



THE ACCIDENT SCENE - Gregg Hanson was towing water-skier Richard Walter in this narrow section of Harveys Lake near Alderson when Walter struck a dock and was killed. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

## Police report

### DALLAS BOROUGH ELECTRIC WIRE TAKEN

Lawrence Hilbert, RD 1, Dallas, July 25, reported to the police that sometime between 5 p.m., July 13 and 9 a.m., July 14, someone came on his property at 687 Memorial Highway, Dallas and removed an electrical cable valued at \$61.23 from a welding machine.

### KINGSTON TOWNSHIP TIRES SLASHED

Alicia Lyon, 126 Lehigh St., Trucksville, reported to police that

two tires on her car were punctured while it was parked at her residence, July 23.

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Jobirath Taren, Shavertown and Gerard Schmid, Shavertown, were cited by police July 24, for disorderly conduct at Burger King, Shavertown.

### DUI CHARGED

Emily Kerpovich, 73 Manor Drive, Shavertown, was stopped for reckless driving and cited for driving under the influence.

### DALLAS TOWNSHIP CAR VANDALIZED

Police investigated a report of criminal mischief at the residence of Gary Rapp, Rice Ct., Dallas, where a person or persons put bricks and road cones on Rapp's Isuzu Trooper, broke the wiper arm and the antenna on the vehicle.

### TIRES SLASHED

Thomas Hession, July 26, reported to police that someone punctured three tires on his 1986 Ford while it was parked in the parking lot near his residence.

## Accident

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Hanson also faces several counts of reckless or negligent operation of a watercraft and several summary violations. Test results of Walter's blood alcohol level will be available in six to eight weeks according to Luzerne County Coroner Dr. George E. Hudock, Jr.

Hanson was arraigned before District Justice Carmen Maffei of West Pittston and released on \$50,000 bail. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 6 at 10 a.m. before District Justice Earl Gregory.

"Everything here was avoidable. It involves alcohol, reckless operation and operating at too high a rate of speed," said Messerle.

Two previous accidents claimed five lives, four of them in a 1983 collision of two boats. In that crash, Denis Abromavage of Pittston was driving a boat that ran over a smaller boat, killing four passengers in the smaller craft. In 1985, Kim Krasner of Harveys Lake was killed when his head struck a diving board as he drove his boat into a dock. In both cases, the operator was found to be legally drunk at the time of the accident.

## Officers

(continued from page 1)

boats and water-skiers, and are all in the territory covered by Neifert and the deputies, said Messerle.

When Richard Walter slammed into a dock while water-skiing Saturday evening, there were two Conservation Officers patrolling.

Assistant Harveys Lake Police Chief Ronald Spock would like to see two Conservation Officers on Harveys Lake for 16 hours each summer Saturday and Sunday.

"The Waterways Conservation Officers are very good people," said Spock. "They're doing a great job with the people they have. There's not enough of them."

"Our job is easier because we have lines on the road and we can see if they're weaving," said Spock, who estimates he has stopped about 400 drunk drivers in the six years he has been a police officer at Harveys Lake. "Boats are always weaving. Since I've been here the boat traffic has increased about 200 percent and the boats are bigger and faster."

"We could have a roadblock operation, but at Harveys Lake that's difficult because the boats are already on the lake," said Messerle. So far this year, three people, including Gregg Hanson, have been charged with boating under the influence. Last year, a total of five people were charged with boating under the influence at Harveys Lake, Messerle said.

A proposed law from the Fish Commission which would ban water-skiing on the lake from noon to 4 p.m. on the weekends was rejected last year by Harveys Lake's Environmental Council, according to Councilman David Abod, who is chairman of the Environmental Council.

"We felt it was too restrictive for people who can only use the lake on weekends," said Abod. "We don't want to put up so many restrictions that it would hamper people's enjoyment."

"I feel that if they paid attention to the rules, we'd have a very safe lake. And we do. We didn't have any accidents this year until this," said Abod, who knew both Hanson and Walter.

"We do have a law that says they have to be 100 feet

Unlike motorists, drivers of boats may drink alcohol while operating their craft as long as they are not legally intoxicated.

"I sympathize with the other boy's family," said Walter's father, Philip Walter, a Dallas Township supervisor. "They are suffering as much as we are and so is he."

"Both boys were having fun. It was an unfortunate accident."

The charge of homicide by watercraft while under the influence is a 3rd degree felony, punishable by a fine of \$2,500 to \$15,000, and up to 7 years in prison. Homicide by watercraft is punishable by a fine of \$2,500 to \$10,000 and up to 5 years in prison.

The prosecuting officer is Waterways Conservation Officer David Corl, assisted by Waterways Conservation Officer Sally Corl, and Deputy Conservation Officers Paul and Diane Grimes, and Clyde Warner, and Assistant Harveys Lake Police Chief Ronald Spock.

State Police from the Wyoming Barracks helped investigate the scene of the accident.

from a dock and it was a case of they weren't paying attention to it."

