

Noise

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if it may be affecting her two dogs; since the noise became worse, they often stand with their ears pointed straight up at the edge of the property closest to the plant.

"Their hearing is much more sensitive than ours. Maybe that's why they've been less calm lately," she said.

When contacted by a reporter, a secretary at Coates Reprographics said that the facility's manager was unavailable to answer questions because he is out of the country.

The firm's controller would not comment on the noise, refusing even to identify himself.

The secretary said that the company is owned by Total, a corporation based in France. "If you want to talk to someone else, you would have to call our home offices in France or England," she said.

Township engineer Tom Doughton, of Michael J. Pasonick, Inc., said that he is arranging to rent two sound level/octave band analyzers, special meters to measure the pitch, frequency and intensity of the noise, to determine if it violates town-

ship noise ordinances.

"To do a complete sound level analysis, it costs us \$500 per meter per day," he said. "We use at least two meters, set up on tripods at different locations and continuously monitored for several days. An engineer from our firm specially trained in sound level analysis will interpret the results and make a report."

It could take several weeks for the meters to come in, since they are rented from another company, he said.

Doughton said that Dallas Township has specific noise level limits for both residential and commercial areas in its zoning ordinance.

"If the noise exceeds the limits in the tables in our ordinance, the law says that they'll have to muffle it somehow," he said.

Kozick said that the plant has been in the township since the mid-1950's, when it was known as Surface Processes. Recently it was renamed Coates Reprographics after having been acquired by Total.



ALL YOU CAN EAT - The Ham 'n Egg Breakfast planning committee members are, shown above, from left, Gerald O'Donnell Paul Sabol, Jack Fowler.

Breakfast benefits retarded citizens

The Back Mountain Police Association is planning the 10th annual all you can eat Ham and Egg Breakfast, that will take place on April 25, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Dallas Senior High School Cafeteria.

All proceeds of the event benefit the Association of Retarded

Citizens of Luzerne County. The event is done as a community service by The Back Mountain Police Association and all the work is performed by the police officers, their families and friends.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children

up to 12 years of age, and may be purchased from all members of the Association or at the door.

Chairman of the event is Paul Sabol, retired Chief of Police, Kingston Township. Co-chairmen of the event are Chief John Fowler, Dallas Borough and Chief Gerald O'Donnell, Kingston.

The Dallas Post donates to food bank

The Dallas Post has donated \$55 raised during a subscription drive to the Back Mountain Food Bank.

The Post offered to donate \$5 for each new subscription ordered at the end of December to the food bank, and received 11 responses. The money was given to the food bank, which is located at the Trucksville United Methodist Church last week.

Safety

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their departments and Dallas Borough, coordinated their efforts with PennDOT for the beginning of the safety campaign, which will continue through the next 18 months.

The campaign's enforcement phase will kick in Friday, April 16, when police begin to crack down on speeders.

"The police chiefs and I feel that the information blitz was a success and well-received by the community," said Faith Ann Liuzzo, Penn-DOT community relations coordinator.

"Few drivers complained," Balavage said. "It's a plus for the Back Mountain that the people were so receptive."



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

TOTAL LOSS - Burned building ordinances are designed to prevent fire-damaged structures, such as this home at Lake Silkworth from becoming hazards.

Buildings

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this ordinance to protect the public from irresponsible or disinterested homeowners who might be tempted to abscond with the insurance money or use it for other purposes, or people who are too old to make the repairs themselves," he continued.

Initially concerned that government might be infringing too much on the rights of the individual citizen, supervisor Walter Glowgowski said he now believes the ordinance would ultimately benefit the township.

"If my house burns down and I simply walk away from it, it will become an eyesore and a danger to my neighbors," he said.

Evans explained that the Office of Community Development once removed such structures, but has discontinued this program due to funding cuts.

A municipality's only other recourse is to condemn the building under the municipal nuisance code, a procedure which can take a year or more if the property has liens against it, the owners have left town or if a dummy corporation owns the property, Evans said.

Kingston Township is the only other area municipality to have such an ordinance, which the supervisors enacted in late 1992,

according to township manager Jeff Box.

"We have very few problems with burned-out buildings," Box said. "You find most of these problems in large cities, where accidental or arson fires take out entire buildings, which the owners then leave unrepaired."

Box said that the only other laws which could protect the public from either burned-out buildings or tumbledown structures, such as Dallas Borough's infamous former Hearthstone Pub, razed late last year after several years of legal wrangling, are a set of codes developed by the Building officers and Code Administration, called the BOCA codes.

Used only by Kingston Township and Harveys Lake, these codes define the fire, electrical, plumbing and structural requirements for all buildings in a municipality. Municipal governments must vote on whether or not they will use them.

Harveys Lake, Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Lehman Township and Franklin Township don't have a burned building ordinance, although Lehman Township zoning officer Barbara Simms said that she felt her township could use one.

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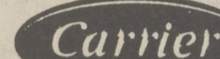
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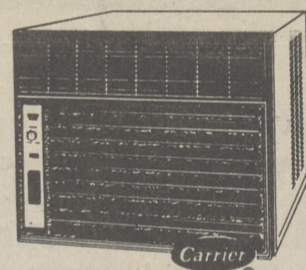


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