

King

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opment Council opening we came running. Harveys Lake first, then Machel Avenue, and we've never been sorry."

King and wife Carol raised sons Adrian and Randy. Both went to Sem and are now in California writing computer software. Carol taught at Wyoming Seminary a few years ago and currently is involved in a new hobby, genealogy.

She has computers - one is a laptop - and they helped her publish a book on her family tracings. "She has tracked us back as far as Adam and Eve. Before that is a question mark!" Hugh says. (Carol did not comment. She does however say her husband will not vegetate in retirement and will "always find something to do. I'm not worried about that.")

About the bikes, King says, "In 1976 I paid off investors in my company and shut it down. I had some money in my pocket, a hardware store on Main Street was for sale cheap so I bought it. Hardware held no interest, bikes did. I started out by repairing and reconditioning, then added new bikes. I had always liked to fiddle around with them, and besides enjoying

"(Bikers) are usually young and vigorous and lots of fun."

Hugh King

"Retiring" owner of The Recyclery

the work I liked bike people. They are usually young and vigorous and lots of fun."

King adds, "Right now things are somewhat slow, but just wait. Bikers are like bugs; they come out when the temperature gets into the 70's."

When the "Recyclery" first opened, 10-speed bikes were just beginning to be popular. King admits that anything over three speeds is completely unnecessary.

"A fast, a slow and a medium. That's all you need. There is a 21-speed out now. Crazy. They add speeds, or titanium, for competitive racing, and everyone goes along....they've got to have the latest inno-

vation. These people, like in many other things in the world today, are real fanatics. The big deal today is mountain bikes. Tomorrow, something else."

A King neighbor commented on the crowded pattern his endeavors have created, saying, "He gets bored. When that happens, he changes. Something else won't be boring for awhile. The thing is - he makes the decisions. As far as I know he has never been fired."

It was never boring on Main Street, and while King may miss the selling and the fun customers and helping people pick out something to ride, he won't miss the standing or all the work. He says, "I'm not in the greatest shape these days....a hip operation didn't do quite what it was supposed to do, and it's just as well that I'm going to be able to take it easier for a change. Maybe I'll do some writing...economics of course."

So downtown Dallas may change, but all his neighbors and friends hope Mr. King's own personal change will be all for the better. Enjoy your new position, Mr. King!

Bike trail

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tion wildlife print and a third prize of a night for two at a bed and breakfast inn in Dushore. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5, available from members and participating area merchants, Rimple said.

Rimple, secretary Rob Lewis and vice president Mark Albrecht are Back Mountain residents, while treasurer Glen Manahan, a Wyoming Valley resident, is also a member of the Plains Rails to Trails organization.

Rails to Trails is a unique statewide and nationwide organization dedicated to restoring abandoned railroad grades, whose gentle inclines, wide paths and sturdy construction are ideal for transformation into hiking and biking trails.

Once an important method of travel and transport, railroads and spur lines crisscrossed the Back Mountain to the lumbering areas and icehouses of Alderson, Stull and Ricketts, connecting to major lines north at Dushore and Mildred and south in the Wyoming Valley.

Many man-hours went into construction of the railroad lines, which some residents have described as an untapped resource waiting to be rediscovered. Many cross through state gamelands and some particularly beautiful country.

The area's last rail line was abandoned when Route 309 was rebuilt in 1963 and the few remaining landmark stations and the

trestle over Carverton Road were demolished.

ASTA is acquiring an easement from the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) for nearly a mile of trail rounding a wide bend above the authority's offices. There, the trail crosses over the beautiful Wildcat Falls as it cascades down the side of Bunker Hill.

Because the original railroad rights-of-way were purchased by a realtor and sold to adjacent property owners after the railroads went out of business, ASTA is exploring easements and rights-of-way rather than outright purchase of the land, Rimple said.

Land preservation and outdoor organizations such as the Back Mountain Land Trust, the Susquehanna Trailers, the Back Mountain Trailers and the Wyoming Valley Bicycle Club have become interested in developing a scenic trail in the Back Mountain.

"We would love to help form a partnership of interested citizens, organizations and public officials to create a Back Mountain greenways system," Rimple said.

ASTA will hold its second annual dinner meeting May 17 at Taste of Traditions Restaurant in Luzerne, featuring a presentation by Tom Sexton, director of the Pennsylvania chapter of the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

For more information on the raffle, dinner meeting or the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association, contact Judy Rimple at 283-9118.

Bike safety tips

All bikers, not just new ones, should beware - make that read Be Aware - of the one basic rule for safe bicycling...stay out of the other guy's way!

To make it second nature to do just that, read and remember these tips:

- **Keep to the right.** Ride with traffic, not against. This happens to be the law in every state.

- **Keep away from cars,** and watch for opening doors.

- **Slow up at intersections.** Obey traffic regulations: stop signs, red lights, behave just as though you were driving a car.

- **Use hand signals.** Don't let anyone guess your next move.

- **Yield to pedestrians.** They can't move as fast as you.

That first rule - keep to the right - is the least well-known and the most disregarded. So you may fully understand it, here is an explanation from a book every biker should own, Bikes, by Stephen Henkel, Chatham Press, Riverside, Connecticut:

"Suppose a car is moving at 30 miles an hour and keeping close to the roadside because of a curve, and you show up coming toward him on your bike. You are unlawfully driving on the left, instead of on your right, and you are approaching him head-on in the same lane.

"Say you are going toward him at 15 miles per hour, so you are approaching each other at a relative speed of 45 miles per hour (30 + 15). If he first sees you when you are 88 feet away, he has 1.3 seconds to swerve out of your way. That's not very much time.

"On the other hand, if you are correctly traveling in the same direction as the car, and keeping to the right as you should, your speed relative to the car will be 15 miles per hour. The driver would then have four seconds to move out and pass you, three times as long a period for his reflexes to react."

It's as simple as that. Do it!

By Jack Hisher

Graduates from Air Force NCO academy

Air Force Staff Sgt. Albert O. Pritchard has graduated from an Air Force major command non-commissioned officer academy at Kapaun Air Station, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Pritchard is an aircraft armament systems specialist at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

He is the son of Irene Pritchard, Huntsville Road, Dallas.

The sergeant graduated in 1980 from John S. Fine High School, Nanticoke and received an associate in 1983 from Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke.

Completes Army's cavalry scout course

Army Pvt. Jeremy C. Wilhelm has completed the cavalry scout course at Fort Knox, KY.

Wilhelm is the son of Thomas K. and Barbara A. Wilhelm of Dallas, and a 1994 graduate of Dallas High School.

Air Force Reunion scheduled

The 648th A.C. & W. Squadron, Benton, will have a reunion at the Holiday Inn, May 27-29.

Contact Tony Palisochak at 779-1694 for further information and reservations.

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