



The Dallas Post

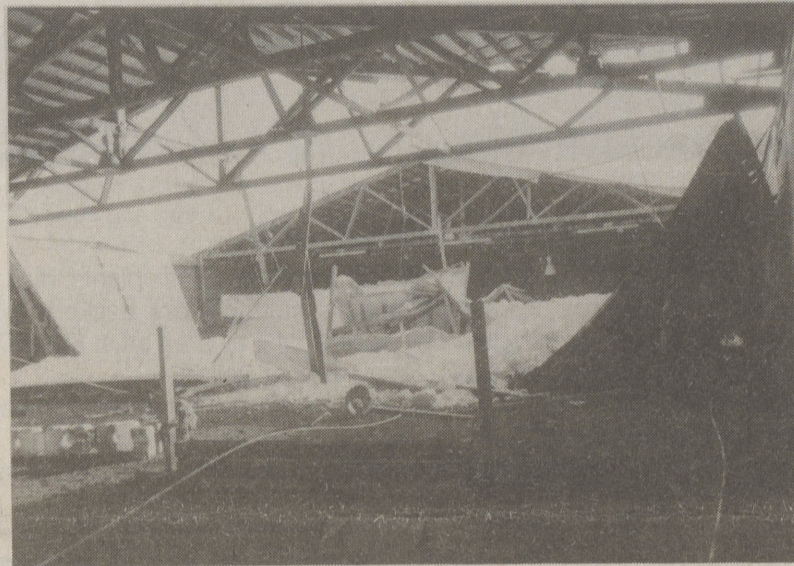
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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A small army of volunteers turned out to move horses and clean up after a section of the roof at Winterview Farm in Dallas collapsed. In top photo, Dave Schooley manned a snowblower to clear off the rest of the roof. Desiree Schooley, left, and Jocelyn

Kozick carted food to the horses that had been moved to the paddock in left photo. Above right, a gaping hole took the place of the roof over the former indoor riding ring. No animals were hurt, and the veterinarian office was undamaged.

Snow brings down part of horse barn roof

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - It was an animal lover's nightmare, made easier to accept by an army of helpful volunteers. At 11:30 Saturday night the roof over the riding arena at Winterview Farm on Machell Avenue in Dallas collapsed under the weight of record snows. Just a few hours earlier Dr. John Shaskas, his wife Kathy, and others had begun to pull all the animals out of the adjacent stables.

"With the help of many area horse people, we had the ani-

mals out into the paddock shortly after," said Kathy Shaskas. The veterinary clinic associated with the stable was unharmed.

The Shaskases had called WNEP-TV 16's Action 16 line late Saturday afternoon to alert horse owners and solicit volunteers when they first noticed the roof sagging. Between that call for help and phone calls among customers and friends, nearly 100 people showed up to move horses from the stables into the outdoor paddock.

Sure that the animals were secure, they began clearing snow from the still-intact parts

of the barn. Dave and Adam Schooley, Jason Foster, Joe Saraka and others ventured onto the roof with shovels and a snow blower to remove the heavy blanket of snow threatening the remaining structure. "I went to shake one man's hand and thank him," John Shaskas said. "He replied, 'Don't bother. I'm just here to help out,' and climbed on the roof and started shoveling."

Sharon Nulton, a riding instructor, was distraught Sunday morning at the thought that it might take months to repair the facility. John Shaskas said about 40 feet of roof was

lost on the 200-foot long building, and it would take six to eight weeks to repair.

Kathy Shaskas said she thought some of the rink might remain usable once the damages area was secured, but through teary eyes muttered, "It's still very upsetting when it's your own business."

Katie Harkins, Aubrey Budzin and Desiree Schooley, all riding students at the school, wondered if the horses would be able to stay at Winterview as they watered, fed and cleaned their equine friends.

Post reporter Grace R. Dove contributed to this article.

Parents, teachers oppose closing Westmoreland

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Parents and teachers opposed to closing the Westmoreland Elementary School made their feelings known to the school board at its regular January 15 meeting.

Closing the school and housing all students in kindergarten through third grade in the Dallas Elementary School and students in fourth and fifth grade in a new building to be built behind the present middle school is one of the options which the board is considering.

"We would like to keep our K

"If it's not broken, why try to fix it?"

Susan Baiamonte
Westmoreland PTO president

through five building," said reading specialist Rita Mundy, who teaches at Westmoreland. "We can't operate a school as a community in which all students are known and cared about if we don't know them and they don't know us, as would happen in a larger school. It's also easier to maintain discipline."

See WESTMORELAND, pg 8

Craft shop proponent will challenge ruling

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - U.S. Army Captain Roy Evans won't take "no" for an answer.

After his request to rezone property at 20 No. Memorial Highway from residential to business (B-2) was denied at the supervisors' January 10 meeting, Evans vowed to appeal it and if necessary to apply for rezoning to B-1 instead.

