

Obituaries

HARRY RITTS JR.

Harry H. Ritts Jr., 83, of 224 Church Street, Dallas, died March 17, 1989 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, son of the late Harry H. and Elsie Mae Nesbitt Ritts Sr., he was a graduate of Trucksville High School and Wyoming Seminary. He received an associate degree in diesel engineering from the New York Diesel Institute, Albany, N.Y. An employee of the Lehigh Valley Railroad more than 48 years, he had served as freight agent in Wilkes-Barre for many years. At the time of his retirement he was assistant to the trainmaster for the LVRR at the Coxton Yards. He was a veteran of World War II as a master sergeant in the 109th Field Artillery. Mr. Ritts was a member of the Dallas United Methodist Church, Dallas.

The Eye Foundation of the Knight Templar was concerned to which he devoted much time. Masonically he was a past master of George M. Dallas Lodge 531 F&AM, Dallas; member of Caldwell Consistory A.A.S.R., Bloomsburg; past commander of Dieu Le Veut Commandery 45 Knights Templar; past division commander, Division 11, Knights Templar; past high

priest, Shekinah Chapter 182, Royal Arch Masons; past thrice illustrious master, Mt. Horeb Council 34, Cryptic Masons, all of Wilkes-Barre; past sovereign master John J. Sullivan Council 84, Wilkes-Barre; past illustrious king, Council of Anointed Kings of the Commonwealth of Pa.; member of Royal Order of Scotland, Edinboro, Scotland; member of Knight Masons of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland; member of Quator Coronati Lodge 2076, London, England; associate regent and past treasurer of York Rite College, Shamokin; member of the Masonic Book Club, Bloomington, Ill.; York Rite Freemasonary bestowed the following special honors upon him: York Cross of Honor; Gold Honor Award; Purple Cross, Red Branch of Eri, and Scarlet Apron of Zerrubbabel.

Surviving is his wife, the former Marie Keefe; sister, Mrs. Elsie Harmon, Whiting, N.J.; nephews. Interment was in Fern Knoll Burial Park, Dallas.

Memorial contributions if desired, may be made to the Dallas United Methodist Church, Parsonage Street, Dallas or the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, c/o Irwin Messick, 59 Saginaw St., Dallas, 18612.

JOSEPHINE GRANLICH

Mrs. Josephine Granlich, 85, of RD 1, Dallas, died March 17, 1989 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

Born in Germany, she came to America as a young girl, settling in Greensburg, Pa., where she resided before moving to Dallas five years ago. She was the daughter of the late Bernard and Barbara Pabst Vogel. Mrs. Granlich was a former member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Greensburg; member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown.

Surviving is a brother-in-law, Richard Grieshaber, and a nephew, Bernard Grieshaber, both of Dallas, with whom she resided. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl, in 1959.

Interment was in St. Claire Cemetery, Greensburg.

MARGERY MEROLLA

Margery E. Merolla, 70, of Mount Airy Road, Shavertown, died March 19, 1989 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston, where she had been a patient for two weeks.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Ruth Alexander Hughes.

She was a graduate of Coughlin High School, and had attended Bucknell University. She had resided in Shavertown for the past 40 years.

Prior to retiring, she was employed by the State of Pennsylvania in the Workmen's Compensation Office in Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Merolla was a member of the Shavertown United Methodist Church. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Dallas Chapter 396, and had served as a Girl Scout leader for many years in Shavertown.

Surviving are her husband, Dominick P.; daughter, Mrs. Jeanne Eckroat, of Blue Bell; stepsons, John Merolla, California; Donald Merolla; a brother, Robert Hughes, Dallas; a sister, Mrs. Jean Miller, Dallas, Texas; two grandchildren.

Interment will be in Fern Knoll Burial Park, Dallas.

MARY ENGELMAN

Mary Klopko Engelman, 77, RD 1, Noxen, Sorber Mountain, died March 16, 1989, in Leader West Nursing Center, Kingston, where she was a guest for the past 16 months.

Born May 13, 1911, she was the daughter of the late Norman and Eva Praver Thompson.

