

**Families**

(continued from page 1)

Hanna. "There is no way I can say 'thank you' enough."

Donald Covert, agreed with Hanna. "We didn't expect anything like this and you just can't tell them how we feel."

"These people are terrific," said Hanna. "We don't have the words to say how we feel but they all are terrific."

Some people who attended the dance say that they did so because they felt that members of a community should help each other.

"It is good to see that people can forget about themselves and come out to help others," said Judy Alton, of Nanticoke. "It must have been tough for (the families) to get on with their lives after losing everything. I hope this can help them."

Idetown Fire Chief Richard Wensel said the company normally does not get involved in such situations but helped because this was such a tragic case. "It is rare for the fire company to do this," he said. "But it was done because it is also rare that people lose everything and have no insurance."

Following the dance, Blaine praised the efforts of the many volunteers, businesses who made donations to the event and residents who came out to support the families.



**HELPING LOCAL FIRE VICTIMS** - Many residents turned out at a dance Sunday to help out two Harveys Lake families who lost all their belongings in a fire. Some of the volunteers and the two families are shown above.

First row: (from left) Butch Corby, Linda Robinson, Missy Covert holding Katlyn Coole, Dorothy Wolfe, Emma Sims, Tracy Ellard, John Sims, Dave Wolfe. Second row: Joy Wolfe, David Wolfe, Jr. holding David Wolfe III, Emma Hanna, Audrey Steele. Third Row: Don Covert, Sandy Blaine, Robert Baldoni, Joe Blaine, and Ken Wensel. (Post Photo/Rich Johnson)

**Mobile**

(continued from page 1)

affect the community's size.

Planning commission member Rob Lewis said that the mobile home community could be built with a 100 foot buffer but there would have to be fewer homes in it. Lewis added that he understood what Johnson was suggesting but he asked, "You are asking us for modifications to be allowed but what are you offering us in return?"

Johnson maintained that the mobile home community would be an asset to the area and that it could not be feasible to put up fewer homes.

Bryant explained that the quality of homes would not allow for the community to be built like a trailer park. He said that covenants would be drawn up about the type and size of the homes allowed and that the residents would most likely be people who have already owned homes.

When asked about the price of homes that would be in the com-

munity, Bryant said he could not give a definite price but estimated the minimum cost for the mobile homes would be around \$25,000.

The board also questioned the original plans that were shown in 1988. Board member David Sutton said that he would like to know more of what was decided then and what the community thought were some of the problems.

"After all we are going to hear from residents about this," he said.

Solicitor John Haley said that he thought some of the concerns dealt with the number of homes in the community and the buffer.

Johnson said he did not think the residents understood what the plans were proposing. "I think they had the idea we were putting in another trailer park and that is not it at all. We are not offering that kind of setup."

He added that township residents were another reason he was approaching the board before submitting the plans. "We want to

make sure everything is good with you so that we can show the public exactly what we want to do," he said.

"We just wanted to go over these with you without 40 people throwing out comments," he added.

Roads for the community were also questioned. Johnson noted that the roads within the area will remain private and will most likely be one-way.

The entrance to the community would be off of Jewish Hill Road, an idea that caused some concern to commission members.

"We have some problems with Jewish Hill Road," said commission member Paul Goodwin. "When there is snow and ice it is hard to get up it and it is only halfway paved right now."

Johnson said that he and Bryant would work with the township to alleviate the problem. "We would be willing to work with you to improve the road and possibly agree to pay some of the costs to pave it,"

he said.

No action was taken on the issue, as the plans were never formally submitted. Planning commission members stated they wanted to look further into the matter before giving any more suggestions on the plans.

Johnson did not say when the plans would be officially submitted, but indications show it could be sometime this year.

"We wanted to work with you informally," Johnson told the board, "because once the plans are submitted we run into a time problem."

When the proposed plans are submitted, the board has a time limit to take action on them while the developer also has a time limit on correcting any problems.

"We wanted to get with the planning commission before we tripped the trigger and started the clock running," said Johnson. "When we submit the plans we want to make sure all the 'i's' are dotted and the 't's' are crossed."

**Dock**

(continued from page 1)

next to his property. Giordano, who lives near Pole 13, claims that a boat dock built by Michael Zabresky infringes on his property.

According to borough maps the Zabresky property line is not perpendicular to the shore and a dock on the water reportedly was built using the same angle as his property line.

However, Giordano claims that the property line is not extended correctly and that the "...funny angle," in which the dock is built causes it to infringe on his property.

Samson added that other difficulties with the property lines may arise when people are applying for permits to build docks. When applying for the permits residents must supply a drawing of their property showing the property lines.

Samson said that the drawings are usually done by engineers or contractors but that the borough can't always guarantee their accuracy.

"I have no idea if the drawings are accurate," he said. "The only way to assure that is to hire a surveyor and go out and find every property line and we can't be doing that."

"So we accept the maps if they look correct because there is no viable alternative," he added.

Zabresky admits that it may be difficult for some residents to know how the property lines are extended. "I would say the first thing people should do is have their property surveyed by the proper people," he said. "I had my property surveyed by people who know the lake and I know my dock is proper with all the requirements."

Samson said the borough's ordinance calls for the property lines to be extended out into the water for the purpose of determining where the dock will be located.

"According to the shoreline ordinance the lines are extended into the water and the applicant must keep the dock more than 10 feet from the line," said Samson.

Samson said he could understand why some residents would be concerned about the issue because not all property lines are perpendicular to the shoreline and are angled into the water.

**Difficulties with permits**  
Questions have also been raised about the process of obtaining permits to build docks. Both Samson and Giordano said that the process is a long one.

