

# John Wertman is a Monopoly magnate

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

John Wertman bankrupted five people Sunday afternoon, but no one lost their homes.

Competing in two rounds against 71 other players, the Dallas man won a Monopoly tournament which benefitted the Wyoming Valley Montessori School.

He now has a seat at a state championship tournament sponsored by Parker Brothers, manufacturers of the famous Depression-era game in which players buy and sell blocks of property, utilities, houses and hotels on a board with streets named after those in Atlantic City.

"It was tough," Wertman said. "To qualify in the first round, you had to be in the top six players. I was in first place."

Officials added up players' assets - real estate, houses, hotels and cash-on-hand - to determine first round winners.

Then the fun began. In the second round, all six qualifying players jockeyed for positions on one board, attempting to snap up prime real estate and prevent their opponents from gaining any advantages.

They had only 90 minutes.

"I got a good 1-1/2 blocks as quickly as I could," Wertman said, showing the string of properties between Atlantic Ave. and the Boardwalk (Atlantic, Ventor, Marvin Gardens, Pacific, North Carolina and Pennsylvania avenues, the Waterworks, Short Line Railroad, Park Place and the Boardwalk) on his board.

*"Get full blocks of prime real estate. Sell only when you have to, then sell high."*

John Wertman  
Monopoly winner

It's a good spot - between Marvin Gardens and Pacific Ave. is the infamous "Go to jail" square, along with blocks for the Community Chest, Luxury Tax and Chance, blocks which aren't for sale but can cost unlucky players a bundle if they land there.

Between these and all of Wertman's houses and hotels he had competitors coming and going.

Wertman, 24, has been playing Monopoly with his family for fun since he was six years old.

"They kept telling me that I'd win," he laughed. "They're thrilled."

Held at King's College, the tournament netted the Wyoming Valley Montessori School approximately \$4,000.

Businesses in the Wyoming Valley supported the game by purchasing blocks on the Monopoly board, entitling them to send two players each to the tournament.

Wertman had won a drawing for a player's spot sponsored by *The Dallas Post*, which had bought St. Charles Place.

Wertman will now advance to state competition, whose winner will play in a United States regional tournament, in which the winner will receive \$1 million.

Parker Brothers is sponsoring



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

**WINNING TECHNIQUE** - Dallas native John Wertman shows off some of the techniques which he used to win the Monopoly tournament to benefit the Wyoming Valley Montessori School October 24 at King's College.

those tournaments. The dates and locations haven't yet been announced.

What makes a Monopoly champion?

Without divulging his secret winning strategy, Wertman hinted, "Get full blocks of prime real estate. Sell only when you have to, then sell high."

## Get spooked at the Lehman Haunted Barn October 28-31



**HAVING A GHASTLY TIME** - The Graveside Singers are from left, Tindar Bouhl, Cindy Loams, Jerry Janik, Jimmy Bones.

The 11th Annual Haunted Barn in Lehman, is the new home of a phenomenal performing group call "The Graveside Singers". This group consists of four dedicated musicians who have performed at numerous gravesides throughout the Wyoming Valley. Their repertoire includes a variety of tunes for young and old such as: "Skin and Bones" and "Nobody Loves A Ghost".

There will be continuous shows in conjunction with the Lehman Haunted Barn on October 28-31. The Haunted Barn is located behind the Lehman Post Office. Performance times will be from 7 to 10 p.m. on school nights and 7 to 11 p.m. on weekends.

The hosts for this concert series include: the Lehman U.M.Y.F., the Lehman Volunteer Fire Co., the Lehman Area Girl Scouts and

the Wyoming Valley Children's Aid Fund. The Graveside Singers have graciously agreed to donate all of their profits to these groups. Cost of admission is \$3 for all ages.

For further information, call the Spook Line: 675-1216.

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# Local 4-H'ers to ride in state horse show

Fifteen Luzerne County 4-H'ers will be representing the county and district at the State 4-H Horse Show to be held October 29-31 at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg.

They are: Tania Atherholt, Lehman, Clover Leaf Barrel Race Pony and Paint Yearling Filly; Amber Atherholt, Lehman, Stock Type Horse Yearling Gelding; Christy Callahan, Dallas, Hunter Hack Horses; Katie Conyngham, Dallas, Hunter Seat Equitation, Jr.; Rebecca Conyngham, Dallas, Pleasure Pairs, Hunter Ponies Under Saddle and Hunter Hack Ponies; Nettie Ginocchetti, West Wyoming, Hunter Seat Equitation Sr. and Hunter Horses Under Saddle.

Also, Alisa Harris, Dallas, Working Hunter Ponies; Leigh Ann Hayman, Shickshinny, Quarter Horse Yearling Filly; Lisa Isabel, Hunlock Creek, Clover Leaf Barrel Race Horse; Justin Kreller, Sweet Valley, Grooming & Showmanship 12 years & under; Bonnie Kretchik, West Pittston, Hunter Ponies Under Saddle;

Devon Lewis, Harveys Lake, Pleasure Pairs and Pleasure Pony Driving; Amy Lloyd, Dallas, Hunter Hack Ponies; Jane Ulitchney, Sweet Valley, Working Hunter Horses and Becky Yeisley, Dallas, Pole Bending Pony.