Mrs. Engelman resided in the Noxen area all her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, in 1986; brother, Stanley; daughter, Mrs. Jean Elston, February of 1987.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Betty Shook, Noxen; sons, Robert, Centerville; Edward, Sorber Mountain; 14 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mrs. Stanley Dymond, RD 5, Tunkhannock; Mrs. Mildred Campbell, Fort Myers, Fla.; Mrs. Norma Hallock, Tunkhannock.

Interment was in Orcutt Cemetery, Noxen.

WALTER MICKNO

Walter F. Mickno, 70, of RD 2, Hunlock Creek (Ceasetown), died March 13, 1989 in the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston.

Born March 13, 1919, in Pikes Creek, he was the son of the late Florian and Angela Chudzick Michno.

He resided in Ceasetown for the past 40 years and was employed as a coal miner for 23 years by the Glen Alden Colliery. Mr. Mickno was a carpenter prior to retiring in 1978.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth.

Mr. Mickno was preceded in death by brothers, Joseph and Charles; sister, Frances.

Surviving in addition to his wife, the former Florence Klecha, are a daughter, Paulette Ronczka, Lake Silkworth; two grandchildren.

Interment will be in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Center

(continued from page 1)

Martinson says the base operator then attempted to reach the Comm Center by telephone - the usual procedure by which the Harveys Lake department contacts the Medic 1 unit. The call did not go through, so the base operator - knowing the gravity of the situation - tried to call the center on the radio. Martinson says that he called three to five times, and the Comm Center did not respond. Martinson says that center personnel would have known the seriousness of the situation by then.

"We weren't asking for a free ride; just for Medic 1," Martinson said. "We were calling for Medic 1 to be dispatched in a life-or-death situation, and they flatly refused."

In addition to refusing service to the Harveys Lake department, Martinson says the Comm Center would not respond to the phone calls of a member of the Luzerne County Sheriff's Department. The caller, Jim Johnson of Harveys Lake, had heard about the accident and telephoned the center to ask if he could assist. He was given no information, Martinson says because the call involved a

department that is not a member of the center. Martinson feels that at that point the center could at least have referred the call to the Harveys Lake police.

Johnson said that as a result of this incident, the sheriff's department has met with the Comm Center. "We have sat down with the Comm Center and in the near future we will be publishing some standard operating procedures in writing," Johnson said Tuesday.

Martinson has asked to review the Comm Center's tapes of the incident, but his request was refused. He said he had also asked officials at Nesbitt Hospital for clarification about their policies regarding Medic 1, but had as yet received no response. "Nesbitt Hospital pays \$10,000 a year for the center to be a base for Medic 1," he said.

Ironically, Judy Davis and her family have been active in the Harveys Lake Fire Department for many years. She and her family have been base unit operators for the department as well as members.

Also, Martinson said Tuesday that the Harveys Lake unit had acted as the mutual aid base for Back Mountain fire companies from 1974 until the Comm Center came on line in early 1988. The department had spent about \$5,000, he said, to upgrade their equipment shortly before the Comm Center idea came about. That expenditure and the fact that the department was able to staff its unit with volunteers led to the decision not to join the center at

the outset.

Martinson claimed this was the only time since the Comm Center began operating that the Harveys Lake fire department had requested its assistance. He said the only other time they had attempted to call the center was when a member of the Harveys Lake department found a piece of equipment after the fire at Grotto Pizza. He tried to radio that information to the Dallas Fire Department through the Comm Center, but could not.



Adopt-a-pet

Bud is my name and I'm a brown and white seven-month-old beagle-terrier waiting for someone to come and take me home from the SPCA, 524 E. Main St., Fox Hill, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

I am a male, am housebroken and have had my shots. I will make a gentle pet for a family or for a single person. Call 825-4111 for more information about me.

Police report

DALLAS TOWNSHIP WINDOW SHOT OUT

Dallas Township Officer John Appel reported a case of criminal mischief at the residence of Jane Norris, 15 Fox Hollow Rd., Dallas, March 12. Sometime between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. someone shot a B.B. gun through a 4'x5' window.

Investigation is continuing by Officer Appel.

