

Volunteers make a difference at Lake-Noxen Elementary

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The V.I.P.'s have come to Lake-Noxen School.

Part of a pilot program, "Volunteer in Partnership," these parents and friends of the school are also very important people, volunteering to share their experiences and skills with the students.

Volunteers of all ages from the community have assisted teachers in special class projects covering a wide range of subjects—everything from travel through Europe to collections of historic artifacts to how a quilt is made.

The program's seeds were planted on "Make a Difference Day," February 29, when former PTA president Joyce Birt took advantage of the extra day in the year to organize a group of volunteers to provide a Saturday of interesting activities for the students.

At the same time, superintendent Mrs. Nancy Davis was discussing the use of community volunteers in the schools with interested people at informal "coffee-klatsch" meetings at the homes of PTA/PTO members.

"Different types of school volunteer programs operate successfully in many Pennsylvania school districts," Mrs. Davis said. "A school district in southwestern Pennsylvania used volunteers to help teachers prepare enrichment programs."

Remembering the successful "Make a Difference Day," Mrs. Birt volunteered to coordinate volunteers for the Lake-Noxen building, where 178 man-hours of work have already been logged since the first day of school.

"Our purpose is to take better advantage of community resources to enhance the curriculum. Because I know the teachers and many people willing to share their wealth of experiences with the students, it has been relatively easy to match the teacher with the right volunteer," Mrs. Birt said.

Working only at the teachers' request, volunteers help out on enrichment projects that teachers

would not have the time to organize alone, including the fourth-graders' banking program, a slide presentation of European countries, a journalism project with the fifth grade, making special bulletin board displays and learning about the history of Harveys Lake by examining a collection of historical artifacts.

Volunteers also help students with extra-credit work, run off copies of tests and study materials, help chaperone field trips and help supervise special activity days—all at no cost to the district.

And high school athletes and Peer Helpers have had the opportunity to talk "one-on-one" with special-needs students and encourage classes to say "no" to drugs and alcohol.

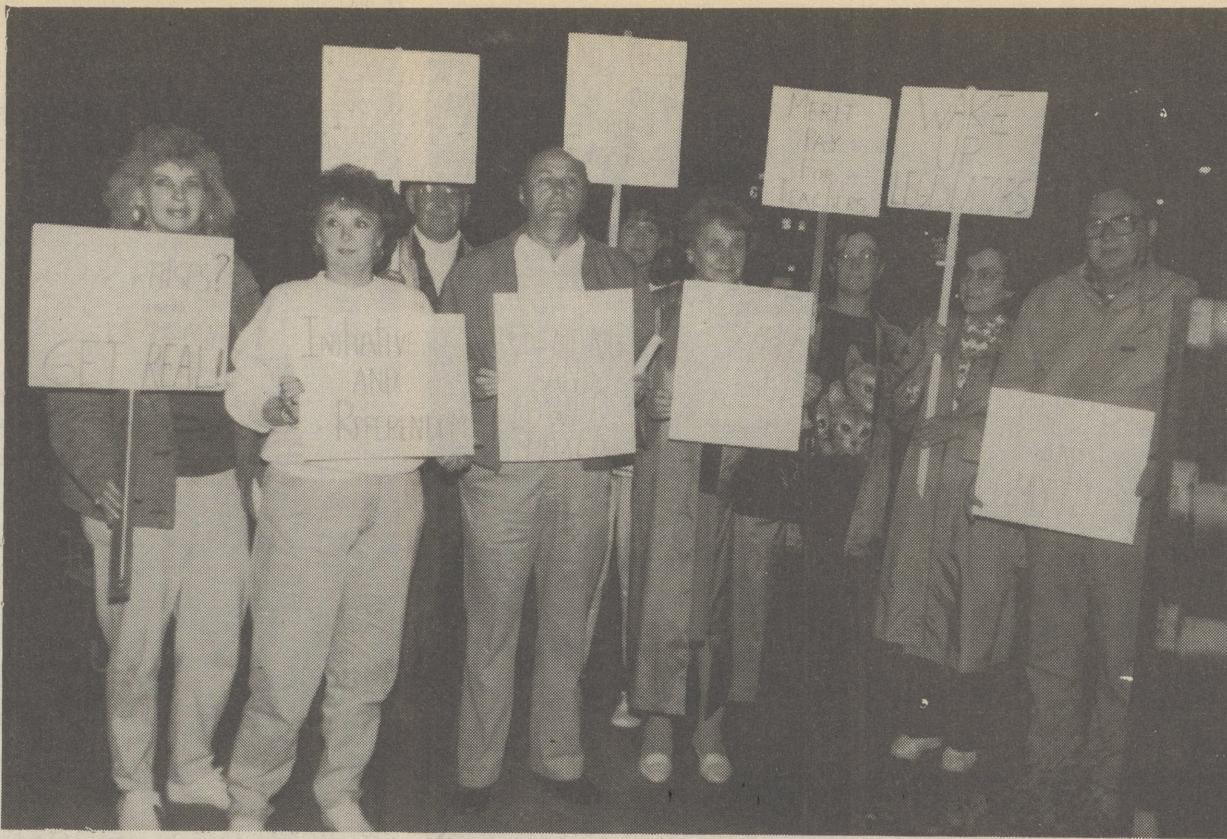
"We do not teach and are always supervised by the classroom teachers," Mrs. Birt said. "We do not grade students' work and are not allowed to violate the students' confidentiality."

