

Gas

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store, automobile repairs, boats, snowmobiles and the repairs on them," she said.

John Gorda remodeled his service station and garage in Kingston Township into an office building.

Other stations, however, are planning to remain open and have either registered their tanks or in the process of registering them.

Martin Noon, owner of Noon's Citgo Station, said he plans to remain in business and will follow any action necessary to stay within the regulations.

Dave Spurlin of Spurlin's Dallas Exxon said he leases his tanks and building from Exxon and they are responsible for complying with the DER regulations.

"The company put in new fiber glass tanks about a year ago and since then they have had some testing done. They have also registered the tanks at \$50 each so we are in compliance with DER for the present," Spurlin said Monday.

Jack Kugler, owner of the Amoco Station, Idetown, has had new tanks put in at his place of business and is entirely within the regulations stipulated by DER.

The Atlantic Station located in the center of Dallas, is a company-owned station. Mr. Hogan, who leases the station said that as far as he knows the tanks are legal and registered.

"The main office takes care of those matters. I don't know what might happen two years from now," Hogan said. "I guess the government can change things if they feel it necessary."

Jerry Schmid, owner of Amoco Station and Garage, Shavertown, told The Dallas Post, he had new tanks installed when he changed from ARCO to AMOCO.

"I am planning to continue in business and have followed all regulations," Schmid said. "I will continue to sell gas, oil and other



EXXON COMPLIES WITH DER-Rich Berlew of Dallas Exxon takes care of a customer at Dallas Exxon. The station's tanks are in compliance with new DER regulations that require oil and gas storage tanks to be registered and inspected. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)

automotive products."

Under the law, owners of underground tanks of 100 gallons or more and above ground storage tanks of 250 gallons or more which store petroleum products and other regulated substances must register their tanks and pay registration fees.

Annual registration fee for underground tanks is \$50 and for above ground tanks from \$50 to \$300. The law also stipulates that effective August 5, 1990, it will be illegal to deliver or to accept deliveries from unregistered tanks.

The law allows registration exemptions for various farm, municipal and residential above and underground motor fuel tanks used for non-commercial purposes,

underground heating oil tanks with 3,000 gallons or less capacity and all above-ground heating oil used for on-site consumption.

McClellan said DER employees will perform on-site registration checks and will issue warning notices and supply registration information to tank owners who have failed to register their tanks.

"Tank owners who receive the warning notice will have 14 days in which to register their tanks," McClellan said. "We will initiate enforcement action against owners who fail to respond, including penalties of up to \$10,000 a day."

Owners of unregistered tanks are urged by McClellan to contact a DER office for registration forms and information. There is a regional office in Wilkes-Barre.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The Department of Environmental Resources will hold a workshop on Pennsylvania's Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act Tuesday, March 27 at Convention Hall in Pittston. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registrations are limited and must be made by March 9. There is a \$15 registration fee. For information or to register, call the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania at 655-5581.

Lack of fire code causes refusal to inspect home

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

The Dallas Fire Company did not comply with an order from Judge Chester Muroski, Luzerne County Orphans Court, to inspect subsidized housing in the township.

Thomas Doughton, Jr., assistant chief of the Dallas Fire Company, told the zoning hearing board at Tuesday's meeting that the township does not have a fire code and because the fire company had no standards nor rules to go by, the officials returned the order telling the judge the company had no jurisdiction to act.

Fire Chief Ted Wright said, "The house that an inspection would have targeted was part of the federal housing program known as Section 8, in which tenants have part of their rent paid by the government."

Doughton told the zoning board that the township's building ordinances are archaic.

"It's known in the engineering world that Dallas Township is the easiest place to build anywhere," Doughton told the zoning board. "There is a lot of sub-standard stuff being built here."

Doughton made his remarks after William McCall of the zoning board said he was disappointed that the supervisors had not responded to a letter sent to them by the township's planning commission requesting that the board review Dallas Township building requirements and update them if necessary.

"We could be approving fire

traps," McCall said. "All we approve are the plans. What actually gets built on the property, we don't know."

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Tony Wisniewski, owner of Pinebrook Inn, requested permission to separate Pinebrook Inn on two acres from the 13 acres of his property. His request was tabled because he did not have necessary information on his plans.

The Planning Commission approved College Misericordia's request and plans to build 12 townhouses on the campus to house 72 students. Fire Company officials, concerned over the 12 units, pushed for a fire hydrant which was agreed to by the college as part of its plan. A dialer, a device to alert fire officials when smoke alarms went off in the townhouses, was also added to the plan.

