

Local artist preserves area history through art work

by SARA J. LUNDBERG
Managing Editor

The Back Mountain area is rapidly changing, and Jackson Township resident Sarah 'Missy' Turner wants to capture the history of the land before the landscape is completely transformed — through art work.

Turner has been involved with several artistic projects around the area that deal both in restoration and the representation of history.

In 1983 she was chosen by a former owner of Hanson's Amusement park in Harveys Lake to restore antique carousel horses that had been part of the park's history dating back to 1909.

It took Turner over a year and a half to finish the project. She prepared the wood of 14 carousel horses, refinished and repainted each one by hand. The project was made more complicated by the fact that the horses had to be squeezed into her small basement, and the antiques were moved around at night to avoid general public knowledge of their value, and possible theft.

The restored horses are now worth approximately \$220,000, said Turner. They are being leased to an amusement park in Old Town Kissimmee, Florida. That restoration project increased Turner's interest in representing history through art work, and she started to look for other subjects.

Her painting 'Lost Lambs' is an example of preserving history through art. It is a realistic painting depicting lambs grazing on open fields on Sutton Road near the Hillside farms property. Turner painted the scene from an old photograph she had taken in 1983 and created the painting to preserve the ambience of the country era. The land is now being prepared for residential development.

"Through my experience of professional painting I learn to stare

into nature and observe it very closely. I aim to convey a total, synaesthetic experience through painting," Turner said.

Turner describes the vision of an artist as 'questioning and comparing objects'. In her painting 'Lost Lambs' the lambs imply a religious significance and symbolize innocence and naivete, and the larger significance of the animals grazing on an open field set against a moody skyline which will soon be transformed by development is a statement on loss and the transient nature of life.

Some of Turner's paintings have been purchased by Back Mountain residents, and her works has been purchased and become part of the private collections of homes as far away as Hawaii and England. She is strongly influenced by the Impressionist painters, such as Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet.

Turner is interested in doing more art works representing scenes of historical significance. She likes to paint barns and country scenes, and is also intrigued as an artist by old cars, especially automobiles stored in a location of open farmland and grazing livestock.

Other projects bearing Turner's artistic style include a wall mural at Nanticoke State hospital depicting the appearance of the institution in 1910, and the hand-painted windows at Stretch-Out in Shavertown.

Turner is employed as a art teacher at St. Michael's reformatory school in Tunkhaneck, PA. She also has a studio located on the second floor of Cheshire Cat on Route 309 where she teaches private art classes, and is a free lance artist. Turner graduated from Lake-Lehman high school in 1979 and studied Art Education at College Misericordia. She has a 11 year old son, Tim, who attends Lehman-Jackson Elementary school.



LANDMARK ARTIST-Local artist Missy Turner enjoys painting Back Mountain landmarks such as building or animals. Above, she discusses one of her paintings with two of her students Joe Hayer and Jason Covert as she demonstrates what she would like them to try. (C.M. Denmon Photo)

Radon Seminar at Wilkes Tonight

Interest in radon testing has increased since a recent federal EPA study was released warning that cancer-causing radon gas was much more pervasive than previously believed. Federal health officials issued a national health advisory saying that millions of homes have elevated radon levels, but the majority of homes in the Back Mountain area have not yet been tested for radon.

An official from TEQ, a radon testing company in Wilkes-Barre, said that orders for charcoal canisters used to measure radon levels have increased dramatically since the EPA study was released. He also said that levels detected in the Back Mountain are the same as those detected in Luzerne County, low to moderate readings.

The Vice President of TEQ, Ed Drucker, was not able to reveal the exact number of homes tested in the Back Mountain or the level of radon detected in the area.

"Twenty five percent of the homes that have been tested in Northeastern Pennsylvania have elevated radon levels," said Drucker.

A public information seminar on radon will take place at Wilkes College tonight at 7:00 p.m. The seminar will take place in Room 101 of the Stark Learning Center.

Library auction supplement inside

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Mrs. Allison appointed to new post at Penn State

Prisilla Allison of Dallas, has been named Acting Director of Academic Affairs at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus according to Dr. James H. Ryan, campus executive officer. Professor Allison succeeds Dr. David Rice, who has accepted a position as vice president of Academic Affairs at Siena College, in Albany, New York.