"Any time that we can help the students see the relevancy of what they learn in class makes a valuable educational experience," said director of curriculum Dr. Steve Boston. "It helps to broaden their horizons and demonstrates that their classroom activities will become useful life skills. And the volunteers also learn to understand the students better."

Principal Bob Kunkle said that the teachers' positive reaction to the volunteer program has been an asset. The teachers have more time to work on lesson preparation and record-keeping.

Although school has been in session for only two months, the V.I.P. program's list of resource people is growing daily: speakers from Commonwealth Telephone, the health care field, Penn State, King's College, Lake-Lehman High School's Peer Helpers and foreign exchange students, the Lenni-Lenape Historical Society and the Foster Grandparents. A non-competitive volleyball team has also been organized.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time and skills may call Lake-Noxen School at 693-1129.



Taxpayers march

Members of the United Taxpayers' Forum met Thursday night, October 15, at the Back Mountain Shopping Center to make voters aware of the group's aims. Carrying signs are, from left: Rose Gorey, Joan Jones, Ray Rybka, Helen Piech and Marty Arledge. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

DAMA begins hookup to Wyoming Valley

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority, DAMA, will begin construction on its new, \$3.5 million force main project through five west side boroughs. DAMA Executive Director, Tom Bagley, says the project was mandated by the State Department of Environmental Resources in order to upgrade sewage treatment within the DAMA service area.

The project will leave the DAMA plant in Kingston Township, travel the berm of the Cross Valley Expressway to a point at approximately Luzerne Lumber Company, and then through the affected municipalities. Boroughs and streets affected include: Courtdale:

Union Street, Courtdale Avenue, Allen Street, Linden Street, Luzerne: Union Street, Main Street, Kelly Street, Mill Street, Buckingham Avenue, Tener Street, Evans Street, Marion Street, Fulton Street, Pringle Street, Pringle: Webster Street, McAndrew Street, Edwardsville: Main Street, South Page Avenue, Plymouth Street.

Bagley says that the recommended path for the new line was chosen following extensive engineering studies. As shown on the map, the line will terminate and tie into existing Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority facilities in Edwardsville.

While the 4.5 mile long pipeline

travels through five municipalities it will only affect those residents whose properties lie along the right of way. Bagley says DAMA's contractors on the job are responsible to backfill, grade and seed any private property affected during the line installation.

All borough officials in the affected municipalities will be briefed on the project which will get under way by October. DAMA says questions regarding the new force main installation may be directed to their Kingston Township office at: 696-1134, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Work is currently slated for completion in 17 months.

Obituaries

KATHRYN WENDLING

Kathryn (Kitty) D. Wendling, of Manor Drive, Shavertown, died Oct. 19, 1992, at home, following an illness.

Born in Schuylkill Haven, she was a daughter of the late Lester and Anna Rupert Bast.

She attended the Schuylkill Haven area schools, and prior to retiring she was employed as a bookkeeper for the Exxon Corporation.

Mrs. Wendling was a member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas N., in 1982; sister, Anna Jane Filer, in Oct. 1992.

Surviving are a daughter, Diane Ropetski, Shavertown; sisters, Betty Lindenmuth, Schuylkill Haven, Mildred Sigmund, Fleetwood; nieces and nephews.

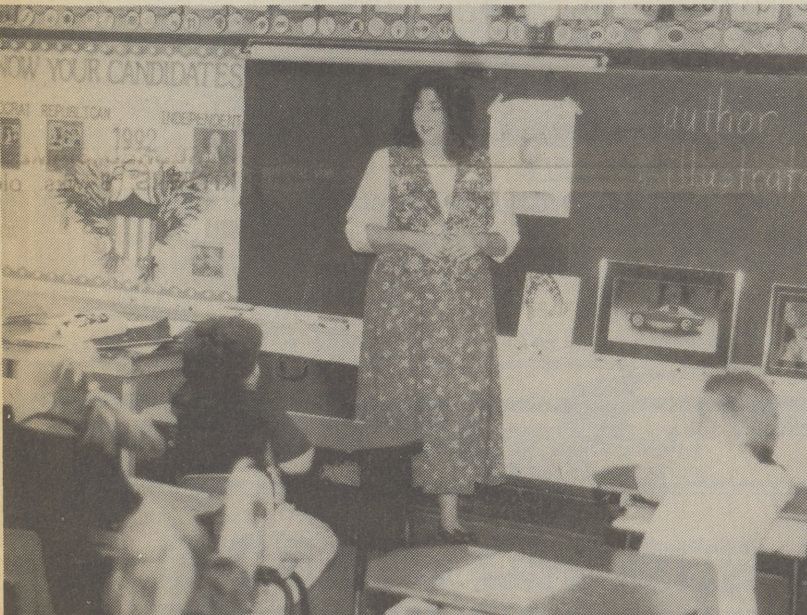
Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday from the Trucksville United Methodist Church, with the Rev. H. James Shillabeer, pastor, officiating.

Interment will be in Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Dallas.

Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Harold C. Snowdon Funeral Home, 140 N. Main St., Shavertown.

Memorial contributions, if desired, may be made to the Trucksville United Methodist Church or the Luzerne County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Send your sports reports to
The Dallas Post



Local children's author visits class

Writer/artist Susan Rukstalis of Dallas demonstrates her technique to Elizabeth Faerber's second graders at Westmoreland Elementary School. Rukstalis's book, "How Many Steps Before the Queen" is based on a popular children's game (Post photo/Bill Harper)

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