

Agricultural security area may grow to 2,000 acres

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

In 1985 two dozen landowners in Jackson Township joined to form an agricultural security area to preserve some of the Back Mountain's oldest family farms.

On Monday, more than twice as many had applied to have their land included in the area.

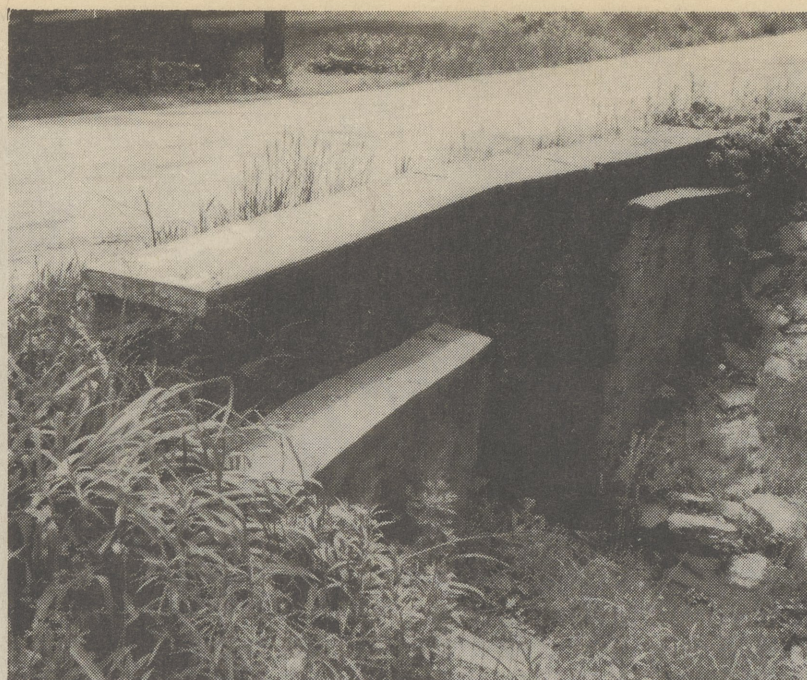
By forming an agricultural security area, farmers protect their land from condemnation or acquisition by eminent domain by any governmental agency for any reason and insure that they will be allowed to continue farming without having crowing roosters, cattle crossings or the unique scent of "dairy-air" from the manure spreaders outlawed as public nuisances.

Participation in the program is optional and renewable every seven years. In order to qualify, at least 500 acres within a municipality must be designated.

Public hearings on renewing the agricultural security program were held Monday, June 1 before the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors.

Although no testimony was given, Mrs. Beatrice Ray, owner of Windy Hill Farm noted that 53 landowners holding a total of 2100.85 acres have requested designation as part of the security area. Acreage will be protected until 1999, when it will again be reconsidered by participating landowners.

The ordinance will be adopted at the July 6 supervisors meeting.



SHORED UP - Cement retaining walls support part of a stone arch bridge on Chase Road between American Asphalt and Chase Corners. The top of the bridge abutment appears to be cracked. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Chase, Hillside Road bridges to be inspected

By GRACE R. DOVE
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Chase and Hillside roads in Jackson Township are scheduled for a complete facelift, possibly as early as 1993 and 1994 respectively, according to Luzerne County Engineer Jim Brozina.

Brozina said that plans call for both roads to be totally reconstructed.

But before any work is done on the three stone arch bridges on Chase Road built during the 1920's, Brozina's office may have to contact the Historical Museum Commission, since the bridges might be of historic value.

"We have been trying since 1987 to get our design contracts for these two roads approved by Penn-DOT," Brozina said. "My best guess is 1993 for Chase Road and 1994 for Hillside Road."

Brozina added that no weight limits have been set on any of the three stone arch bridges on Chase Road, although at least two of them are well-traveled by heavy dump trucks and equipment trailers from American Asphalt. A fully loaded heavy equipment trailer or triaxle dump truck can weigh up to 40 tons.

Brozina said that his staff had inspected all three stone bridges within the last two years, and that

all three bridges are scheduled for another inspection this year. His staff of certified bridge inspectors had not found any signs of cracking in the arch rings, sagging, cracked stones or other signs of distress during their last inspection.

But the small bridge between American Asphalt and Chase Corners appears to have several cracks, missing stones and a bend in one abutment and two cement retaining walls installed alongside the original arch in the other side, while the largest bridge at the intersection of Chase and Hillside Roads shows several cracks in the stonework, including one around a section of the stone arch.

"Sometimes cracks simply mean that the mortar has fallen out of the joints, which we can easily repair," Brozina explained. "Cracks don't necessarily mean that serious problems exist. If we find problems during our next inspection, we will lower the weight limit on the bridges having problems and seek funding to make repairs."

"In no way will we compromise public safety on Luzerne County's bridges. If necessary, I will not hesitate to close a badly deteriorated bridge to protect the public," Brozina said.

Jackson

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member Karen Whipple.

"We had hoped to see Jackson Township kids playing on their own fields by fall, but I guess that won't happen now," Whipple commented. "Of course we will apply for another grant, but government moves very slowly. I wish that we knew of other ways of getting the work done."

The township already has installed public restrooms behind the municipal building and a bridge over the access road between the building and the recreation area.

Police Chief Don Jones reported that his men have set up speed tapes on Chase Road to catch speeders.

Jones also requested action on three public safety issues:

- Weeds at intersections must be cut so that drivers can see oncoming vehicles.