"Years ago when Orchardview Terrace was developed, they wanted to put in three fire hydrants," Leonard Kozick, zoning officer said. "But the Dallas Water Company at that time said no because of the pressure. The developer had left space for the hydrants but they were not put in because the company was afraid of the consequences if there was no pressure."

Prior to the planning commission and zoning board meetings, the supervisors met to approve bills and opened the only bid submitted for a broom. Medico Industries was the only company to bid which was awarded to the company at a cost of \$825.

Codes

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"Municipalities and residents must realize that the volunteer fire companies are no longer the traditional 'hanging around the firehouse' organizations. Every business in this area that has or uses chemicals where these chemicals could go off-site must submit a plan to the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency that must have the fire chief's signature of approval," Wright said. "Although the Back

Mountain has volunteer fire companies, these fire companies have become professional associations.

"All fire companies are the same in this area. They train hard and have to comply with D.E.R. regulations. For volunteer associations to survive today the communities must consider working together in all phases of government," Wright concluded.

Number

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what would have happened if the volunteer guy hadn't come along."

To compound matters, after Ms. Cardell gave up on the disconnected number, 696-3267, she dialed "0" for assistance, but was told that she would have to dial directory assistance (1-555-1212) to get the correct number. Calls to "0" reach an operator in Harrisburg. In the heat of the moment (Ms. Cardell still didn't know her daughter was in the car), she said she did not remember the number, but the operator finally gave it to her.

While unable to make an accurate assessment of the time all the confusion over telephone numbers lost, Ms. Cardell is sure it was several minutes, during which her daughter was trapped inside her overturned car with gasoline leaking around it.

The inaccurate listing is found on page 10 of the current Bell of Pennsylvania blue pages, which list phone numbers of government and service agencies. It was also listed there in the 1988-89 book.

Reportedly, it was the phone number for the "arson hotline" established after a string of barn fires hit the area two years ago. That line was disconnected in October, 1989.

Because the Back Mountain is served by Commonwealth Tele-

The number, 696-3267, appears in the blue pages of the Bell directory. Calling it brought a message that it was disconnected

phone Company, the emergency number listing of the Bell book shows no listing for communities here. The closest listing is found under "other emergency numbers." It is titled "Dallas area," and shows the number for the Luzerne County Communication Center at the county courthouse in Wilkes-Barre.

The incorrect listing seems to have found its way into the phone book in part because of the way in which different telephone companies share their customers' numbers. By federal law, a telephone company must make its listings available to anyone else who publishes a directory for the area. Both the Bell and Donnelly (which works in coordination with Commonwealth) directories contain residential and government listings for the Back Mountain. Businesses located in the area must pay to be listed in the Bell book.

Therefore, all telephone listings of Back Mountain residential and government numbers are sold to Bell by Commonwealth. Exactly

when the transfer takes place dictates which numbers will appear in the Bell directory. "We publish whatever another company gives us, just as we do for them," said Julie Shulte, a supervisor in Bell of Pennsylvania's Wilkes-Barre office Friday.

When contacted about the problem, Betty Schray, a supervisor at Commonwealth's office in Dallas, said her records showed the number had been connected from December, 1987 until November, 1988. But Kingston Township

Police Chief Paul Sabol said he was unaware of the problem until told of it by a reporter, and asserted that he had no recollection of the number shown ever being used by the department.

"Somebody screwed up," Sabol said Friday. "That number doesn't ring a bell with me. I've been here a long time and I don't remember that number."

However the mixup occurred, it was quickly rectified. A reporter first called Commonwealth's office at about 12:45 p.m. Friday, and by 3:00 calls placed to the number were receiving this message: "The number you have reached, 696-3267, has been disconnected. Calls are being taken by 696-1174." That is the correct number for the Kingston Township Police Department.

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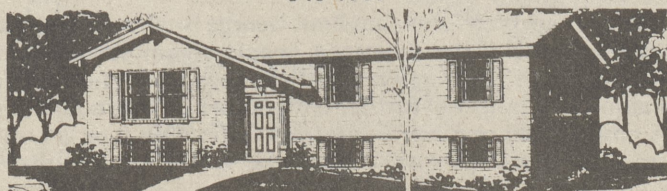
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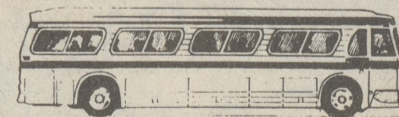
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