

Rodney Major wins Grand National 4-wheeler title

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Rodney Major is the first local resident to win the Grand National 500 Open race for 4-wheelers.

Major who has been driving 4-wheelers for about one year won the Grand National Championship in the 500 Open Amateur Class in Tennessee. The race was sponsored by Yamaha, the make Major was driving.

The son of Russ and Shirley Major of Sweet Valley, Rodney first drove three-wheelers for two years prior to advancing to the 4-wheelers and prior to that drove a motorcycle.

He raced for six to eight years including all vehicles, placing third in 3-wheeler competition. This year was the first time Rodney won a Grand National.

In order to achieve the honor, Rodney raced in nine of 11 races and qualified in all nine. The greatest number of points in the six best races determines the winner.

Rodney explained that 4-wheel competition is much more difficult than motorcycle or 3-wheel racing.

"You must be at least 16 years of age to enter the adult category and you compete against riders of all ages and with all kinds of experience," he explained.

In Texas he rode against the 1987 champion and defeated him in two races. In Tennessee, Rodney had his most difficult race. After the qualifying heat race he had a flat tire which was discouraging and Rodney didn't believe that he could win.

Despite being discouraged Rodney did his best and surprised himself by placing first. When officials totalled points, Rodney's total showed him to be the Grand National champ.

In Tennessee they raced on Loretta Lynn's ranch. She is not always at the races but her husband is there.

For years Rodney rode a motorcycle but after suffering an injury he couldn't use his leg for two years, so decided to try driving a 3-wheeler. He credits riding the 3-wheeler as the therapy which improved his leg 98%.

Now that the national racing season is over until February, Rodney races locally, rides a mountain bike and lifts weights to keep physically fit. His training schedule begins now to be ready to go back on the racing circuit in February.

When they made the trip to Tennessee, their new truck which the Major's drive to carry the 4-wheeler broke down on the highway. They had to call home to have one of the men driving their other truck down. Fortunately, they made it to Tennessee just before the close of registration.

Rodney's mother said she attributes her son's success to his determination. She goes with Rodney to every race and his dad goes to all of them as his mechanic.

"I worry a little about Rodney when he races," said his mother. "But I always pray before the race begins."



Rodney Major

Jackson Supervisors plan new municipal building

by SARA J. LUNDBERG
Managing Editor

The Jackson Township Supervisors held their monthly meeting Monday night, and discussed plans for a new municipal building and recreational land for the township.

Chairman Thomas Adams announced that the Township has recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs for recreational purposes, and over the past several years the township supervisors have been looking for a suitable piece of property to use as a place for a municipal building, and recreational facilities.

The supervisors are currently still in negotiations with the owner of the 18 acre parcel located on Huntsville Road. It is tentatively planned that 1.7 acres will be used for the township municipal building, and six township garages, the remaining land will be utilized for recreational purposes. The exact location of the land will not be released to the public until the sale is final.

The Supervisors passed a resolution to make a down payment of \$1000 toward the cost of the property.

Supervisor Joe Stager said that the property, which used to house a gas station, already has existing bays which would make it easy for the road department to move in immediately after the land is purchased.

"The municipal building won't happen overnight, but we have the basics to start," said Stager.

Stager also said that the township could apply for future grants to help cover the expenses associated with the recreational facilities. The land could be used as a soccer field or for various activities, depending on the needs of township residents.

Discussion at the meeting include a review of the Luzerne County Solid Waste Management Plan released by the Luzerne County Commissioners last week. Suggestions made for the handling of solid waste included a county owned landfill, co-generating waste to energy facilities, and others.

The Supervisors agreed to further review the plan before picking an option for the disposal of solid waste. The supervisors were asked by the Luzerne County Commissioners to adopt a solid waste management plan.



Pet of the week

She's just a small dog, black with tan markings and just as gentle as she is shy. She was found in front of the S.P.C.A. animal shelter, so her name is unknown. She is looking for some kind person to take her home and treat her with kindness.

Veteran (continued from page 1)

fantry veterans of World War II and their wives met at McCormick's Creek State Park in Indiana in August. Callahan had been in close contact with Waller and Holsapple since the War, but had only kept in touch with the other men through Christmas cards.

The men had fought in the 9th infantry which was one of the few that had fought all the way from Africa and held the line against Hitler during World War II.

During their days together, the Veterans viewed war films attained from army headquarters and traced their route on combat maps collected for the occasion. Most of their two day long reunion was spent talking about their war experiences, and remembering other platoon members who were killed in the line of duty.

"I think most of us were trying to forget the war and put it in the back of our minds. Our discussions brought back both good and bad memories," said Callahan.

The group of World War II veterans and friends share a common bond and history which unites them in a way impossible to describe, Callahan said. When the men reunited it was like 'being back in the fold' of a time spent leaning on to each other for survival and understanding.

"We wouldn't be as close if it wasn't for the experience of having fought together in World War II. We went through hell together," Callahan said.

Mrs. Callahan said that even the wives instantly felt a common bond, and the whole group became instant friends.

One day the group went to a nearby restaurant for dinner, and interestingly enough were served by a woman of German descent. After hearing her distinct German accent, the men asked her where she had grown up and she said she was born in Inchenofen, Germany. Inchenofen is a small German town where the men did a few months of occupation duty after the War.

Your bombs were rocking my cradle," the waitress joked.

The group picked Indiana as a meeting point because it is the center of the country. All of the veterans came from different states - Ala-

bama, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Friends who organized the event had to change the meeting dates a few times to accommodate everyone's schedule, but all the veterans who were tracked down for the reunion managed to make it there.

Callahan said they were unable to locate some of the other veterans who had served in the same platoon with him. His friends are still trying to track down these men through the post office and the addresses which were exchanged by the friends 43 years ago. Another reunion is in

the works for next year, possibly in Pennsylvania.

"During the short time we were together again we kept asking ourselves why we haven't reunited long before. Next time I hope the reunion will last five days instead of just two," Callahan said.

The bonding that resulted from a group of World War II veterans who shared an important time together in American history became even more evident when the group parted

ways once again. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

For old friends, fourty three years was well worth the wait.

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