

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Public should have access to beach area at Harveys Lake

Now that Joe Paglianite has withdrawn as a possible purchaser of Sunset Beach at Harveys Lake, the question becomes how best to restore public access to the area.

One idea, put forth by a group called The Committee for the Preservation of the Harveys Lake Beach Association, proposes to do so by raising enough money in membership fees to bring the beach in compliance with state health and safety regulations. While that would open the lakefront to those who can afford it (and who live nearby), it doesn't answer the larger question of why the general public is denied the use of beach areas at a state-owned lake.

Until just a couple of years ago, Sunset Beach offered at least a small public area; that changed when the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) closed the beach because it lacked adequate rest room facilities. But even then, Sunset Beach was owned by an association that had closed its membership, so in practice it was a private beach and use could have been restricted at any time.

The people who own Harveys Lake—the taxpayers of the Commonwealth—should have access to this body of water. Not only would it be right for the state to purchase and develop a decent public beach, it would be a boon to the economy of the area. A beach would attract more visitors who would spend more money in area stores and restaurants, as well as at those on the way in and out.

Some would argue that in a time of tight budgets the state can't afford to develop such a facility. But a nominal use charge wouldn't be onerous and could be used to offset the expense of operations. How about it, state legislators—can't you find a way for the public to enjoy one of its major recreational assets?

Borough's inaction on pub extends risk

Nearly a year after a county court gave Dallas Borough the right to tear down the dilapidated former Hearthstone Pub, the building still stands, posing the danger of fire and injury to neighboring properties and emergency personnel. While the borough's solicitor and council members have paid lip service to the problem, the ramshackle structure continues to stand and its owners still haven't paid a nickel towards correcting the situation.

"We have a real problem here and we're trying to avert a tragedy," the borough's solicitor, John S. Fine, Jr. said during court hearings last August. Well, you aren't trying very hard, Mr. Fine, or something would have happened by now.

By the solicitor's own timetable, discussions about tearing down the pub have been going on since February, 1989—two and one-half years ago. During that time, Mr. Fine has repeatedly made assurances that action would be forthcoming, but nothing has been done. Now it's time for action.

Surely the Dallas Borough Council can find a way to have this dangerous eyesore removed. If the current solicitor can't come up with one, then get someone who can. The rest of Dallas Borough shouldn't be kept at risk while waiting for action that should have been forthcoming months ago.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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Ronald A. Bartzek Editor and Publisher	Charlotte E. Bartzek Associate Publisher
Peggy Young Advertising Acct. Exec.	Charlot M. Denmon Reporter
Eric Foster Reporter	Olga Kostrobala Classified/typesetting
Paul Rismiller Production Manager	Jean Hillard Office Manager

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Lilies of the lake

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Letter

L-L District wasting time and money on fight over deaf child

Editor:
 I am currently involved in due process with LLSLD regarding my 12 year old son Mark Dutton. Mark and I are both profoundly deaf. My family and I moved to Harveys Lake in April of 1990, and at that time I requested that Mark be permitted to attend the Scranton State School for the Deaf. Mark had previously attended this school and had done very well there. I also graduated from a school for the deaf (Pennsylvania School for the Deaf) and I know that a culturally deaf person whose native language is American Sign Language, like my son, can receive the best education from such a school where all students, teachers, and staff can effectively communicate with him.

LLSD has refused to send Mark to Scranton, instead forcing him to attend an Intermediate Unit class in Forty Fort where no students or teachers can effectively communicate with him. LLSLD administrators claim that Mark can receive a good education there, however, comparing Standard Achievement Test scores from April, 1990 to February, 1991 shows that in one year Mark has not progressed at all, that in fact he has REGRESSED in English and math as a result of attending IU classes.

Mark used to be curious and love school, now he hates it. There is no one there he can talk or play with. We had a series of nine hearings before a hearing officer and in a prejudiced report which disregarded most of the evidence and expert testimony we provided, the hearing officer found in favor of LLSLD. We appealed that decision to a three-person panel made up of two lawyers and one educator. Using very strong language they overturned the first decision, pointing out that the IU class was totally incapable of meeting the unique needs of my son and that he should attend the Scranton State School for the Deaf.

Now LLSLD is going to appeal that decision to a federal court which will further delay Mark's receiving an appropriate education.

I believe that the reason the Lake-Lehman school district administrators refuse to send Mark to Scranton is because they will lose state funding by not having him on their roll. They seem to ignore the fact that they are wasting an enormous amount of taxpayers' money on two lawyers to represent them (who get paid whether they win or not) and ultimately when we prevail, the expenses we incur to fight them. At this point I would estimate that LLSLD administrators have wasted about \$100,000 or \$150,000 of taxpayers' money just to fight over one student. By their decision to appeal to federal court they could easily end up doubling these figures.

I can't help but wonder where these funds will come from. I keep imagining that some poor third graders won't get new math textbooks this year, or that the marching band won't be able to take a trip they've worked hard for because their budget has been cut or eliminated. It hardly seems worth it just to deny one deaf student an appropriate education.

We want to end this craziness now. We want Mark to be able to go to the Scranton State School for the Deaf where he belongs in September. LLSLD has already forced him to waste too much precious learning time. Please learn for yourself how your tax dollars are being irresponsibly wasted just to attempt to destroy my son's future.

Susan E. Dutton
 Harveys Lake

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Aug. 22, 1931
BOROUGH CONSIDERS VILLAGE MAIL ROUTES

Dallas Borough Council at its recent meeting discussed the possibility of village mail delivery if post office meets requirements.

