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## Residents warned not to drink water

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Residents in Back Mountain communities have been plagued by water contamination problems recently and in some areas, they have been told not to use the water for drinking or cooking.

Last week in a routine survey by DER sanitarian Len Zelenka, a well in the vicinity of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church was found to be polluted with four compounds, harmful unless aerated properly. The well, property of Pennsylvania Gas & Water, was contaminated with Trans 1-2 dichloroethen, SIS 1-2 diochloroethen, TCE and PCE.

As a precautionary measure, residents supplied with water from this well were advised not to use the water until further notice. PG&W were in the process of treating the well by aeration or carbon absorption and the water will be retested before it is allowed to be used.

Zelenka explained that the source of contamination was not explainable but could come from old underground gas tanks discarded waste materials in past years.

Last Wednesday Dallas Water Company shut down one of its wells when it was found to contain dichloroethen, and first testing 32.4 parts per billion. The well contamination gradually decreased after it was shut down and was to be retested Monday.

Water company general manager Joseph Salla explained that the storage tank tested at 4.6 parts per billion which is four tenths under the maximum level of five parts per billion. The Natona well is a supplemental well that helps keep the water tank filled. Since water from the tank is combined with water from other wells, water reaching homes will not be alarmingly high.

Five other wells of the company were tested and all were fine but the one.

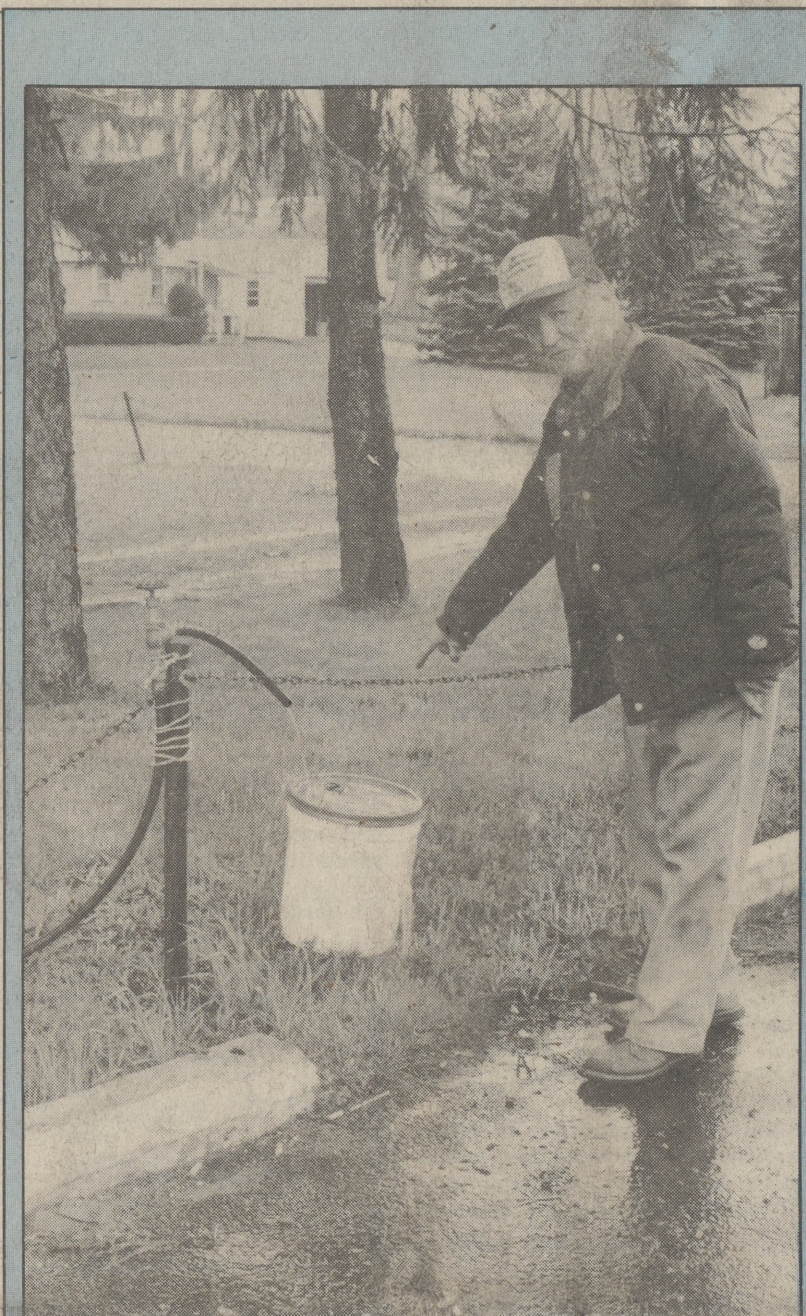
Due to water from other wells being temporarily used to supply the customers in Elmcrest, Stonehedge and College Manor developments, Salla said all customers are requested to cut back on their use of water. They are asked to refrain from washing cars, filling pools, or watering lawns in order to be sure of a sufficient supply. Department of Environmental Resources is lending the Dallas Water Company three of their units to assist the two units owned by the local company to resolve the problem.

