

# Pool

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have any available time for us any more. It would be much more convenient to have a pool here in the Back Mountain."

When she was growing up, her school had its own pool, she added.

Since its inception two years ago, the Dallas swim team has practiced at College Misericordia, which is too shallow for diving and may encounter scheduling problems as the college's program grows, she added. Dallas pays the college \$25 per hour for pool time.

All the practice time at Wilkes-Barre Area's pool at the Kistler School has been taken by swim teams from Myers High School and the YMCA, whose pool is too small and too hot for competition. Wyoming Seminary's pool is also too small, she said.

Paul Gaffney, whose daughter is an eighth-grader at Gate of Heaven School, would also like to see a pool at Dallas, where his daughter will enter ninth grade in September. She's a member of the YMCA swim team.

"It's a terrific activity for anyone, whether they're a child or an adult," Gaffney said. "Swimming has many benefits - it's good for other athletes for training and injury rehabilitation and falls in

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Gerald Wycallis  
Superintendent of Schools

line with the district's goals. A pool would be a great asset to the community."

Sue Ryan, a former swimming coach at Wyoming Area and Bishop Hoban, believes a pool might become an incentive for area private school students to attend Dallas. The high school she graduated from also had its own pool.

"The Back Mountain has many good athletes and many swimmers," she said. "The Dallas swim team is growing and the district should continue to be progressive. Without a doubt a pool would be an asset to the entire community."

Superintendent Gerald Wycallis said the Middle School

was originally designed to house a pool near the tennis courts when it was built in 1969, but the board decided to omit it from the final plans. "It was a very controversial issue at the time," he said.

He's not sure whether or not the present board is interested in a pool.

In addition to building a pool, the district would also have to pay for a certified staff, which along with routine maintenance could cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year, Wycallis said. The district would also be required to strictly control its use and storage of chlorine, considered a dangerous chemical, and other pool chemicals, he added.

"When I look at the cost of building and maintaining it, I'm more focused on educational programs," he said.

*"Without a doubt a pool would be an asset to the entire community."*

Sue Ryan  
Pool supporter



**Roots are their business.** Members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society met recently at Mary Lou Swingle's home in Shavertown. From left, Elaine Dembrowski, Dorothy Knafka, Alta Kubick, Swingle, Dean Sawyer, Marge Sawyer, Marion Oblen.

# Family

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ried Letha Blanch Gordon on March 4, 1924. I discovered by accident that Letha filed for divorce in 1929, which was unusual for women to do at the time," said Price.

Bryant was last seen in Kingston, and Price says, "It has been rumored that he was killed in a truck logging accident in Virginia or West Virginia around 1930. I've searched the death records of those states between 1920-60, and in Pennsylvania between 1930-70, but without success."

Now staying with relatives after a short teaching stint in France, Price is eager to resume his research. "I have to get current with all the genealogical organizations I've been involved with," he said.

One of those organizations is based right here in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, founded in 1992 with just six members, has grown to include not only members from northeast PA, but throughout the U.S. and internationally. According to society vice-president Dean Sawyer, "The rapid growth is just an indication of the widespread interest of people worldwide in genealogy and their family history."

"We are a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people trace their family history. There are some organizations that charge for these services, but we're not in it for money," said Sawyer.

*"Basically, you start with your parents and grandparents, and go back as far as you can."*

Mary Lou Swingle  
Shavertown, president, Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

According to society president Mary Lou Swingle, of Shavertown, beginning research is fairly simple. "Basically, you start with your parents and grandparents, and go back as far as you can," she said. The Society also provides new members with a Starter Kit, which includes various sources to research and charts to record your findings.

Some local sources suggested by the society include the Luzerne County Courthouse and the Osterhout Library. "There's also a branch of the National Family History Library, which is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Clarks Summit," said Swingle. The Church of Latter-Day Saints keeps very extensive genealogical records, with their main library branch based in Utah.

An important source that is often overlooked at first is any living relatives that you have contact with. "Some people go right to researching courthouse files,

when an older relative might have the information they need," said Sawyer. Some relatives may also have a family Bible or journals.

The society also has its own library in Swingle's home, where members can borrow materials they need for a two week period.

"Information is also exchanged over the Internet for our members who have computers, and at our monthly meetings," said Sawyer. Information is also exchanged via queries placed in the society's quarterly newsletter, published in March, June, September, and December.

Researching can become complicated, but according to member Carol King of Dallas, "If it were easy it wouldn't be any fun." Mrs. Swingle adds, "Once you get started it's hard to put it down."

The society holds its meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Veterans Administration Hospital, East End Blvd., Wilkes-Barre. Meetings are not held in July, when a field trip is taken, or in August and December. Annual membership fee is \$12, and a lifetime membership is also available for \$100.

To obtain more information about membership, contact Mary Lou Swingle at 696-2764, or Dean Sawyer at 288-7609.

Anyone with information in regard to George Willard Bryant, contact Marshall Colin Price at 639-2614 or P.O. Box 457, Dallas, PA, 18612.

## Dallas Pool Survey

Please check the desired response:

1. Would you support an aquatic facility in the Dallas School District?

a) Yes  b) No

2. If you have answered yes to No. 1, please check what activities you would support.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Age group swim/dive program          | <input type="checkbox"/> f) Recreational swim                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Youth swim instruction               | <input type="checkbox"/> g) Aquatic certification course              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Adult swim instruction               | <input type="checkbox"/> h) Swim Instruction in school PhysEd classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d) Aqua aerobic classes                 | <input type="checkbox"/> i) Water Polo                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e) Sport injury/rehabilitation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> j) Other _____                               |

3) Additional comments \_\_\_\_\_

4) Optional:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Would you like to become part of this committee?  Yes  No

Respond by May 6, 1996 to:  
Dallas Pool Survey  
c/o The Dallas Post  
P.O. Box 366  
Dallas, PA 18612

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