

Prison

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Bechtel suggested in his written and oral report to the Department of Corrections using one of the prison's three wells along with the water line as the prison's main water supply.

But the prison's superintendent doesn't see it that way.

"My understanding of Dr. Bechtel's report was that we are not harming the community's ground water by using our wells as our main water source," said prison superintendent John Stepanik. "The new water line will be used only in emergencies."

Stepanik said that he would have to read Bechtel's entire report and take the matter under advisement with the Department of Corrections. "I don't have the final say in this - the commissioner does," he said.

"When the pipeline was built after the 1991 drought, the citizens got the wrong idea - that it would be used all the time," he said.

Stepanik said that using the water line for all the prison's water needs in an emergency would cost the facility approximately \$10,000 per month. It cost \$663,000 to install the line. Depending on the population, the prison uses about 320,000 gallons of water a day.

"There's more to the story than what is in here," he continued. "Dr. Bechtel told me after the meeting that Enviroscan made this recommendation for our benefit, because they were worried that the water level in our wells could fall low enough to eventually burn out one of our pumps."

"It's all there on the last page," Stepanik said. "All that they want us to do is flush the water line out every year to prevent the water from stagnating."

The last page of Bechtel's report says that based on a 400,000 gallon-per-day water demand, using the wells is indeed cheaper.

But Bechtel still recommends using only one well, so that the aquifer (layer of water-bearing rock) isn't depleted too quickly.

Walter Zincavage, who also attended the meeting, said that he had received the impression that prison officials would follow Bechtel's recommendations.

"Who authorized this change?" he asked. "They are inconsistent. Someone is passing the buck here."

Zincavage's well was one of the nine residential wells studied, along with five wells on prison property, a pond and the east fork of Harveys Creek, according to the report.

Debbie Murphy's well was also monitored in the study. "They should have studied our wells during a dry period. It would have given them a more accurate picture," she said. "I don't know what this study proved."

Ginger Spencer, who lives a mile from the prison on Follies Road, said that her well probably should have been included in the study. She is concerned that the prison's use of its wells during dry periods could affect her well.

"If the prison's well goes dry, they'll bring in water buffaloes and do everything to fix it. Would they do the same for me if my well goes dry?" she asked. "I think that the people at the prison should do as they were told with the water line."

"The people at the prison have their own way of looking at things. The rest of Jackson Township doesn't have the option of building a water line for a backup in case our wells go dry," said Bonnie Dembroski. "Most of us depend on wells. It's a waste of taxpayer money to build a pipeline that they won't use."

State Representative George Hasay said that the Department of Corrections and prison officials seem to "tap-dancing" on the issue.

"When the other representatives and I originally obtained the funding for the water line, we understood that it was to be used daily, not just as a backup system. We will continue to encourage the Commissioner to use the water line daily," he said.

Lisa Baker of Senator Charles Lemmond's office was also confused by prison officials' response.

"We're going to check this out," she said. SCID Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairman Pat Rusiloski, who has been working with area legislators to get a water line to the prison since at least 1986, said, "Once the water line is in, we want it to be used. I can't see the state spending \$663,000 to build it and not use it when the study shows that it could affect some nearby wells."

Bechtel proposed three alternatives for SCID's water sources:

- Continue to rely on the facility's three wells, at an estimated monthly cost of \$30,021.37.
- Pump 240 gallons of water per minute from one well and make up the rest of the prison's water needs from the new water line, estimated to cost \$31,455.10 per month.
- Rely on the water line for all of the prison's needs, estimated to cost \$50,894.59.



The library's unsung heroes

Staff members of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, who have worked behind the scenes for many long hours on the library's annual auction, include, front row from left: Heather Mead, Jane

McMichael, LouEllen Zekas; back row from left: Millie Zarambo, Jennifer Sluzele, Ron Edwards, librarian Nancy Kozemchak and children's librarian Marilyn Rudolph. Missing from photo: Scott Shemo, head librarian Martha Wheeler.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE



STARLIGHT BALL COMMITTEE - Pictured from left are Back Mountain members of the Starlight Ball committee: Row 1: Peggy Kropiewnicki, Noxen; Lois DeGennaro, Shavertown; Comelia Romanowski, Shavertown. Row 2: Jan Gunster, Dallas.

Wilkes-Barre General plans 25th annual Starlight Ball

Wyoming Valley Health Care System's Wilkes-Barre General Hospital campus Auxiliary recently began planning its 25th annual Starlight Ball, which will be held Saturday, November 13 at Genetti's Best Western Motor Lodge, Wilkes-Barre.

The Ball will feature a drawing

for separate prizes of \$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 in cash. Tickets are \$100 per chance and are available in the Hospitality Shoppe on the hospital's main floor or from any auxiliary member. Group purchase is encouraged. Sales are limited to 350

Variance

(continued from page 1)

get a zoning permit for it because it's a storage trailer," he said. "I figured that if I needed a permit, someone would contact me about it."

