 when two motor boats collided, killing four people. Pronounced dead at the scene were Mrs. Sharon Pallis, 39, and her six year old son Joseph of Wyoming and Mrs. Karen Pitcavage, 34, and her seven year old son Thomas, also of Wyoming. The driver of the other boat, Denis Abramavage of Pittston, was determined to be drunk at the time of the accident and is now serving a 17-month to five year prison sentence for homicide by watercraft in Luzerne County Prison.

Krasner, according to police reports, was violating a number of safety codes while operating his Ski Nautique Speed Boat last Wednesday. Violations included operating a boat without lights and speeding

(estimated at 20mph) near the docks. A possible third violation, operating a motorboat while intoxicated, has not yet been determined pending the toxicology findings later this month of Luzerne County Coroner Dr. George Hudock Jr.

Six empty and six full beer bottles were found near the driver's seat of Krasner's boat the morning of the fatality.

Should alcohol be allowed on Pennsylvania's waterways? Would a prohibition of alcohol and strict fines on Commonwealth waters save lives? The Dallas Post asked some area boaters how they feel.

"I think it is just like drinking and driving while in a car," said 24-year-old Mark Rullund of Tunkhannock. (See KRASNER, page 10)

Kingston Twp. ordinances take effect October 1985

When Kingston Township's two new ordinances take effect in October of 1985, residents will have a new Fire Safety and Prevention Officer and they (residents) will also have to keep their properties from being overrun by unkempt weeds.

The two new ordinances were enacted by the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors last week and they will become law in October, 1985.

The new Fire Safety and Prevention Officer slot has been under consideration for the past year and a half and was finalized, said Township manager Fred Potzer, following the tragic blaze at the Thomas Guest Home, Sweet Valley.

"With this new position, we are trying to provide a vehicle to make certain that what happened in Sweet Valley won't happen in Kingston Township," said Potzer. "The person selected for the position will go out into the community and find places which are in violation of our fire codes."

Potzer said the position will initially only provide compensation for travel expenses. At this time, Kingston Township will hire on a part-time basis. If, in the future, said Potzer, the township feels a full-time fire prevention officer is needed, then they will hire one.

In addition to inspecting new and existing buildings for fire code violations, the new fire prevention officer will periodically conduct fire drills at area elementary schools and will provide public safety information to community groups.

The new ordinance also carries with it a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$300 for any violation found on a resident's property. Along with the fine, a jail term of up to 90 days may also be implemented in the event of a violation.

The Township's new weed ordinance was enacted in order to tie together what manager Potzer called, "a variety of vague references on current zoning ordinances," dealing with tall weeded areas and public safety.

The ordinance says that no Kings-

ton Township resident will be allowed to grow vegetation, not edible or planted for some useful purpose, over the mark of six inches. Any plant life which emits unpleasant or noxious odors or conceals any waste material will be considered in violation of the ordinance.

"We do not want people to think

Ralph (Ralph Anthony, Kingston Township Zoning Officer) is going to be running around the township with a measuring tape," said Potzer. "But the ordinance is needed to control weeded areas which become a public nuisance."

Violators of the ordinance may be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$300.

Garbage fees may be on the rise again

If the current rate hike planned by the West Side Landfill Authority becomes a reality in September, Back Mountain residents, as well as most of Luzerne County, will be absorbing an increase in the charge for garbage pick-up fees.

At last week's Kingston Township Board of Supervisors meeting, independent garbage hauler Ted Kocher of K&K Enterprise, Dallas, informed the board that the WSLA has earmarked a \$1.50 increase per cubic yard of waste dumped at the landfill by garbage haulers. The increase is the third since January and would raise the hauler's tab from \$3.50 per cubic yard to \$5. This increase, said Kocher, would mean higher pick-up rates for Back Mountain residents.

"We are definitely going to have to have an increase," Kocher said Friday. "We are looking at an increase of \$6 to \$8 per month, depending on the customer." Kocher said he and other Back Mountain garbage haulers began hauling their trash to Amity Landfill in Taylor, Pa., last week as a sign of unity against the rate hike. The extra time to transport the trash to Taylor and the wear and tear on the vehicles are the main reason for the resident's rate increase.

The frequent increases in "tipping" charges for garbage haulers utilizing the WSLA has raised ques-

tions about the financial stability of the landfill and whether or not the increases will continue. Tipping charges are the fees charged by landfills for dumping waste at the site.

A Back Mountain source knowledgeable of the WSLA operation told The Dallas Post last Friday that the WSLA is currently operating with a \$300,000 deficit. According to the source, the WSLA, which currently is the only operating landfill in

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