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## EPA will treat Lehman water

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will use a \$1.9 million Superfund grant to remove chemicals from the ground in Lehman center. By doing so, the agency hopes to also remove the chemicals from 17 wells which provide water to 30 homes in the area.

EPA on-scene coordinator Richard Fetzer reported the status of a study of MTBE-contaminated wells clustered around Lehman Corners to the Lehman Township supervisors and affected residents August 15.

MTBE is a non-carcinogenic additive of unleaded gasoline. It has been found in the wells of homes on Firehouse Road between the Kingston Nursing Home and Rte. 118; on Outlet Road from Firehouse Road to the Lake-Lehman Middle School; along the length of Mill Street; in the first block of Market Street, and along Route 118 from Bryant's Trailer Park to Meeker Road.

"MTBE dissolves in water very easily," Fetzer said. "It can show up in large quantities in a well one month, then be nearly undetectable the next. The underlying rock has many fractures, allowing the contaminated water to

move easily from one depth to another. It's a bad combination of elements to work with."

Fetzer said that he expects to have a contractor build a temporary treatment station behind the Lehman Sunoco Station and begin removing the MTBE within the next few months.

"We want to treat the source first," Fetzer said. "We know the MTBE can be removed."

The treatment station will consist of a trench dug into the ground at the point of highest contamination, from which ground water will be pumped, cleaned and returned to the ground.

"We'll be working with the Department of Environmental Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that we don't dry up any nearby wetlands," Fetzer said.

During the cleanup, the workers will continue to monitor area wells, checking their progress by concentrating on several wells with known consistently high MTBE levels, Fetzer said.

"If this doesn't work, we'll have to consider some type of public water supply to replace the wells, tying into an existing reservoir or spending about \$20,000 per home

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## Home owners eager for solution

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

More than a dozen Lehman Township residents had some tough questions for Environmental Protection Agency on-site coordinator Richard Fetzer, who reported August 15 to the township supervisors on the status of a study of contaminated wells around Lehman Corners.

The area of contamination is concentrated around Mill and Market streets, along Route 118 from Bryant's Trailer Park to Meeker Road and on Firehouse and Outlet roads.

"How will this treatment station help us?" Gil Tough asked. "Will all of the pumping lower the water level in our wells?"

Fetzer replied that the pump-

See SOLUTION, pg 14

## Thieves get cop chief's badge

Jackson Township police chief Donald Jones may be ordering a new gold badge and police identification.

According to township police, burglars removed the badge and identification from Jones's Gates Road home August 12 between 9:30 and 11:50 a.m.

Also missing were a pair of binoculars, \$150 in cash and two gold Shriner's rings, one with the initials D.J.J., police said. Police couldn't provide an estimated value of the items taken.

The burglars had entered the home by forcing open a rear door, which was discovered and reported around 12:15 p.m. by Jones's wife, Jennie. Chief and Mrs. Jones were away from the house at the time of the burglary, police said.

Anyone with information on the burglary should contact the Jackson Township police at 675-8500. Patrolman Ben Bigus is the investigating officer

## They're off!



Racers entered the water at Harveys Lake to start the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon Sunday. Heavy rain and frequent lightning

added to the challenge of the race. A list of local individual finishers appears on the sports page.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Sewage sinks tractor

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Sewage leaking into one of his fields on Chase Road could force Jackson Township resident Benjamin "Bud" Spencer to destroy at least an acre of strawberry plants.

While spraying the plants August 5, Spencer's tractor became stuck in a puddle of what appeared to be raw sewage leaking from a long pipe buried in the field.

After his tractor sank into the stuff, he contacted Mark Carmon of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

DER sent a water quality inspector to Spencer's field August 8 to dig test holes and take samples after dye tests determined that a nearby Jackson Township Municipal Authority pumping station wasn't the culprit.

"By the time that our inspector got there, Mr. Spencer had hired a contractor, who dug the pipe up and traced it to a nearby Chase

See SEWAGE, pg 14

## WWII prisoner feels very lucky to be alive

By JACK HILSHER  
Post Correspondent

Al Brown of James Street in Shavertown isn't particularly thrilled to think back 50 years, because those memories aren't exactly happy ones. Back then Tech/Sgt. Brown was about to become a prisoner of war in Germany for 132 long and miserable days.

It is no consolation to him that the circumstances leading up to his capture, during what became known as the "Battle of the Bulge," were as much of a shock to his Supreme Commander as to Brown or his buddies in the 28th Division. General Eisenhower's G-2 (Intelligence Officer) at SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) told "Ike" that "The Germans are all but finished." And "Monty" (British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery) said, "The Germans cannot stage a major offensive operation," and believed things were so dull he asked Ike if there was any objection to him going back to England for a spell. Wrong.

During that "dull" period 25 German divisions, numbering over 250,000 troops, were secretly preparing a major offensive over a front 85 miles long. They had grouped 970 tanks and 1,900 artillery pieces. Code-named "Christrose" it was to be the greatest attack ever mounted on the western front, and names like Bastogne, Malmedy and Hurtgen Forest were destined to become war history chapters. It would be the greatest deceptive attack every planned.