Quick work by fire companies restores water after sabotage

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Special Graduation Section Inside

THE DALLAS POST

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Dallas fire was arson

BY SARA J. LUNDBERG
Managing Editor

An arson barn fire in Dallas Township is under investigation by state police. The fire destroyed a barn on Edinger Hill Road near Lower Demands Road late Saturday night.

Fire Chief Robert Beseker said the fire, which struck a 2 1/2-story barn owned by Leo Flynn, is the first barn fire in this district since a rash of arson occurred in the Back Mountain last year. After the Back Mountain fire marshal visited the scene Monday that it was arson, but would not elaborate on the details of the investigation.

The Dallas area fire company, and state police will be cooperating in the investigation. It is not known in the investigation if the cause of the fire is related to the rash of arson last year, but that possibility will be investigated at approximately 11:30 p.m. had engulfed the structure by the time firefighters from Dallas, Kunkle and Franklin Township arrived. The fire blazed for a few minutes before the fire company was alerted.

The owner of the barn, Mr. Leo



Harveys Lake condo plan is opposed

BY SARA J. LUNDBERG
Managing Editor

A plan for the first major subdivision at Harveys Lake brought a roomful of concerned Lake residents to the Harveys Lake planning commission meeting Monday night. And though the preliminary approval for the project, residents already known that they would continue to oppose it.

The proposal is for 29 townhouses on 3 1/2 acres near Harcum Street, about a quarter mile from Hanson's Amusement was submitted by Al-Sar Corporation. The hearing is being held by the Luzerne County Commission behind Morrow's property on Lake side Drive.

The application is the first major subdivision ever proposed for Har-

townhouses, is fighting the development. Representing him is Attorney Mary McNealis, who says the development plans submitted are not in accordance with zoning approval and preliminary approval should never be granted.

An attorney representing Al-Sar Corporation, Michael J. Hudacok, claimed the building would not proceed until quality tests are done to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) standards. The developers claimed that they have already made several changes since the initial proposal to meet zoning requirements.

Sometime in July the fate of the development will be further debated before the borough zoning hearing board. The board will decide if preliminary approval will be granted, and if so, properly granted, and if so, Luzerne County Commission will review the issue.



Dietz's observe 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Alden Dietz, Beaumont, observed their 50th wedding anniversary recently. They were married on September 10, 1938 at the Courtdale Methodist Parsonage by the Rev. George Sweet. Attendees were: Doris Dietz Balewski and Carl Jolly.

Mrs. Dietz is the former Thelma Richards, daughter of Emma and the late Paul Richards. Mr. Dietz is

the son of the late Fred and Prudence Dietz. Mr. Dietz is a retired carpenter contractor.

The couple have four children: Mrs. Conrad Higgins, Kunkle; Carolyn Dietz, Denver, Colorado; Sally Headman and Chris of Beaumont. They have three grandchildren, Kim and Doug Higgins and Jon Headman.

Ladies Auxiliary held Christmas Dinner

Ladies Auxiliary of Warden Place, Harveys Lake, held their Christmas in August party at the Barn at Newberry Estates, Dallas, recently. Dinner, entertainment and the traditional exchange of gifts took place.

Those who attended including the following members and guests: Genevieve Kostreva, president; Mary Olshefski, vice president; Patricia Morrissey-Choman, treasurer; Margretta Flammer, secretary; Lorraine Yeager, Helen Walsh, Alberta Podgurski, Barbara Miscavage, Helen Mickiewicz, Monica Mlek-

iewicz, Elizabeth Morrissey, Ann Seletski, Jean Seletski, Mary Kozzi, Mildred Bozek, Gertrude Davenport, Genevieve Burk, Nellie Decker, Marie Valenti, Margaret Shiner, Josephine Dombroski, Louella Dorin, Adele Feldman, Ann Griffin, Betty Hines, Debbie Laubenstein, Elinore Vino, Doris Yahushko, Betty McCann, Leanne Magargle, Terry Linn Magargle, Linda Pudim, Wanda Romanowski, Diane Sirotkin, Dorothea Karcin, Louise Wilcox, Corra Hughes, Larwitha Wilson, Pat Manlick, Edna Burke and Henrietta Ziegler.

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