According to Salla, the company officials are looking at the possibility of a pumping station between Shavertown and Dallas which would take from one to three weeks.

DER will grant the company an emergency permit for a well in Elmcrest. When the design is complete, DER will review it and if okay the well which is drilled and has been tested will be granted an interim permit.

"The contaminated well can be aerated," Salla said. "We don't know the total parameters, we have had some contradictory testing reports so not enough tests for proper treatment."

Salla explained that technology detecting equipment is only six or seven years old and prior to that time, there was no base to determine risks of contamination. The compounds found in the water are the same as in drain cleaners, carburetors, paint thinners, and car cleaners.



**CLEAN WATER, HERE** — Willard Garley, Lehman, manages to get a bucket of clean water for a friend who lives in Elmcrest. Many Back Mountain residents have been recently plagued with water problems. (Linda Shurmaitis Photo)

## Sewer Authority asks for operating funds

BY BONNIE DOMBROSKI  
Staff Writer

The Jackson Township General Municipal Authority held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, at the township fire hall. Present were Chairman Richard Kindler and members McMahon, Evanish, and Napieralski as well as Darryl Pawlusch from Pasonick Engineers and Township Supervisors Tom Adams and Charles Cigarski.

According to the treasurer's report, the operating funds in the bank are down to \$189,63. A motion was passed to request additional operating funds from the Jackson Township Supervisors.

Kindler read a letter from township solicitor Blythe Evans in which Evans asked for alternate ways of removing rock to be explored rather than blasting. At the last supervisors' meeting, several residents from Briarwood Drive had expressed their concern over possible property damage and loss of wells if blasting is done near their homes when the sewers are installed.

According to Kindler, he was told by DER that any additional costs must be assumed by the township if they wish to act in this accord. He said he was informed that these costs cannot be included in the EPA grant or any loans from Penn-Vest.

When questioned why no testing was done in Briarwood as it was in other parts of the township, Pawlusch replied that there was evidence of rock formations so no testing was needed.

In regard to any further testing that might be done, Kindler said the authority has no funds to do so and that it must be handled by the supervisors.

Adams said on behalf of the supervisors that something like that would be undertaken only on

the recommendation of the township engineers or the solicitor.

Adams also explained that a township ordinance requires that any contractor who will be blasting must be duly licensed and bonded for the protection of the residents.

Pawlusch suggested two courses of action now open to the authority: open the job for rebidding with the stipulation that no blasting be done; or go to construction, determine what kind of rock is there and how much there is, and make a decision based on that information whether to blast or try to remove the rock manually.

One resident asked if it would be possible to exempt Briarwood from installing sewers because of the rock ledge. Kindler told the residents he asked the same thing of DER and was told "absolutely not".

If blasting is done, according to Pawlusch "there will be no damage to any homes at any depth" but residents were not assured by that statement. They said their wells are located near the road and are at depths of over 500 feet. They seemed as concerned with the inconvenience of losing water and the time it would take to drill new wells as with potential damage to their structures.

A motion was approved by the authority to consider blasting only as a last resort and that every possible alternative should be explored to eliminate the need for blasting.

In the event that blasting must be done, the authority will give the contractor six weeks from the time the problem is discovered to notify the authority, the authority's engineers, or the township supervisors.

The authority has agreed to make a decision based on potential damages to properties versus the additional costs of manual rock removal.



**A MONUMENTAL TASK** — Many Back Mountain residents took advantage of the week-long clean-up campaign in Kingston Township. Pictured are Tom Fritzges, Chuck Woolbert, Jack Kaleta, Larry Cummings and Mike Goldsmith who worked long hours to fill the many dumpsters with mountains of trash. (Linda Shurmaitis Photo)

## Kingston Twp. clean-up biggest ever

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Kingston Township manager Fred Potzer said Monday that the Spring Cleaning Days, May 2 through May 7, was the biggest cleanup ever in the township.

"In the past we averaged 25 of 26 containers but this year there were approximately 41 containers or 1300 cubic yards of solid waste. I talked with officials from Dallas Township and Dallas Borough and they said

they also had a record cleanup," Potzer said.

Potzer said he thought perhaps the limit set for the number of bags collected by the garbage collectors had something to do with the amount brought in by residents this year. He thought perhaps many residents decided to get rid of any trash or items they weren't using because of the landfill crisis.

"We had a lot of metal, etc. turned in which we separated and were able to salvage five container loads of metal for recycling."

Saturday was the final day for the township's spring cleanup and there were long lines of residents bringing in trash to the containers. The township had three or four men working to assist the residents.

Some of the residents on Gree Road cleaned up the entire area in that section of Midway Manor and bagged it neatly for pickup.

"Everyone did a great job of cleaning up the township," Potzer said. "We are hauling everything out today (Monday) and it should all be gone by the end of the day."

## Dallas board votes to add classrooms

Dallas School Board voted unanimously to add two classrooms to Dallas Elementary School by converting a storage room into classrooms to ease the overcrowding of students. The renovation was estimated at approximately \$27,500 and will be funded by the money received by the district from land it sold in Goss Manor and the

balance from next year's budget.

