

## Back mountain

(continued from page 1)

nated probably by businessmen. They referred to the area in back of the mountain from the Wyoming Valley. One definitive border, as many of the interviewees noted, is the rock cut by Wasserott's Medical Supply Co. That is the gateway to the Back Mountain, but there are some back doors as well. The back side of the mountain range which includes Bunker Hill, Larksville Mt. and Shickshinny Mt. make one clear cut geographical border.

Where does the Back Mountain end? To the East? North? and West? Just as the original coinage of the word, it seems no one has ever put official boundaries on the region. As Marty Noon Sr. put it, "only people in N.E. PA use or are aware of the term. Someone from Colorado never heard of the Back Mountain." Except for a locally produced map of the area, can the Back Mountain be found on a nationally produced map? Probably not.

Will Conyngham, manager of Hillside Farms and president of the Back Mountain Land Trust Association said for their organizational purposes they limited the Back Mountain to these municipalities: Dallas Borough and township; Jackson Kingston, Franklin, Ross, Noxen, Lake and Lehman townships, as well as Harveys Lake Borough. Basically most of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts.

Attorney F. Charles Petrillo, author of Harveys Lake Ghost Towns of North Mountain and several other local historical books, graciously returned my phone call and informed me that

the term Back Mountain is a relatively recent term. During all the research he has done for his various books, he did not run across the origination of the term.

As a lifelong Back Mountain resident, amateur historian and geographer, I shall attempt to put boundaries on the Back Mountain and logically support my doing so.

As previously stated and commonly understood, The gateway to the Back Mountain is the 309 rock cut between Luzerne and Trucksville. The Bunker Hill, Larksville Mt. and Shickshinny Mt. ranges form the southern natural boundary. That's the easy one. The other three boundaries are not so clear cut.

The northern boundary appears to be formed by the North Mt. range; Red Rock to Noxen Mountain. The Back Mountain ends where the Endless Mountains begin. The western boundary is the difficult one. Does the Back Mountain end at Sweet Valley? Muhlenburg? Huntington Mills? Shickshinny?

I nearly gave up on the origination of the term Back Mountain. A day before the press deadline, I talked to 92-year resident of the Back Mountain who wishes to remain nameless. She explained, in the late 30's or early 40's area businesses had a contest; name the area. Residents filled out entry forms on what do you want the area to be named. She submitted, The Lakes Region, but the Back Mountain won.

I like Gary McCoog's answer the best, "(the geographical boundaries are made up) only in the minds of the people that make it up."



Marty Noon Jr., left, says the Back Mountain ends about 10 miles north of the service station along Route 415 in Dallas operated by his father, Marty Sr.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Feb. 23 - 29:

Paul D. Wasserott III, et ux, Dia Wallace Johnson, 86 Church St., Dallas Twp., \$110,000.  
 Charles J. McAvoy, et ux, to Donald M. Shinal, et ux, 1.06 ac., Franklin Twp., \$30,000.  
 George A. Taylor, et ux, to Gerard Harris, et ux, 39.56 ac., Harveys Lake Bor., \$15,000.  
 Carol D. Fink, et al, to Robert A. Young, 2.05 ac. Hunlock Twp., \$95,000.  
 Clarke Piatt, to Lnor Stoodley, et ux, 1.57 ac., Stoodley Sub., Hunlock Twp., \$6,000.  
 Sylvia J. Bredbenner, et vir, to Donald W. Phillips, et al, Lot 1, Brown Subdv., Jackson Twp., \$45,900.

Michael G. Crake, Jr., to Keith A. Roberts, et ux, Shadtree Rd., Kingston Twp., \$95,000.  
 John T. Jones, et ux, to Daniel P. Mimnaugh, et ux, Pioneer Ave., Kingston Twp., \$90,000.  
 ZavaLosea Inc. to Dierdre Krasner, 4,344 ac. Green Briar Sub., Lake Twp., \$803.  
 Mary Blair V. Chapuisat, to Patrick J. Adonizio, et ux, Lake Twp., \$350,000.  
 Larry Gronchick, et ux, to Timothy John Kotarski, 17.35 ac., Lehman Twp., \$79,900.  
 Mary C. Stoneman, vir al, to William T. Levi, et ux, Lehman Twp., \$70,000.  
 Joseph D. Miller, et ux, to David O. Hughes, et ux, 3 parcels, Ross Twp., \$67,000.  
 Lakeside Construction & Mngt. Inc., to Peter W. Specce, et al, Ross Twp., \$56,000.

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Shown preparing for the event are committee members, from left, seated: Janet Casey, Lorraine Regan, Bonnie Dombroski, Kathy Harrington and Jim Reino. Standing, Betsy Gaffney, George Nelson, Patrice Persico, Karen Fry and Bob Ryan.

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