

Old Exxon may become an Orloski's Quick Mart

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

If the Dallas Borough zoning board approves an application for variances for front and side setback regulations and sign height requirements, the borough could become the home of a 2,000 square-foot Orloski's Quick Mart. Edward F. Orloski of Orloski's Service Stations and Quick Marts, Inc. said that he plans to purchase the site of the former Dallas Exxon if the borough approves his variance requests.

Orloski said that he will demolish the former gas station and erect a modern "Quick Mart" and self-service gas station in the same approximate location as the old building.

"It's cheaper to demolish the old building and build a new one than to redo all the plumbing, wiring and interior of the existing one," he said.

The former Dallas Exxon station was built sometime during

the 1940's and operated by Clyde Birth, who sold Esso gasoline, according to Dave Spurlin, who took over the lease in 1976.

Additional space was added in the mid-1960's, Spurlin said.

Birth's widow sold the building to Exxon, which leased it to Jack Doney for six years, until Spurlin took it over.

Orloski's already operates two businesses in the Back Mountain, the former BP stations owned by Mahaffey Oil Co. on Carverton Road in Trucksville, now a Citgo station, and on Route 309 near Commonwealth Telephone in Dallas Township, now a Texaco station.

It's too early to tell what brand of gas - Shell, Texaco or Citgo - will be available at the proposed new gas station, Orloski said.

"Before I make any more plans, I want to get approval on the zoning variances," he said.

The Dallas Borough zoning board will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 16, to act on Orloski's application.



BURNED IN HIS MEMORY - Adam Morris demonstrates how deep a trench was burned by a downed power line in his family's yard. Lightning struck a utility pole near the Morris home September 3, and the line burned for nearly an hour.

Lightning bolt leaves lasting impression on Morris family

September 3, 1993 will be a day that Bonnie Morris and her two children, Larry and Adam, won't soon forget.

At 2 in the morning, Bonnie was awakened by a severe lightning storm. After going downstairs, she looked out the window and saw lightning strike a nearby utility pole. Within seconds a 15-foot long orange flame was blazing brightly in her yard. Thinking that her home's roof or a tree was on fire, she ran upstairs, gathered up Larry, 13, and Adam, 10, and rushed them to her car, planning to drive out of danger.

"As I put the car in reverse, I looked back and noticed that the power lines were across my driveway," Bonnie said. "And it was actually a main power line that was burning. I almost drove through them!" With her husband, Larry, away for the day, she pondered what to do next, but not for long.

Abandoning the car, Bonnie and the boys, barefoot and wearing pajamas, raced to the neighbor's house, along the way receiving small shocks through their feet. More shocks were in store for them when they arrived at the house and touched the metal door frame. The boys received only minor jolts, but Bonnie was shocked so badly the current went through her and into Thelma Burkholder, the home owner.

At that point, Ray Burkholder called the Sweet Valley fire department. The fire continued to burn for nearly an hour before the power was cut off. Electricity wasn't restored until 8 a.m.

The next day, Bonnie was still suffering muscle spasms as a result of the electrical charges her body had absorbed. The yard, meanwhile, was left with a scorched 15-foot long trench as much as a foot deep.



Dallas playground will be re-dedicated

The Dallas Elementary PTO will re-dedicate the playground to the memory of Larry Dauksis on Friday, Sept. 17 at 2 p.m., at the playground. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held inside the elementary school. The playground won a 1988 Chamber of

Commerce "Pride of Place" award. Speakers will include Ruth Tetschner, principal of Dallas Elementary school; Gerry Wycallis, superintendent of schools; Richard Williams, project architect; and Liz Lloyd, project coordinator. The public is invited to attend.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Audubon Society will meet September 20 in Dallas

The September Membership Meeting of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society will be held on September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dallas United Methodist Church. The program, entitled "Birds, Birds, Birds", will cover the history, diet and care of caged birds.

The speakers, John F. Lenahan of Dallas and Debbie Uffalussy of Hamlin, will bring some of their feathered friends including budgies, cockatiels, a lory (a member of

the parrot family), and a cockatoo to the meeting.

Lenahan and Ms. Uffalussy are affiliated with many local and national Caged Bird Associations including the Anthracite Bird Club, the Pocono Area Avicultural Society, the American Budgerigar Society and the American Federation of Aviculture.

Their presentation will be both entertaining and informative. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

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