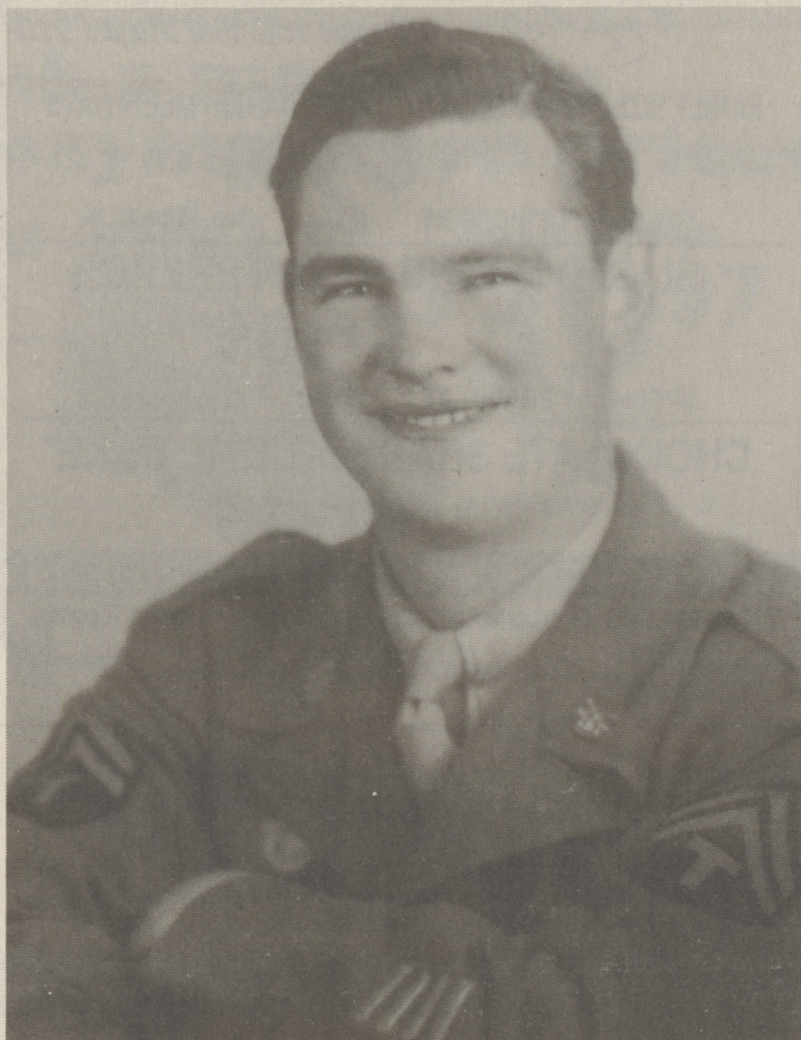
Beds of straw were laid to cover clanking noises of tank treads. Ammunition was carried into position by hand, to save gas and to keep down motor noise. Hundreds of planes were poised, including the radically new "jets" - a German first in aircraft never before used in combat.

Facing the Germans were only 75,000 American troops, comprising only six divisions, three of which had never fought. The other three were exhausted from too much fighting and were resting, being refitted and awaiting replacements. Al Brown's 28th Division was one of these.

Chancellor Hitler himself had directed preparations for the Nazis' massive effort, one which was much too large to be termed merely a "last gasp." He said, "Antwerp will be ours in a week. The Allies will be smashed and never recover; they will sue for peace." (So much for Adolf's vision.)

At midnight on December 19, 1944, the German offensive began. After a thunderous one-hour barrage from every single one of their artillery pieces, and after a brief pause, ghostly white-clad figures, twelve abreast, advanced slowly in deadly silence toward the American positions. Some sectors were lit up with high-powered searchlights, and smoke grenades made the advance even more ominous, all perhaps the first use of psy-warfare.

Another of Hitler's pet projects, typical of German ingenuity was also about to come alive. He had directed Colonel Otto Skorzeny - called the most dangerous man in



THE WAY HE WAS - Al Brown of Shavertown posed for this portrait by Albee Studios, Washington, D.C., before heading overseas during World War II, where he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944.

Europe; the Colonel once kidnapped Benito Mussolini - to hand pick and train men to dress in American army uniforms, drive American vehicles, and generally cause panic and confusion behind American lines. They were to change road signs, destroy phone lines, blow bridges, give false orders...anything to confuse, slow up or misdirect.

There were not "thousands" of Skorzeny saboteurs as rumor had it...dozens were more like it, but they were feared as word spread. A Dallas veteran of Hurtgen Forest, Paul Fiske explains that because genuine American troops all had gas masks specially issued, and the fake Americans

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## Magistrate rules against Harveys Lake business

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The war of the words at Harveys Lake is continuing with District Magistrate James Tupper's decision that Mark Sopp, operator of Creative Rooms, Inc., is violating the borough's zoning code by manufacturing in a commercial zone.

The decision was rendered August 9 after a hearing August 4.

Sopp has continued to operate his business despite two stop work

orders issued January 24, 1994; and April 27, 1994, by borough codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes, who determined that Sopp was manufacturing at his Route 415 location.

In his decision, Tupper cited Black's Law Dictionary's definition of manufacturing: "The process or operation of making wares or any material produced by hand, by machine or by any other agency; the production of articles for use from raw or prepared materials by

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### ■ It's almost done!

Work on Route 309 in Kingston Twp. is scheduled to wind down this week. Page 3.

■ Driver ed will cost more at Dallas this year. Page 3.

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