- PG&W's sand pit on Mizdale Road has reopened and a 100-foot dropoff near the roadway has been created. Jones requested that the proper authorities be notified that a fence and a gate are needed. Supervisors promised to contact Plymouth Township officials, since the sand pit is in their territory.

- Kasko Road is in very dangerous condition due to potholes and slippery, muddy stretches and

police may be forced to close it if it is not repaired.

Solicitor Blythe Evans reported that work on a new pump house for the water line to Chase Prison is continuing despite a citation having been filed with Magistrate Gregory to stop work until building permits and zoning exceptions are obtained.

Evans said that the contractor, Mazucco Enterprises, also failed to obtain PUC approval before beginning work.

Mazucca has requested a zoning hearing appeal, which Evans said can't be held until Magistrate Gregory holds a hearing on the citation to stop construction. Any work done before either matter is resolved is illegal.

A donation of \$3,000 to the ambulance association to help pay for the new ambulance was unanimously approved.

Joan Conrad was appointed to the planning commission to replace Harold Kittle, whose term has expired, with Walter Glogowski casting the lone dissenting vote.

The resignation of Virginia Major as township auditor due to changes in her work schedule was accepted. Anyone interested in filling the position should contact secretary Henry Zbiek.

Library

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sion was reached, these sources say, after repeated attempts to discuss the matter with Mrs. Oley's family were met with family members' refusal to do so, and assurances from them that she was not seriously ill and was receiving medical treatment.

The board's statement in full appears below:

"The Board of Directors of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Association has chosen not to respond to the recent newspaper articles and editorials concerning Charlotte Oley for the reason that the Board believes that personnel matters are confidential in nature and are not appropriate for disclosure and debate in the press.

The Board of Directors is assured, and wishes to assure the residents of the Back Mountain, that the Board acted appropriately, with deliberate care and concern, and with proper intent in this matter, including the decision to exercise restraint in responding to

public charges.

The media has mischaracterized this situation in an effort to create front page news in the obvious absence of complete information. Unfortunately, the result of the media's treatment of this matter has been a public reaction against the library by certain individuals, without a sufficient recognition on their part that the library is an institution that for almost half a century has had as its sole purpose, and will continue to have as its sole purpose, rendering service to all of the residents of the Back Mountain, providing them the opportunity for learning, enjoyment and enlightenment that only a local library can offer.

The library very much needs the support of all Back Mountain residents and should not be made the victim of this unfortunate occurrence. The Board of Directors will issue no further comment concerning this matter and extends to Charlotte Oley the heartfelt well wishes of the Board, the staff and the patrons of the library."



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD KOSAKOWSKI

Kosakowski memorial service June 6

Memorial services have been scheduled for Edmund N. and Shirley Kosakowski, who died on May 21, 1992 as the result of a head-on collision in St. Augustine, Florida.

A Mass will be held on June 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake. Rev. Louis A. Grippe, Pastor, will officiate. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

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Trinity

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I heard this was in the wind. I got right in on it. We used to have committee meetings in our home."

The church has grown in both size and membership from 30 years ago. Started with 123 charter members, the original church was about half its present size, with the sanctuary and its folding chairs doing double duty as a multi-purpose room. In about 1980, Trinity Learning Center, a preschool for three and four-year-olds, which had been in operation since 1971, found a new home. A modular school building was moved from West Wyoming to adjoin the sanctuary.

"The men of the church worked to do this with the contractor," said Meryl Davis, another charter member of Trinity.

The Sanctuary then had permanent pews installed, which today seat about 300 members of the Church.

An outdoor worship area also was constructed by Jeffrey Hall for an Eagle Scout project.

The community is invited to join with the members and friends of Trinity in a celebration service of worship on June 6 at 11 a.m. The

organizing pastor, Rev. Pillarella and the present pastor, Rev. Murdoch will participate in the service along with charter members.

Mrs. Dorothy Jones will read the charter and lead the congregation in the Covenant of the Congregation. Rev. Pillarella will preach. Greeters will be the Harry Cooper family.

Ushers will be Lewis and Linda Rogers Baines and Carl and Julie Pillarella Sgarlat. Included in the elders serving the Lord's Supper will be charter members Alice Jones Kocher, Elizabeth Pillarella Faerber, and Arch Mohr. Jean Houk Rodda will be in charge of the guest book, and Leona Walters, Shirley Phillips and Meryl Davis will serve refreshments at the reception following the service.

Flowers will be done by Annie McCaffrey and Jay Borton. Following the service, momentoes will be taken by the membership committee to shut-ins of the church.

Arrangements for the special day are under the direction of the 30th anniversary committee, Dana P. Dungey, Edith Pillarella, and Barbara Rogers.

Horse show will be June 3

The Yellow Rose 4-H Club will host their 4th Annual Barrel Racing Horse Show, Saturday, June 6, at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds, Route 118, Dallas.

The show will start at 3 p.m., rain or shine, and offer classes for the youth, amateur and open division riders as they demonstrate their skills of maneuvering their horses and ponies around obstacles at high speeds. The highlight of the afternoon will be the

Jackpot and Calcutta Barrel Spectacular which guarantees a purse of at least \$500 to be paid back. Very competitive exhibitors will travel from across the state and other nearby states in hopes of winning some of the high premiums.

The 4-H club will offer a variety of home cooked foods and baked goods. The parking and admission is free.

For more information, call 477-2204.

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