



RESCUE MISSION—Three photos in sequence show rescuers recovering a "body" from Harveys Lake during the mock drowning held this past weekend (Post photos by Linda Shurmaitis)

"Drowning" at lake proves good practice for rescuers

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

A man and his four-year-old daughter were thrown into the water and disappeared Sunday morning when their 12-foot rubber raft was hit by a 16-foot speed boat towing a water skier.

An hour and a half after the man and child sunk, a diver from the Luzerne County Sheriff's office spotted the male's body and within five minutes, the man was pulled from the water into the rescue boat where rescuers started CPR immediately.

Other rescuers calmed down the hysterical grandmother when police would not allow her to remain on the dock.

But, fortunately, it was not a real drowning. Luzerne County Sheriff's Deputy Jim Johnson said the mock accident drill he had planned worked well.

"The rescuers started resuscitation on the body right away which demonstrated they knew what they were doing," Johnson was pleased with the success of the drill which was enacted off a dock near Warden Place, Harveys Lake.

Ten emergency agencies took part in Sunday's drill including the Luzerne County Sheriff's Department, Back Mountain and Luzerne County Communication Centers,

Back Mountain Paramedic Unit I, Luzerne County Community College, Harveys Lake Ambulance, Harveys Lake Police Association, Harveys Lake Fire Department, Nesbitt Hospital and the Warden Place Association.

Sandy Kuzma of Harveys Lake played the role of the seven-year-old daughter, who was rescued immediately after the accident; Cindy Carr of Dallas played the mother and Jan Bregman of Harveys Lake played the part of the hysterical grandmother.

The goal of the drill planned by Johnson was for the emergency agencies representatives taking part to find the dolls representing the father and daughter as quickly as possible and do whatever necessary to rescue them.

Johnson had sunk the dolls in the lake hours before the simulated rescue. Although the doll representing the man's body was located in an hour and a half, the doll representing the four-year-old was never found. Johnson said that wasn't the divers' fault because he and his assistants had put a 45-lb. cement block on the body so it would sink, and it must have gone too far down in the lake.

"If it was a real body, it would be on the top of the water and rescuers would have found it right away," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, a body can

be resuscitated up to two hours after a possible drowning and survival depends on the individual and temperature of the water, the colder the better.

Visibility of the water Sunday morning was zero and the vague location of the accident as described by witnesses, who were part of the drill, made the hour and a half spotting a good performance, Johnson said. He was pleased with the manner in which everybody did their jobs.

Johnson believes that the only thing that should be improved is the dispatching of scuba divers, who took 20 minutes to arrive at the scene after the first report of the accident. He plans to have more multi-emergency drills in the future to improve the effectiveness of the emergency rescue agencies.

Airman Alan Cooper graduates from basic

Airman Alan Cooper, son of Loretta Wojtowicz of Newhart Road and Alan C. Cooper of 508 Chase road, both of Shavertown, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

He is a 1985 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, Lehman.

Barn... (continued from page 1)

who had their barns destroyed by arson last year.

In January of 1988 the congregation of the Huntsville Christian Church in Dallas came up with an idea - why not do an old fashioned barn raising to help rebuild the structures? Reverend Cliff Jones took the lead in organizing a letter writing campaign to raise the necessary funds, and contacted other churches, farmers, and members of the community.

The organization kept developing from there, and a short while later 20 church congregations, several community volunteers, and even the Amish Mennonite Disaster Service offered their help. The barns of Ralph Sands and Jerry

McDonald, both of Kingston Township, were the first slated for rebuilding.

Nearly 100 Amish and Mennonites traveled to Kingston Township last weekend to help in the barn-raising, and approximately 120 community volunteers aided both in food preparation and construction. "A total of \$800 has been raised so far and helped defray the cost of transportation for the work, food, tools, and other items. The farmers themselves provided the building materials," said Reverend Jones.

He added that there is a strong possibility there will be another barn raising for a Back Mountain farmer in the near future, but

could not say when. In the meantime a fund raising effort is underway to help defray medical expenses for an Amish man who injured his arm during the construction Friday.

John Smucker, 34, underwent surgery to repair a torn tendon Monday at the Community Hospital of Lancaster. Smucker has no medical insurance.

"Helping a volunteer who was injured aiding someone else is the least we can do," said Reverend Jones regarding the fund raising effort.

Donations for Smucker may be mailed in care of the Huntville Christian Church, RD 4, Box 197, Dallas, 18612.



Library Auction is next week

The 42nd annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will be held Wednesday, July 6 through Sunday, July 10 on the auction grounds behind the library at 96 Huntsville Road in Dallas.

The committee planning for the 1988 auction are pictured above, from left, row 1: Ernest Ashbridge, Antiques chairman; John Shaskas, general chairman; Benny Matchett, book booth; Mary George, odds and ends; and Durelle Scott, general co-chairman. Row 2: Priscilla Liput, book booth; Pauline Kutz, antiques; Nancy Kozemchak, publicity; Florence Crump, book booth chairman; Carol Ericson, candy and baked goods; Elizabeth Covert, antiques, and Sybil Pelton, odds and ends.

Ration... (continued from page 1)

Molski is concerned.

Salla, however, said he had no intention of turning off the pump over the holiday weekend. "The only time we will turn off the pump is if the tanks are filled and there

is storage for more water. If this happens just as soon as the water level in the tanks goes down, we will turn on the pump again.

In the meantime, Salla said that although the water restrictions are lifted Dallas residents should be

conservative in the use of water. It is a holiday weekend with residents at home for four days and normal water usage will increase without additional use of water.

"Please be considerate of your neighbors," Salla said.

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