"If the Fish Commission want to propose some new regulations, we'll keep an open mind and consider them," said Abod.

In the meantime, don't hold your breath for the number of Conservation Officers to increase.

To increase its total staff of 425 people, the Fish Commission would have to get permission from the state Office of Administration which has a cap on the number of people the Commission can employ, and then come up with the funds to pay the additional people.

Besides law enforcement on waterways, the Fish Commission is in charge of stocking and breeding fish.

For 12 Northeastern Pennsylvania counties, Messerle has 11 field officers and 47 deputies to patrol the water.

Across the state, there are only 71 full-time Water Conservation Officers.

"We don't get any tax money," said Messerle. "The only money we get is fees related to fishing and boating."

One of the sources of income, the boat registration fee, hasn't been increased since 1963. A boat less than 16 feet long costs \$4 a year to register, larger boats are \$6.

The state's General Assembly may increase the Fish Commission's finances, which would help them to add staff members.

On July 3, the House of Representatives passed a bill which would increase power boat registration fees to \$10, \$15, and \$20 depending on the size of the boat.

State Representatives Phyllis Mundy and George Hasay both voted in favor of the bill, which passed by 155 to 43 votes. The bill is now in the Senate's Fish and Game Committee.

State Sen. Charles Lemmond is currently working on a six-bill water safety package of his own, which would also include an increase in boat registration fees, according to Lisa Baker, Lemmond's executive assistant.

## Property transfers

Property transfers recorded at the Luzerne County Court House from July 16, 1991 to July 23, 1991. Prices are extrapolated from transfer taxes paid. Many transfers, such as those between family members, are exempt from tax, so no amounts are shown.

Gilbert Price to John Knorr, RD 1, Box 86A, Hunlock Creek property Swamp Rd., Lehman Twp., \$500.

Gilbert Price to Dorothy Grey, 7505 Oxford Ave., Hesperia, CA., property 2 parcels, Lehman Twp.

Gilbert Price to Terry L. Price, RR 3, Hunlock Creek, property Swamp Rd., Lehman Twp. David Ginochetti to Frank Ginochetti, 168 Chamberlain St., Plains, property L 1, 2, 5, 6, Slocum Park Manor, Kingston Twp.

Frank Ginochetti to Naomi Loscombe, 87 Hilldale Ave., Plains, property Twp. Rte. 724, Kingston Twp.

Frank Ginochetti to David Ginochetti, 109 S. Main Rd., Mountaintop, property L5, Slocum Park Manor, Kingston Twp.

Gustave A. Kabeschat to Loyanne J. McCarty, 9 Birch Hill Lane, Dallas, property L1, 2, 3, Machell Ave., Dallas Terrace, Dallas, \$110,000.

Method J. Pilon Jr. to Mark S. Weaver, Old Lake Rd., Dallas, property Ross Twp., \$78,000.

Raymond Lipinski to Gerald Rasmus, RD 1, Box 337-A, Hunlock Creek, property Ross Twp., \$187.

Frederick R. Schuler to Christine D. Paul, RD 1, Box 350B, Harveys Lake, property Warden & Oakland Ave., Harveys Lake \$3,000.

Carl B. Olsen to Paul J. Olsen, 220 Hillside, Newberry Estates, Dallas, property Terrace Ave., Kingston Twp.

Corestates Bank to Daniel L. Tuck, PO Box 181, Dallas, property 5 S. Pioneer St., Kingston Twp., \$24,000.

Robert T. Cook to John G. Kamus, 53 Claude St., Dallas Twp., property L-3, Dallas Twp., \$74,500. Richard M. Edwards to Kenneth Evan, Rr. 16 Nicely St., Mocanaqua property Sunnyside Dr., Ross Twp., \$18,000.

Ann H. Parkhurst to Thomas C. Lloyd Jr, 25 Orchard St., Trucksville, property Manor Dr., Kingston Twp., \$72,500.

Ann I. Haines to John Houssock, RR 2, Box 2020, Sweet Valley, property Main Rd., Ross Twp., \$3,000.

John Houssock to John Houssock, RR 2, Box 2020, Sweet Valley, property 1.4326 ac., Main Rd., Ross Twp.

Ann I. Haines to Ann I. Haines, RR 2, Box 2018, Sweet Valley, property 2.3185 ac., Main Rd., Ross Twp.

Charles W. Gordon Jr. to Joseph Hudak, 11 Moffett St., Dallas, property Davenport Ave., Dallas, \$2,500 Lawrence H. Sindaco, Esq., to Anthony J. Dolhon, Asburn Ave., RD 9., Box 110, Binghamton, NY, property Kingston Twp., \$22,500.

Paul A. Milford to Jane M. Carpenter, RD 2, Box 450, Harveys Lake, property 3.03 ac. Rte. 748., Lake Twp., \$32,000.

Madeline Szalkowski to Imelda G. Riftenbery, RD 2, Box 195, Dallas, property L3, 4, 5, Lake Rest., Lehman Twp., \$55,000.

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