

Two Huntsville homes receive historic preservation awards

□ 'The Follies' and 'Damsite' honored by the Wyoming Valley Historical and Geological Society

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Two historic homes at Huntsville Corners, one the oldest in the Wyoming Valley, have recently received historic preservation awards from the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.

Damsite, recently purchased by Jennifer and Steven Dressler from Lindsay and Tony Butler, and The Follies, owned by Lenora and Ken Hayden, were among the seven historic preservation award recipients, honored April 22 at the society's 137th annual dinner meeting.

The historic preservation awards are given to the buildings, not their owners, Ken Hayden said.

Damsite's former owners, Lindsay and Tony Butler, had worked for eight years taking photos and completing endless forms in an attempt to get their home nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission.

Joining forces with the Haydens, across the five corners at the end of Follies Road, they were able to convince Gregg Ramsey of

the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission to visit Huntsville in March, 1993.

A tour of the five corners area and seeing 15 buildings more than a century old clustered around it was all that it took to convince Ramsey to declare a dozen homes, including Damsite and The Follies, eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission.

The homes were nominated for the local historic preservation awards because their restorations faithfully retained their original character, architecture and appearance.

"We worked hard and knew that we had done a good job of preserving our home," Lindsay Butler said. "Being recognized by a local organization is very satisfying - it validates all of our work and love for Damsite."

Damsite was built in 1796 as a Connecticut half-house by Jared Baldwin and predates the Nathan Dennison homestead in Forty Fort by a year.

Built in 1830, The Follies still has its original iron latches and locks, and sturdy hand-hewn

beams with wooden pegs instead of nails.

It was restored by the Haydens.

"We're very glad to receive the preservation award because we literally rescued this house," Ken Hayden said. "It was in bad shape due to many years of neglect."

Damsite was recently purchased by the Dresslers, attorneys who moved here from the greater New York metropolitan area.

"I'm looking at the area through new eyes after living so long in Manhattan," Steven Dressler, a Kingston native, said. "It's spectacular!"

"This is what we wanted - a very old home," Jennifer Dressler said. "When we first walked into the kitchen and saw the exposed beams, we knew immediately that Damsite was the home for us."

The Dresslers didn't know that they would live in a home which predates the Nathan Dennison homestead by a year.

"Of course we plan to follow through the paperwork and get listed in the National Register," they said.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS - Showing off their historic preservation award from the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society are Huntsville residents Ken and Lenora Hayden, owners of The Follies, and Steven and Jennifer Dressler, who recently purchased Damsite from Tony and Lindsay Butler.

Special play will highlight service for children

As a conclusion of the 1993-1994 Sunday School year, the students of the Trucksville United Methodist Sunday School will conduct the annual Children's Day Service on June 5, at the 11 a.m. Worship Service.

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Church, the children will begin with a portrayal of Jacob and Sarah Rice.

Jacob Rice, a local preacher, started the first Methodist Class in 1816.

One of the first trustees, he deeded the land on which the church was built.

The play, an original script, will conclude with a look at a present day Sunday School Class.

Following the Worship Service the Sunday school teachers will host a family picnic. All are invited.

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Spelling champs

Showing off one of the trophies won by first and second place winners in Gate of Heaven's spelling bee are, back row: Katie O'Brien and Alma DeRojas, grades seven and eight; front row: Katie Mullins and Kim Urban, grades four through six.

Back Mountain briefs

Youngbloods entertain relatives

Francis and Jane Youngblood of Shavertown and John (Jack) and Betty Youngblood of Centerville, VA, were recent guests at the residence of Joseph and Catherine Youngblood of Shavertown. Another get-together is planned for July.

Super Sunday at Dallas Baptist

Dallas Baptist Church will hold Super Sunday, May 29, with a church-wide fellowship picnic after morning worship service on church grounds.

Dress casual and stay after church. The church will provide hot dogs and coffee, paper plates and cups.

Bring a covered dish to share and cold beverages.

Car wash aids roundballers

The Dallas Girls' Basketball Team will hold a car wash May 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Noon's Service Station on the Memorial Highway in Dallas.

Proceeds from the car wash will benefit the girls' efforts to attend a Basketball Team Camp this summer.

'Y' has backyard swim classes

The Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA will offer a Backyard Swimming program, designed to have YMCA certified swimming instructors come to a privately owned pool and teach children and adults water safety and swimming skills.

The classes will meet twice a week for two weeks, from June 27 through August 19.

Each class will last 45 minutes. For more information call the Wilkes-Barre YMCA at 823-2191.

Winter damage loans available

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has declared Luzerne County eligible for FmHA Emergency (EM) physical loss loans due to damages and losses caused by excessive snow and ice occurring January 1, 1994, to the present.

Applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

Requests for applications forms may be directed to Farmers Home Administration, 911 West Main Street, Plymouth, PA 18651. Telephone 717-779-0736.




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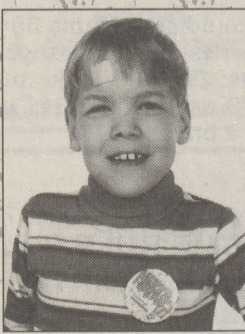


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Josh Kupstas

For most kids, life is full of them. But for others, some chances are harder to come by. Seven-year-old Josh Kupstas of Shavertown has spent his whole life fighting for the chance to experience childhood. Weighing only 1 pound, 2 ounces at birth, Josh has logged more than 1,000 days as a hospital inpatient for serious residual respiratory complications.



Brynne Harris

Five-year-old Brynne Harris of Williamsport suffered a severe facial injury after being struck by the blades of a fan. Through the efforts of the many doctors and nurses who treated her, her family's love and her own determination, Brynne is making the most of her chances enjoying school and beginning to read.

Tune into the 21-hour telethon to see Josh's story broadcast live from Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and Brynne's story broadcast live from Disneyland in California.


16 WNEP

The 21-hour telethon begins Saturday, June 4, at 9 p.m.

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