In order to participate in the State 4-H Horse Show, these members had to be winners at the county and district elimination shows. At the district level, members had to compete against members from six other counties. These members will now be competing against approximately 600 other 4-H members from across the state.

For those showing at the State 4-H Horse Show it means a year of long hours and hard work with their horses. It's also the highest honor of the year for them in the 4-H program.

For more information on the 4-H horse program, contact Donna Grey, Penn State Cooperative Extension, 5 Water Stret, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 or phone 825-1701.

## Dallas Halloween Parade Oct. 31 at former township school

The Dallas Kiwanis Halloween Parade will assemble at 12 p.m. at the township school by the Little League Field on Church Street, Dallas, Sunday, October 31.

Judging will be at 12:30 p.m. The parade starts at 1 p.m. In the event of rain, the parade will be held indoors at the Dallas Elementary School.

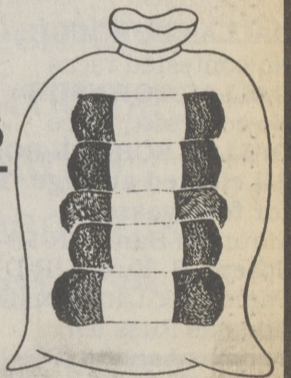
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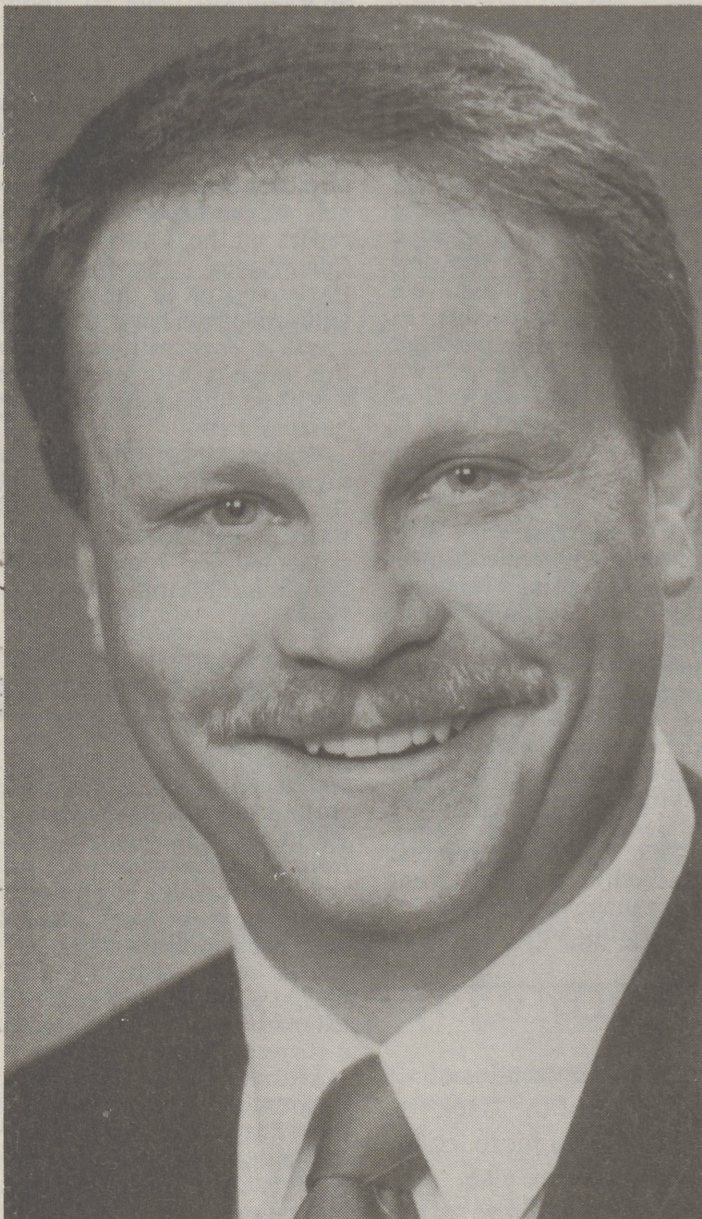


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- Active in Community Service - Dallas Kiwanis, Back Mountain Police Association & Teaching Sunday School.

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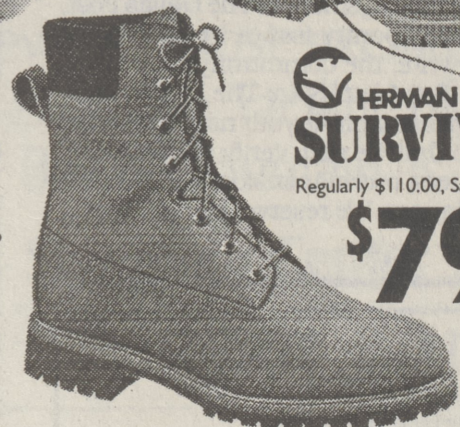
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