Wesley Himmler, owner of Himmler Theatre in Dallas, will open a new theatre in Plymouth, September 1, with seating capacity of 500.

Wed - Grace Miller and Dr. J.C. Fleming.

Shavertown firemen will hold its annual bazaar August 22.

"The Night Angel", starring Nancy Carroll will play at Himmler Theatre, Wednesday and Thursday.

50 Years Ago - August 15, 1941
RICKETTS GLEN MAY BECOME PARK

Mrs. Pearl Johnson, Trucksville, pickets the restaurant of Harold Lloyd for breach of his lease. Purchase of Ricketts Glen for state park is still uncertain.

Dallas Rotary and Dallas Kiwanis agreed to sponsor school patrols due to the increasing traffic hazards in the area.

William Brickel who resigned this week to accept a position with

the Scranton Country Day School is the third teacher to resign from Dallas High School faculty since June.

Wed - Margaret Culp and Robert C. Hull; Emily L. Major and Harold Bell Roberts; Catherine Davis and Howard Tinsley.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1951
LIONS CLUB WANTS 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT

New Commonwealth Telephone offices open on Lake Street.

Agricultural Mobilization Committee of Luzerne County will hold a meeting at Dallas High School to review policies and programs of the farm agencies serving the family farm.

Lions Club press for 35-mile speed limit on the highways in the Kingston and Dallas Township areas.

Jackson and Fernbrook teams to meet in final Little League series.

Wed - Corrinne Gregory and Lt. G. Guthrie Conyngham; Evelyn E. Keller and Allen L. Keil.

Engaged - Mary Dresser and Edward B. Stringham; Irene Stofla and Thomas F. Krivak.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1961
RESEARCH LAB SET UP IN DALLAS

Scientists establish a new research laboratory, Surface Processes Research and Development Corporation on Country Club Road, Dallas.

Kingston Township supervisors accepted the construction of 72 low cost homes on Carverton Road east of the Checkerboard Inn.

Building authority votes in favor of building the new Lake-Lehman School.

Harter's Dairy team tops Lazarus 2-1 to win the Little League playoff.

Dallas Summer Band program to present final concert tonight.

Engaged - Lois Elizabeth Macri and Robert Russell.

Wed - Ruth Rifenbury and Edward Lewis; Patricia Ann Hemenway and Robert E. Harrison.

Jewish Community Center breaks ground at Idetown for day camp.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 19, 1971
DALLAS EXPECTED TO TAKE FOOTBALL TITLE

Raymond Titus, sergeant of police in Dallas Borough, is named

acting chief at the council meeting Monday night.

Dallas Township zoning board approved the application of Howard Whitesell for a planned residential development known as Valley View Park.

Kingston Township to push for back housing taxes from the County Authority.

Large crowds are expected for the Dallas Fall Fair midway September 3 through 5.

New medical technology programs developed at College Misericordia.

J.R. Davis Fire Company ends annual horse show.

Engaged - Barbar Durkin Whalen to wed Stephen Kirmse.

Wed - Erika Roskoski and Thomas G. Keiper; Debra Ann Alexander and James T. Coburn.

Dallas football team, coached by Jack Jones, chosen by five of six coaches in the Class B Division to finish first in this year's competition.

Library news

Lindsay Boris's figurine collection on display this month

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is showing a collection of Beatrix Potter figurines and story books to go with them. These have been borrowed from Lindsay Boris of Shavertown who is seven years old and will be in second grade at Appletree Primary School in Forty Fort in the fall.

She started her collection when a special friend presented her one on her first Christmas, when she was two months old. She still receives these from her friend, the

Easter Bunny and for her birthdays. She has 17 figurines with books and our display includes four borrowed from her two younger sisters, Allison and Caroline.

The display includes Peter Rabbit, Johnny Town Mouse, Little Pig Robinson, Two Bad Mice, Miss Moppet, Squirrel Nutkin, Piggling Bland, Jeremy Fisher, Timmy Tiptoes, Mrs. Tittlemouse and Tiggy Winkle. This display is a fitting end of summer reminder for the children of the Back Mountain and will be here until September 4.

The library staff is happy to welcome Susan Frey as our librarian.

She began her duties on July 16 and is becoming familiar with the responsibilities of the job. We will be saying good-bye to our two work study summer students next week; Susan Scott of Bloomsburg University and Laura Horvath who attends College Misericordia.

New books at the library: "A Year in Provence" by Peter Mayle is a month-by-month account of the charms and frustrations that the author and his wife and their two large dogs experience during their first year in the remote country of the Luberon restoring an old stone farmhouse. It transports us into

all the earthy pleasures of Provençal life.

"The Lemon Garden" by Elizabeth Rossiter is a romantic thriller set in sensuous southern Italy. Joanna Fleming, an actress, awakens in a hospital to find her memory of the 23 years of her life has gone. Friends, colleagues, family—all are strangers to her. Something happened on the night of a party and she must remember the events of the evening in order to save her life. She knows horror when she

tries to enter 'the lemon garden'. "Sherwood" by Parke Godwin is a Book Club purchase and the story of Edward Aelredson, lord of Denby, in Sherwood Forest. It is a stirring tale of England's artful outlaw who troubled and challenged the throne. This Robin Hood is subtly different from the original version of his tale; he is a lesser landowner who must bow to a brutal foreign king or lose everything his family and people have fought to hold. Realistic historical fiction.

Nancy Kozemchak is assistant librarian of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

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