

# Municipal building, park points of contention in Jackson Twp.

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

John "Jack" Bombick and Robert Hazletine both want to fill Andrew Kasko's vacant seat as Jackson Township supervisor.

Combining more than a century of residence in the township, they disagree on its operation, particularly the new municipal building and adjacent recreation park.

"Hazletine calls it a 'Taj Mahal,'" Bombick hopes to see facilities

which the residents want in the park.

Running on the Republican ticket, road supervisor John "Jack" Bombick knows every inch of the township's 26-plus roads and sees many of the residents in the course of his work. He has lived in Jackson Township for more than 50 years and worked on the road crew for 22 years. He has served as road foreman for the past 13 years.

"I would like to see our dirt roads widened and improved," Bombick said. "I'd also like to see

the recreational park behind the township building developed gradually, according to what the residents want - maybe a ball field and playground area."

Bombick is married; he and his wife, Dell, have a son Jack, Jr.

Running on the Democratic ticket, Robert Hazletine served as a township supervisor in the late 1970's and has been self-employed for 35 years as the owner of a radiator shop, formerly a gas station, at the top of Plymouth Mountain.

He has been a township resident for all of his 69 years.

"I don't approve of the new municipal building or the plans to make the swamp behind it into a park," he said. "We should have stayed at the fire hall and saved our money."

Hazletine said that the township's only costs while renting the fire hall for meetings were \$250 a month.

"We didn't have to pay for heat, lights or insurance," he said. "And we helped out the fire company."

Hazletine wants to see all of Jackson Township's roads upgraded and paved. "If we didn't have that half million-dollar Taj Mahal of a municipal building to worry about, we would have had more than enough money to pave all the roads and help out the firemen," he said.

Hazletine doesn't think that the recent ten-mill municipal tax increase was necessary, and that residents on fixed incomes can't afford it.

With the original three-mill tax rate, Jackson Township had

plenty of money for years before the municipal building was acquired, he said.

"I'm running for office because many people approached me to," he said. "I plan to retire at the end of this year and will be able to devote all my time to the township."

A decorated World War II veteran (five Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart), Hazletine lives with his wife, Eunice. They have two married children who live out of town.

## Buried oil tank continues to bedevil Jackson Twp.

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The Jackson Township supervisors have directed solicitor Blythe Evans to contact the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and notify them that the former LaSalle Oil Company property adjoining the municipal building's property has been bought at a tax sale by Peter Atie of Wilkes-Barre.

The property contains a large oil tank which is partially on municipal property and is leaking oil into the soil. The supervisors are attempting to get some cooperation, from Atie, DER or Luzerne County, in removing the tank.

"I'm concerned that the oil could some day contaminate one of our wells, which it is near," said supervisor Joe Stager.

The supervisors were concerned about incurring further costs in cleaning up contaminated soil, which has already set the township back more than \$200,000.

At their April 5 meeting, the supervisors also authorized township engineer Michael J. Pasonick, Inc., to begin designing a cement curb to direct traffic entering and leaving the township building to two exits/entrances, as required by state law. The project will cost \$11,000.

