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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

**NEW ARRIVAL** - Now called the Gypsy Queen, this 1921 Richardson launch will be restored and maybe renamed before it again feels the water of Harveys Lake. Shown with the boat, from

left, Bruce Meyers, who found the boat in New York, Armand Mascioli, one of the three owners, and Joe Paglianite, owner of Grotto Pizza and the landing where the boat will be moored.

## 1921 boat will cruise lake soon

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Old-timers visiting Harveys Lake might do a double-take when they see the boat sitting on the shoreline opposite Grotto Pizza.

It strongly resembles the launches which once plied the lake's waters, younger cousins to the four famous Harveys Lake steamers Acoma, Natoma, Wilkes-Barre and Kingston.

The resemblance is more than coincidence - the new arrival was built by the builder of the original steamers and launches, Richardson's Boat Works of Buffalo, New York.

Steamer service between the hotel district at the inlet and the lake's north corner began in 1891, during the lake's heyday as a fashionable resort, and ended in 1938. The first double-deck steamer, the *Natoma*, was launched in 1900.

"We wanted to bring a piece of Harveys Lake history back to the lake," said Armand

*The same builders crafted the Natoma and other boats that sailed the lake 50 years ago*

Mascioli, one of the boat's three owners. "Bruce Meyers, owner of the Harveys Lake Boat Works, found the boat in New York State through one of his contacts."

Mascioli, Nick Arnone and Dr. Halloran pooled their resources to purchase the 40-foot boat and bring it to the lake from Lake Seneca, one of New York's famous Finger Lakes, where it had been in service for many years.

"It's in excellent shape," Mascioli said. "It's made of mahogany and cedar, all beautifully finished, and has a gasoline-powered six-cylinder Sterling inboard engine. That may be the original engine, and is in very

good shape."

All that's needed to get it in the water are a new rudder, some minor engine work, caulking, sanding and a coat of paint, he said.

Depending on how work progresses, Mascioli hopes to have it in the water by the end of the summer.

Presently named the *Gypsy Queen*, the boat may get a new name along with its new face.

Once refurbished, the boat will be moored in front of the Grotto.

"It will be for personal use, not for hire - we're not set up for that," Mascioli said. "There are too many regulations involved."

The owners will make sure that the *Gypsy Queen* complies with all state and Coast Guard safety regulations, such as fire extinguishers, life jackets and horns, he added.

"Just think - when you see the launch cruising the lake's waters, you'll think that you stepped back in time 50 years," Mascioli said.

## Towns study combined police force

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Officials from seven Back Mountain communities have taken the first step in what may be a journey to forming a regional police department.

Representatives from Dallas Borough and Kingston, Jackson, Franklin and Lehman townships met at Penn State August 4 to create a study commission and lay the groundwork for a feasibility study, funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.

Lake Township and Harveys Lake Borough officials have also said they are interested in participating in the study, although their representatives weren't at the meeting.

Dallas Township is the only large municipality to decline participation, joined by Ross Township.

The study is a no strings attached deal - none of the participating municipalities will be forced to join a regional police force if the study recommends one.

Performed by consultant Dick Bonneville, retired Lower Windsor Township police chief and second-generation police officer, the study

will take a long, hard look at the operations of each local police department - everything from the number of police officers on duty and their training to each community's demographics.

Each municipality's representative will complete a survey form describing its police department and send it to Bonneville by September 15.

*Dallas Township is only large holdout from study commission*

As part of his study, Bonneville plans to visit each town after receiving the forms.

Bonneville will submit his recommendations for or against police consolidation and if he suggests it, a breakdown of costs to each municipality and a suggested plan of organization for the regional department.

A regionalized police force can add new member municipalities as it operates, Bonneville said.

The costs would be divided among the participating municipalities, based on population or a combination of population, assessed market values, road mileage, number of businesses or total municipal taxes collected.

Communities in the Back Mountain presently offer a wide range of police services.

Franklin Township never replaced its chief, Richard Bartholomew, who retired in 1987, and relies on the Pennsylvania State Police, while Lehman Township has a chief and several officers but no written police contract.

Jackson Township and Harveys Lake Borough have a chief, assistant chief and a handful of full and part-time patrolmen, while Kingston Township has a chief, sergeant and several patrolmen.

See POLICE, pg 14

## Route 309 to be paved, lanes opened this week

Several months of disrupted traffic patterns and one-lane traffic will soon end as the first part of the \$2.5 million highway improvement project on Route 309 is finished.

A stretch of Route 309 in Kingston Township between Harris Hill Road (the former Howard "Duke" Isaacs car lot) and Center Street (Burger King) has been widened to accommodate five lanes and should be completed within a week, weather permitting.

According to site foreman Jeff Miller, Route 309 will be prepared for paving and two coats of blacktop will be applied.

"Motorists should be cautious. We'll have heavy machinery moving around on the road during this time," he said.

Bids for the next two phases in the highway project, redesigning of the Route 415/118 intersection and the Route 309 intersections at Franklin St. and Offset Paperback (Main St.) will be awarded in mid-October.

Traffic lights and concrete islands to control traffic flow will be installed at these three intersections.

by Grace R. Dove

## They're over 50, single, and having fun

By JACK HILSHER  
Post Correspondent

Ever read this?

'50 SINGLES CLUB, meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Pancake House, Union St., Luzerne. For information, 675-1910 or 283-5614 after 6 p.m. weekdays or all day on weekends.

If so, you probably thought "another one of those Miss Lonely Hearts ads," like this one:

RECENTLY WIDOWED WF 60, non-smoker, social drinker, enjoys movies, dining out, long walks. Seeks sensitive S/DWM, 60+, for friendship and possible relationship.

If that's what you thought, sorry, you'd be dead wrong. And that's what you'll be told if you call the Dallas 675 number "for information." Club president Mary Lou Thompson of Tunkhannock Highway would be happy to set you straight.

"We are definitely not a matrimonial bureau, heavens no!" she would say. "Our goals are strictly social; we are after the company of people our own age - 50 and up - and we think we are successful."

Those 'White Female' ads make me laugh - why one even said 'cuddling and hugging desirable!' Heck, we don't have the time or inclination for that stuff." Then she giggled and added, "of course, I have nothing against cuddling."

Club founder Thompson, now in her 50s with 40s looks, is a data transcriber for the Social Security office on East Mountain Drive.



*"We're definitely not a matrimonial bureau, heavens no!"*



**IT'S JUST GOOD FUN** - Mary Lou Thompson, top, is founder and president of the Over 50 Singles Club. The group meets every Tuesday at the Holiday Pancake House in Luzerne. The club has about 30 active members, and welcomes more.

See SINGLES, pg 2

### Hidden treasure.

Frances Slocum Park offers much more than a swimming pool. Page 3.

### World's best

triathletes are coming for the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon, which runs Sunday. Page 10.

### INDEX

14 Pages 1 Section	
Calendar.....	11
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	11
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	12
School.....	8-9
Sports.....	10

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