STOLEN BIKE FOUND

Mary Lou Button, RD 6, Dallas, March 13, reported that sometime between March 11 and March 13, a boys 20-inch Predator PFM bicycle was stolen from her residence. Later the bike was found by Pete Orloski, Lower Demunds Road, in a wooded area near the power plant at the end of Terrace Street, Fernbrook.

Patrolman Elliot Ide investigated and reported that the bike was returned March 14.

DEPOSIT BAG MISSING

Officer Elliot Ide reported that March 13, Ronald Whitesell, owner of Whitesell Brothers, stated that on March 10 a brown locking money bag was placed on a counter in the back office of the store, containing \$12,621.30 in checks marked for deposit only, and \$858.54 in cash. Later, the bag was missing.

The bag was last seen by Kate Dickson, an employee of Whitesell Brothers at approximately 4:30 p.m. Investigation is continuing.

BREAK-IN AND BURGLARY

Officer Doug Lamoreux on March 16 investigated a burglary at the home of Paul Hodges, 258

Church St., Dallas, where Mrs. Hodges reported that items valued at \$4,590 were taken from the house. Mrs. Hodges stated that she left the house at 8:45 a.m. and when her daughter returned home from school at 3:05 p.m. she found the door unlocked, a window broken and the house ransacked. Valuable stamp collections, jewelry and silver dollars were among the items missing.

Pennsylvania State Police were called in to take photos and lifted latent prints from a damaged teapot.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP CAR CRASHES INTO GUARD RAIL

Kingston Township Patrolman Robert Weiss investigated an accident on Carverton Road in which Weiss said William D. Haughwout, RD 3, Country Village Trailer Park, was traveling east on Carverton Road and failed to stop at a stop sign at an intersection. Haughwout smashed into a guardrail on the opposite side of the roadway and demolished his vehicle and the guardrail.

When Weiss arrived at the scene no one was there and when Haughwout was located he refused medical treatment. Haughwout was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

BICYCLE STOLEN

Grace Bucan, Shavertown, reported on March 20, reported that sometime between March 17 and 19, a boys GT BMX gray and white bike was stolen from their home.

Patrolman John Curham is the investigating officer.

WESTMORELAND SCHOOL VANDALIZED

Patrolman John Curham investigated a report of criminal mischief by the Dallas School District at Westmoreland Elementary School in which the modular classrooms with paint. Investigation is continuing.

STEREO, VCR STOLEN

Sean Brennan, 198 Meadowcrest reported on March 16, that his house was burglarized and a stereo and a VCR were stolen. Patrolman Curham is the investigating officer.

TV SCAM COSTS \$100

Sgt. James Balavage investigated a call from Sharon Mitchell, Kingston Township, March 14, which was for theft by deception. A man came to see her bringing a television for \$100. He took \$100 from Mitchell but did not bring in the television. A suspect will be charged by Sgt. Balavage.

VCR'S TAKEN

Sgt. Balavage reported that March 14, Thomas Burns, 52 E. Center St., Shavertown, reported that two VCR's were removed from his home. Charges by Sgt. Balavage are pending.

SUSPECT CHARGED IN BURGLARY

A burglary at the home of Peter Kon, 524 Beverly Drive, Wyoming, was investigated by Patrolmen Mike Moravec and John Curham. The home had been ransacked and items stolen including a valuable gold watch.

Frank Bowen, Plymouth, is being charged with burglary, criminal trespass by unlawful taking and receiving in the burglary at 524 Beverly Drive.

DALLAS BOROUGH HARASSMENT COMPLAINT

Maureen Dropko, Huntsville Road, Dallas, filed a complaint of harassment, March 18, with Officer James J. Martin against James Falls of Harveys Lake. She alleged that she, her sister Mary Dropko and her sister's boyfriend were leaving the IGA Supermarket, Dallas, when Falls came up from behind her and grabbed her by the shirt and wrist and would not let her go. She said he threatened her and stated he would not let her alone until he had his child back.

The two persons with her confirmed Dropko's statements. Maureen Dropko said that when she allowed Falls to hold the child he calmed down and left the area. She also stated that he has done similar actions in the past

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