When asked how long he planned to use the mobile home, he said, "Until I don't need it any more. It's only temporary. If my business expands and I have to move, I'll remove it."

Sopp testified that there aren't any utilities hooked up to the trailer, which is connected to his shop by a short enclosed hallway. During an interview June 21, he said that he had electricity in the trailer, but no water or sewer.

Several electrical outlets and operating overhead lights were in view during the interview. "It's like running an extension cord out to your garage to do some work," said Harveys Lake codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes. "As far as I'm concerned, Sopp doesn't have an electrical service into the trailer. I have no problem with it and don't consider it a violation."

However, zoning board solicitor Susan Maza, contacted later, said that electricity is considered a utility.

Joe Rymer of UGI said that electrical connections to the trailer "could be considered part of the business's main building's electrical service," even if the trailer doesn't have its own electrical meter.

The provisions of the borough's variance specifically state that no utilities are to be connected to the trailer, which also may not have any room partitions installed inside.

Sopp must apply for another variance within two years if he wishes to keep the trailer.

"I want to know why you waited two years before applying for a variance," asked zoning board member William Ziminski during the June 29 hearing.

Sopp replied that he asked for a variance because a complaint had been filed against him for having the trailer.

In response to testimony from adjoining businessman James Drury that Sopp had been cited by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) for burning of hazardous materials, Sopp said, "That's a wood stove."

But Sopp had pointed out several large bags of coal near the stove during an interview June 21, stating that he burned coal and only used scrap wood to start the coal fire.

"I got confused," he later said when asked why he had called his coal stove a wood stove. The two aren't always interchangeable.

He also said that he had never been cited by DER, but DER solid waste specialist Charles Rogers has confirmed that he had sent Sopp a notice of violation for burning waste March 22, 1993, and later instructed him to get a dumpster.

Sopp was never prosecuted, Rogers said.

Sopp was also contacted March 9, 1993, by Martin M. Cebula, an air quality specialist for DER, who advised Sopp on DER's regulations on coal heating devices.

"I have always tried to be in compliance," Sopp said.

Named to Scranton U. Dean's List

Carol Krochta, of Shavertown was named for the third consecutive semester to the Dean's List at the University of Scranton. Carol is an R.N. Supervisor at Little Flower Manor, Wilkes-Barre and hopes to graduate in May of 1994 with a Bachelor of Science, major in Nursing.

Harveys Lake sets clean-up day for July 24

The Harveys Lake EVAC council is holding an appliance day and clean-up Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

Items are to be taken to the borough garage, located behind the Little League field. There is a charge of \$10 per large appliance. Tires and microwaves will not be accepted. Motors and compressors must be removed from refrigerators.

Elderly and disabled residents may call the borough office, 639-2113 one week prior to the clean-up in order to have items picked up.

Lake Twp. recycling center open July 10

The Lake Township recycling center will be open Saturday, July 10 from 10-12 noon, accepting aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass. Plastic #1 and #2 only. No motor oil containers can be accepted. Information on recycling used oil will be available.

Religious services

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. 675-3859. Pastor Harold R. Easer, Jr. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Visitors welcome.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. 675-0122. Rev. Michael A. Bealla, Pastor. Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors, Rev. James A. Wert, Rev. Harriet L. Santos. Music Director, Rosento E. Santos. SATURDAY: 5:30 p.m., Chapel Service. SUNDAY: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Services. Visitors expected. Sunday study classes, 9:45 a.m. PHONE-A-PRAYER 675-4666.

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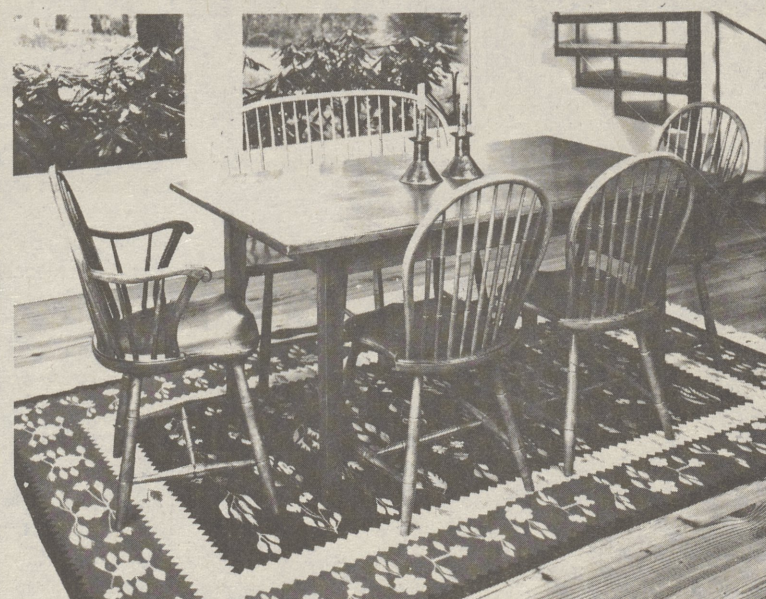
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