In order to obtain a permit a resident must have a zoning application approved by the borough. That application must then be sent to the county Conservation District. The resident must then obtain joint application forms from the state. These forms must be completed and returned to the state for its approval. Once the resident receives a state permit then the borough will give its approval for the work.

Some residents feel that this process intimidates individuals so they do the work with no permit. "It is tough to comply with the standards for a permit," said Giordano.

"Some people can't resist the temptation to do the work without going through the work of getting a permit."

Resident, Ellen Shepperd, agreed with Giordano. "Some people believe you can just go out and build and nothing will be done about it."

"The state and the borough have codes that require a permit but people just don't bother with them," she added.

Giordano said another problem with his neighbor's dock is that it was built without all the proper permits.

Samson said that Zabresky did have a permit to build the dock but was not given one for a retaining wall around his property.

Zabresky responded that he had obtained all the permits for his work. He also said that changes in zoning and state regulations have caused some of the confusion at the lake.

"There has not been much consistency within the last 10 years," he said. "The regulations have been changed and it seems like variances have been granted even though they seem to go against the zoning ordinances."

**The state has say in matter**  
Whether or not residents actually have the right to build docks on the water is yet another issue that may arise in the future.

It is documented that the bottom of the lake is owned by three families, but the state has taken the position that it owns the water.

Samson said that the borough applies zoning codes because the lake falls in its jurisdiction.

"When we give out a permit all we are saying is if you want to build a boathouse then you must comply with our boundaries," said Samson.

"The borough, in issuing a permit, no way implies that a person owns any of the lake, whether it be the water or the bottom," he added.

Samson said that the state has jurisdiction over the water and its banks so that is why there are other codes involved in the issue.

**Borough looking at codes**  
As the question of property lines and permits for boat docks continues at the lake, Samson said that the borough is looking at its zoning codes.

"We are in the process of re-writing the codes dealing with zoning," he said. "I hope that this is one of the areas addressed when they look at the codes."

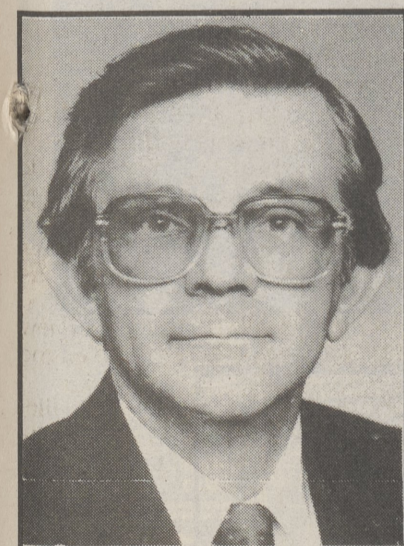
Samson said that the shoreline codes are enforced in the borough. However, he said, "I can see where (the codes) are detrimental to some people. But whether or not they should be changed, I can't answer that."

Giordano feels that something should be done about the issue. "The codes are designed to stop some of the things going on at the lake," he said.

"Most people want to improve their property and adding a boat dock is one way to improve it," said Giordano. "But this is another way it is difficult to make improvements."

**Production plans begin for cookbook**

Maryan Daily, chairperson, and members of her committee, began sorting and assembling the recipes and other information to be included in the Back Mountain Memorial Library's cookbook which is expected to be available in June for sale to the public. Above, from left, clockwise, are Mercedes Kane, Shirley Forney, Joanne Runner, Carolyn Johnson, Liz Lloyd, library board president who did a sketch for the book; Benedicta Matchett, Pauline Kutz and Maryan Daily, as they put the pages in order for the book and decide on format details. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)



Thomas E. Williams of Sweet Valley announced his candidacy for a seat from Region III on the Lake Lehman School Board.

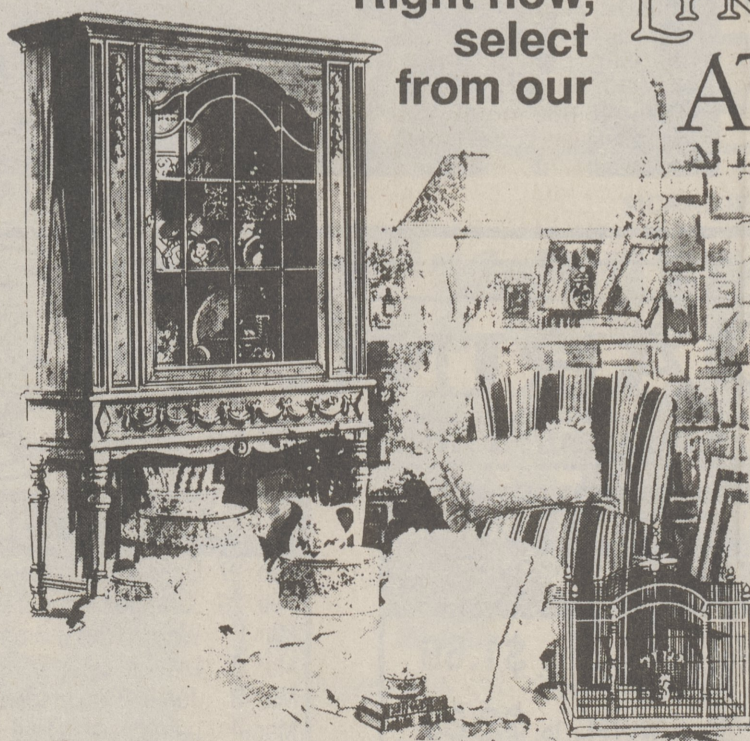
Williams, currently Board President, has served two terms on the Lake Lehman Board of Education and also the West Side Vocational Technical Board. He will be running on both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

He is a graduate of Lake Lehman Class of 1958 and is employed by Trade Eastern, Inc., Kingston, PA

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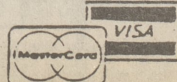
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