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## High water rates bring wave of wells

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

When Libby Sutton received her first-quarter water bill from General Waterworks, Inc., it didn't take her long to figure out how to save money; she drilled a well.

She is not alone. Officials in Dallas Borough, Kingston Township and Dallas Township have reported a wave of callers seeking information on municipal well ordinances, and well drilling companies have seen a surge in business.

None of the three municipalities currently have well ordinances or require well-drilling permits.

In December, 1992, the Public Utility Commission gave General Waterworks permission to double its yearly rates for 57 customers

in Harveys Lake and Lehman, while its 98 Noxen customers paid an additional 32 percent for water. The company's 1,774 customers in Dallas Borough and Dallas Township saw a 62 percent increase, and bills for 919 customers in Shavertown increased by six percent.

Customers felt the new rates' full impact with their first quarterly bill in 1993.

Dallas Borough resident Sutton decided to have a well drilled after receiving a quarterly water bill for \$226, up from \$180 the previous quarter.

"This is the highest it has ever been," she said. "It just kept climbing."

Mrs. Sutton said that her well cost \$3,400 to install. She figures that the well will have paid for

itself in three or four years.

"We have received lots more calls for information on drilling wells recently. With the uncertainty of water rates, people are trying to create a fixed cost for their households by drilling a well," said Drew Fitch of R.N. Fitch and Sons, who has installed five wells within the past two weeks and has orders for five more.

The average well costs between \$3,500 and \$4,500, depending on how deep the driller must go before he finds a good water source yielding between five and 10 gallons per minute, Fitch said.

Once the well, pump and storage tank have been installed, Fitch figures the monthly operating cost using a 3/4 horsepower pump will run around \$5.

"Although it's a high initial cost,

customers can expect to break even within six years," Fitch said. "Considering that the average well's life is 12 years and many last much longer, that's not too bad."

The average water customer uses approximately 15,000-20,000 gallons per quarter, which could be supplied within two days of continuous pumping by the average well, Fitch said.

General Waterworks manager Mike Coyle said that he has received only one disconnection request recently.

"We got a lot of complaints when our customers realized the full impact of the rate increases in their latest quarterly billings," he said.

But Coyle said he hasn't received many complaints about the

quality of service since the sulfur smell near the aeration tower in Shavertown was taken care of.

Back Mountain water rates could decrease early in 1994 if the Public Utility Commission approves General Waterworks' merger with Dauphin Consolidated Water Supply.

Typical residential customers of the Dallas, Shavertown and Noxen water companies using 14,000 gallons a quarter would see a 35.5 percent decrease in their water bills, from \$111.41 to \$71.84, Harveys Lake customers would see a smaller decrease, from \$65.69 to \$63.72, for 12,000 gallons of water per quarter.

Until the PUC rules on the merger with Dauphin Water Supply, Back Mountain customers' present rates will be in effect.



**WELL, WELL** - A sharp rise in the price of water has kept area well drillers busy. Above, a crew sinks a well at Harveys Lake.

## Auction was hot time for all

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

With a heat advisory listed for last weekend and daytime temperatures in the 90's, the 47th Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was certainly a hot event.

"It's been a long, hot weekend," said chairman Bill Jones Sunday evening. "We still have lots of merchandise to sell. The good bidding is holding off until later. I think that people are waiting to come until it cools off."

Shorts were the uniform of the weekend, as auction visitors lined up at the lemonade stand and the Hillside Farms ice cream truck for cool treats, browsed through the booths or collapsed onto lawn chairs in the parking lot to watch the bidding while little white moths flitted around the lights.

Tongues of heat lightning flickered on the horizon Thursday night, but didn't make good on their threat of thundershowers for the event's four nights.

In an effort to beat the stifling heat and humidity, the Odds 'n Ends booth and Mrs.

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**THAT WISTFUL LOOK** - David Roosa of Dallas cast an admiring eye on the lemonade during last week's Back Mountain library auction. David's feelings were understood by many as bidders

braved the heat to aid the local library. David's mom, Shelley, standing behind him, had already begun to quench her thirst. The auction is the library's largest fund raising event.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Parents ask for buses

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Parents of children living in Orchard View Terrace asked the Dallas school board to provide school buses for the students in grades 6-12 at the school board's regular meeting Monday, July 12.

Ruth and Thomas Peters, reading a letter from several concerned parents, said that they are concerned that students who use a shortcut to school through the woods must cross power lines and face illegal drivers and occasionally people with knives and BB guns.

Thomas Peters said that Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers has conducted a traffic study but is out of town and unable to share specific figures.

Peters said that Miers had told him that traffic in Orchard View Terrace has increased. Because the development has no sidewalks, the parents feel that the increased traffic is dangerous for the 26 middle school and nine high school students who walk through the development to school. Peters

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## Freckles, faithful friend to young and old, dies

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

She was everyone's friend, the Back Mountain's goodwill ambassador.

Every day she went to work at Dallas Centre Hardware with her "mom and dad," Jim and Carol Eason.

When Jim and Carol went on vacation, she stayed home, faithfully tending the store.

People from out of the area stopped by just to visit her. They sent her birthday cards and get-well cards when she was sick.

Her name was Freckles.

Mourned by the Eason family and her many friends in the area, the beloved 15 year-old liver and white English springer spaniel died Wednesday, July 7, hit by a truck in a freak accident in Easons' parking lot.

The driver, unfamiliar with Freckles' habit of walking slowly around the parking lot, never thought to look for her before backing up.

Monday morning the family took time from unloading a freight shipment and Michele's work in the beauty salon next door to reminisce about her.

"Freckles was my little sister and best buddy growing up," said Easons' daughter, Michele. "She always slept on my bed."

Jim Eason remembered when the family first bought the hard-

ware store and Freckles was his only companion at work.

"Usually she never barked," he said. "But if I had to go in back for something, all I had to do was tell her to watch the store. If a customer came in, she let me know."

Freckles had the run of the store as its good-will ambassador, escorting customers in and out, lying across the front steps and sunning herself on the front sidewalk on her break.

When freight came in, she helped Jim open the boxes.

"The contractors who came in didn't make a big fuss over her, but they always gave her a friendly pat on the head," Carol Eason said.

Carol, who operated the beauty salon before her daughter took it over, remembered Freckles' relationship with her customers.

"Every week when I did Florence West's hair, her husband would leave the car door open so that Freckles could hop in and visit with him," she said. "One day Florence was finished early, but when she went to the car to go home, her husband told her to go back inside. He wasn't finished talking with Freckles."

Freckles developed a penchant for tennis balls after a tennis-playing customer brought her a few spent ones from his games.

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POST FILE PHOTO

**FAITHFUL FRECKLES** - Freckles, the beloved springer spaniel owned by Jim and Carol Eason and a well-known resident of their hardware store, died last week. She is shown in 1990, when her front paw was in a cast healing a broken bone.

## DUI arrest Kehler's second in 3 years

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

When Harveys Lake Borough councilman Thomas Kehler was arrested for driving under the influence two weeks ago, it was his second arrest on the charge in

three years.

Kehler was arrested Thursday, July 1, by Dallas Borough Patrolman James Drury after Drury saw him driving erratically, weaving his Jeep pickup truck on the

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