"The supervisors already had their minds made up behind closed doors before the meeting," he said. "I definitely plan to appeal this in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas."

Evans bought the house and garage, zoned residential, in October for \$62,000. The day after he bought it, he put it back on the market for \$95,000 under a con-

Increased business volume will help the community and will improve the quality of life."

Cpt. Roy Evans
Hopes to open craft shop

tract with Busch Real Estate. The property is at the corner of Holcomb Road, a narrow street on a steep hill leading to Pioneer Ave. The B-2 district ends at Evans's property's front line, where it abuts the cemetery, and at the rear, where it meets the Hill property. Cars would enter and exit Evans's property from the highway.

See CRAFT SHOP, pg 8

Nabbed using stolen credit cards

According to Dallas Borough police, New York residents Reginald Ukachukwu and Imeh Vdofia, both Nigerian nationals, were recently indicted by a federal grand jury in Scranton and charged with 27 counts of credit card fraud and related charges.

The two, plus a third unknown suspect, are accused of using stolen credit cards and phony New Jersey drivers' licenses to obtain cash advances from branches of the Pioneer American Bank in Luzerne, Lackawanna and Monroe counties between June and September of 1995.

They allegedly withdrew a total of \$10,950 in four transactions from the branch at the Dallas Village Shopping Center.

Patrolman Russell Devens was assisted in the investigation by the U.S. Postal Investigation Service, the U. S. Attorney's Office and the U. S. Secret Service. Police are investigating whether or not the suspects are in the country illegally.

The men are in jail and could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count if found guilty.

Lake-Lehman could save \$100G on bond refinancing

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

At its regular meeting January 9, the Lake-Lehman School Board passed a resolution which could save the district \$100,000 in interest costs, according to secretary Raymond Bowersox.

The measure appoints professionals to analyze the feasibility of refunding the school district's general obligation bonds, series of 1991, which are callable in July, 1996. \$3.2 million would be needed to call the original issue of \$3,910,000. Bowersox recommended using the firms of Wheat

First Butcher and Singer and W.H. Newbold's and Sons in a 60/40 split respectively.

The original issue is paying an interest rate of 5.5-6.25%, according to Bowersox, and was scheduled to be paid off in July, 2003. The reissued bonds, projected to have an interest rate of about 3.7-

4.4% would be paid off a few months earlier. However, according to Bowersox, if the interest rates are not feasible on the day of market, the school district is in no way obliged to go through with

See LEHMAN BOND, pg. 12

Land Trust records first transaction, looks ahead

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

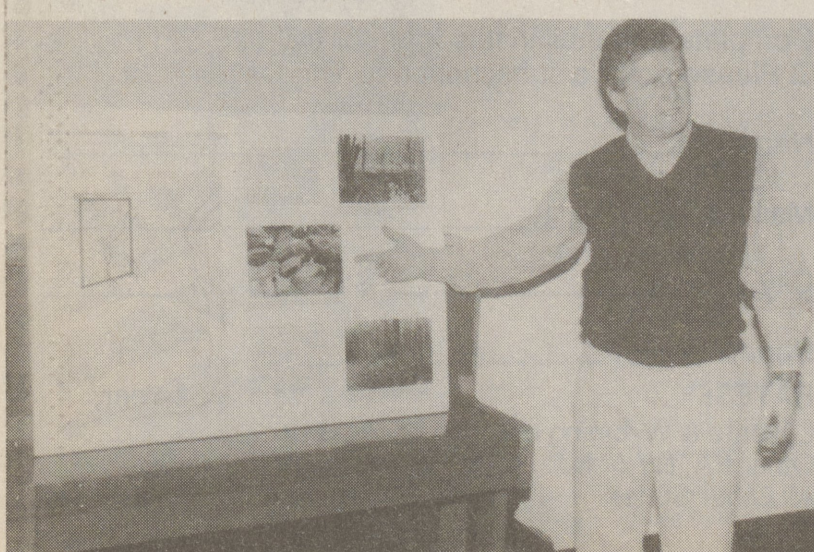
The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is wrapping up its first transaction, and members hope to line up more in 1996.

Will Conyngham, president of the organization, described the 42-acre parcel of land that will be protected by a conservation easement at the January meeting of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association. The second generation land owners, now in their early 70's, wanted to pre-

serve the Salem Township plot in the same condition they had known it. In conveying a conservation easement to the land trust, the owners have protected the acreage from development, with the trust agreeing to enforce the terms forever.

"It's a great mechanism for protecting land," Conyngham said, and it can have positive tax consequences as well. When land is protected in this way, the owner may take a tax deduction for the

See LAND TRUST, pg 10



Will Conyngham, president of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, pointed out significant features of the group's first conservation easement during a meeting of the Back Mountain Business & Professional Association.

■ Gift of sight
Shavertown optometrist Dr. Curtis Goodwin will bring used glasses to island nation. Pg 3.

■ BMT Baseball
will hold registration for boys and girls, all ages, this Saturday. Pg 9.

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