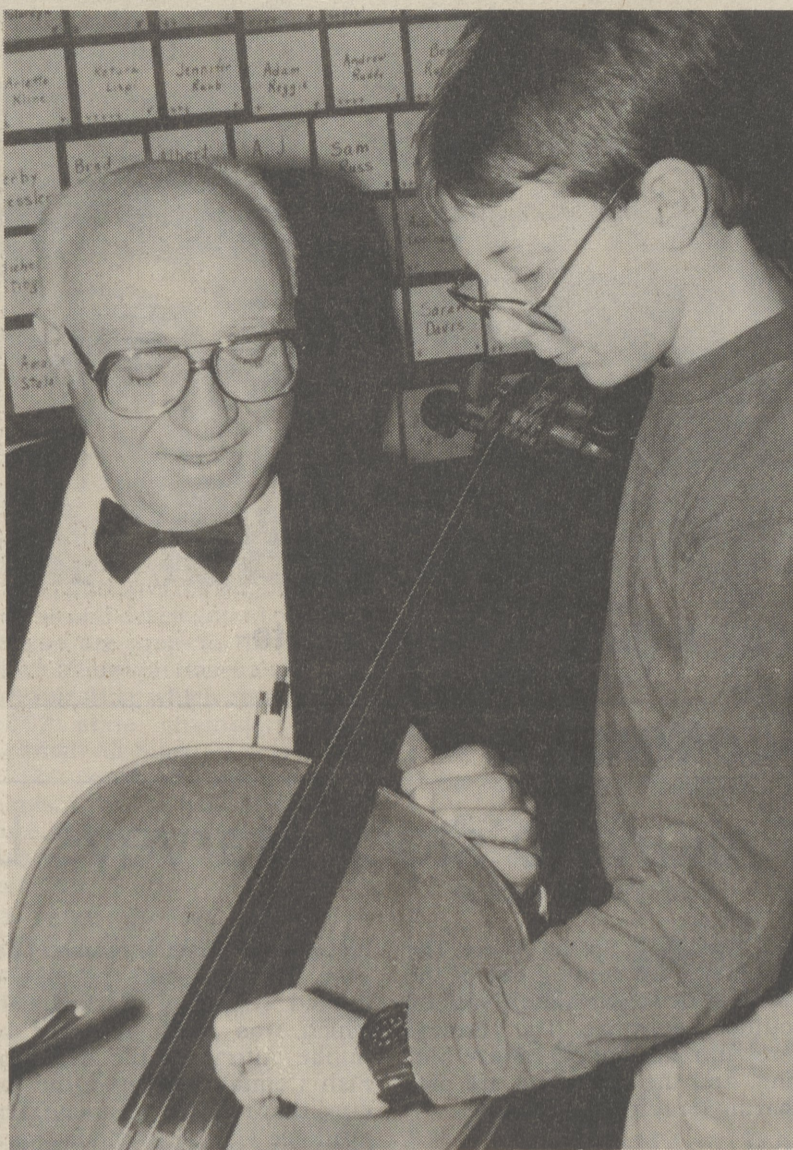
Since no public notice was given that the supervisors intended to pass an ordinance covering burned-out buildings, as had been planned at the March 29 work session, the ordinance will be passed at the May 3 meeting. All three supervisors said that they will approve it.

Secretary Henry Zbiek announced that the township was recently commended during the 1992 annual audit for the accuracy of its records.

In other business, zoning officer John Krupa announced that anyone wishing to post political signs must first obtain a permit from his office. There is a deposit of \$25 for one sign or \$100 for more than one sign, which will be refunded if the signs are removed within 30 days. Krupa said that signs may not exceed six square feet.

The supervisors also voted to:

- Send Krupa to Williamsport for a conference on flood management May 10, at a cost of \$30.
- Adopt a policy making the new municipal building unavailable for public use and prohibiting loitering in the heavy equipment work areas, due to liability insurance.
- Adopt a written job description for the zoning officer/building inspector's position currently held by Krupa.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Firsthand lesson

Justin Tamini, right, received some pointers from cellist Enzo Liva of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra before members of the orchestra gave a free concert at Westmoreland Elementary School last week. Justin is in fifth grade at Westmoreland.

## Hiller passes FAA program

Robert Stephen Hiller, 8 Hemlock St., Dallas, recently completed in residence the Federal Aviation Administration's Leadership Development Program, at the Center for Management Development (CMD), Palm Coast, Fla.

Hiller is a Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist at FAA's Wilkes-Barre Approach Control.

FAA's management school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, the only government facility to earn this recognition. Certain studies at CMD will result in college credit.

## Voter registration forms at The Post

Mail-in voter registration forms are available at the office of *The Dallas Post*. Completed applications must be received by April 19 at the Voter Registration Office in the Luzerne County Courthouse in order for the applicant to vote in the May 18 primary. Forms may be picked up between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at *The Dallas Post*, 45 Main Road, Dallas Township, across from Offset Paperback. No postage is required to mail them.

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## Land trust

(continued from page 1)

form the land trust, which we believe will benefit the entire community."

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust's coverage area is bordered by Bunker Hill and Plymouth Mountain on the south, Tunkhannock on the north and Sweet Valley on the west, Waserott said.

One of 41 land trusts in Pennsylvania, the group's mission is to conserve and preserve areas of significant ecological, historic, aesthetic and agricultural importance.

Land trusts have operated successfully all across the country for the past 50 years, preserving such diverse areas as agricultural areas, watersheds, historic sites and scenic places such as sections of the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The group's immediate priorities are to file articles of incorporation with the state and establish non-profit status with the state and federal governments.

The next meeting of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust will be Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. at Hayfield House on the campus of Penn State at Lehman.

## MISSION STATEMENT

In order to explain its goals and mission to the public, the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust adopted the following mission statement at its meeting Thursday, April 1:

The mission of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is:

- To provide for long-term stewardship of natural and historic resources by the conservation of forests, woodlands, waterways, watersheds, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, open space and significant historic sites and structures;
- To protect and enhance scenic natural beauty and cultural landmarks;
- To provide this resource protection through the acquisition and management of real property and interests in real property, public education and nonpartisan governmental involvement;
- To encourage and develop cooperative working relationships between private and public interests.

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