A lot owned by the school district on Westminster Drive, New Goss Manor, was sold Monday to high bidder Craig Tupper for \$22,500, who acted as an agent for Anderson Construction of Pittston. The balance of about \$4,500 will probably come from next year's budget, according to District Superintendent

ent Gerald Wycallis.

The renovation of the storage room into two classrooms was bid originally last year and if the bids are still the same and contractors will honor them.

Graduation ceremonies will be Thursday, June 16 at 6 p.m. in the high school football stadium, weather permitting.

## Barbara Walters speaks out

BY RICHARD FIEGELMAN  
Special to The Post

Barbara Walters, poignant and provocative, lectured at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre on Monday, May 9. She was sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and Times Leader as part of the Town Hall Lecture Series. Prior to speaking, Miss Walters held a press conference in the Green Room at the Kirby, and expounded on several issues and personalities of current or past interest.

The conference began at 6:30 p.m. due to Miss Walters late arrival from New York. She was still editing her special which airs on Friday, May 13, and includes interviews with Sylvester Stallone and Patrick Swayze.

Miss Walters, though obviously tired, was composed and articulate throughout the conference. Her wit and sense of humor were apparent.

The first question she fielded was on astrology in the White House, as reported in Donald Regan's new book on the Reagans. She stated that she had "not read the book", but that perhaps a "larger question is about the kiss and tell books".

She remembered that in the Kennedy era "cabinet members had to sign a statement saying that they wouldn't write such an expose". She continued that in those days such books were "unheard of".

When asked who was her most interesting interview, after pausing a moment she said simply, "Sadat. He was most impressive, he had a vision, a wonderful personality. The word charismatic was written for him. As a matter of fact I'm having lunch with Mrs. Sadat

tomorrow in Virginia. She now lives in the United States."

In a moment of vulnerability, Miss Walters said, "You don't make many friends when you do what I do, you do the interview and you leave. Mrs. Sadat has become a friend."

She finds political interviews much easier because with celebrities "you have to do a lot of homework. Especially with the specials, you have to do something to make it special or it becomes the Barbara Walters' ordinary. With a politician it's no holds barred."

She was asked her thoughts on the current presidential race and said that it seems obvious that Bush and Dukakis will go head to head in November. If that changes she would find it "most amazing." She foresees a tight race, but would not predict an outcome.

In her opinion, Bush and Dukakis are somewhat similar men, both "cautious and undramatic." Upon saying that she knows George Bush quite well, this reporter asked her whether the "wimp" label fit. Miss Walters responded with a most emphatic, "No." "In September he and I talked about this because he was most concerned about it. It's something about the way he looks, Ivy League, preppy." "However," she added, "I don't think a wimp would be in politics and survive."

Miss Walters, when asked about the ABC program 20-20 said that she enjoys this work very much.

"It makes a difference in people's lives." We are more in tune to making a difference in people's lives than '60 Minutes', she said, '60 Minutes' is more confrontational."

This reporter asked about Jesse Jackson; whether or not she saw

him as a viable future candidate. Miss Walters replied that she finds Jesse "fascinating".

"He's young enough to be around for 8 or 12 more years. It's hard to say what will happen in four years, but after this year's Michigan primary he proved his viability. Whether some of the baggage he carries will hinder him I don't know, but this is a man who one day could be president".

On Jackson as a Dukakis running mate, she said she was not a "political oracle, and according to news department policy we are not supposed to give out political opinions which is a great cop out".

At this point in the conference, aides told Miss Walters that she had only seven minutes until her lecture, but she seemed to be enjoying herself and shooed them away saying, "I don't have to rehearse anything." Her cordiality charmed this reporter.

On her toughest interview, she immediately said comedians were the toughest because it's very tough to break through because they are mostly rehearsed, Walters said.

She planned to speak on a variety of people whom she interviewed including Katherine Hepburn, Stallone, Margaret Thatcher, Jesse Jackson and Sean Connery. Her topic would be the need for reaching out, for relationships.

Miss Walters loves to speak with politicians and celebrities on a personal level. To get beyond the image and glitter. Her personality reflects this intimacy, and it was a distinct pleasure for this reporter to have had the opportunity to meet her.

## Variance with conditions granted to Shaskas

The Dallas Borough Zoning Board recently granted Dallas Veterinarian John R. Shaskus' request for a variance for his property on Machell Avenue. The variance was granted, however, with two stipulations, one that the kennels at the Dallas Veterinary Clinic be soundproofed, and, two, that there would be no animals buried in the backyard at the clinic.

A spokesman at the clinic said that there have been no animals

buried on the premises in recent years so that is no problem and that the kennels will be sound proofed in addition to the entrance, being completed.

The variance was requested by Shaskas following objections by one or more individuals concerning the new, enclosed entranceway, Shaskas was having constructed on the front of the building.

The purpose of the entrance was to make it more convenient for

individuals bringing their pets for treatment. It eliminates the necessity of carrying animals down the steep steps as they had to do in the past and since the new entrance is enclosed, it protects the owner and the animal from inclement weather.

Following the complaints that the entrance was not in keeping with the borough zoning ordinances, Shaskas halted the construction until the zoning board handed down its decision.