

OBITUARIES

THERESA SIMON

Theresa Verbetich, Simon, 49, of Lake Road, Noxen, died July 26, 1996, in the Western Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Born Oct. 12, 1946 in Wilkes-Barre, she was the daughter of the late Carl and Helen Craig Verbetich.

She graduated from West Side Central Catholic High School in 1964.

She was co-owner and operator of Simon Auto Parts, Noxen, and also worked as a Notary Public.

She was a member of Beaumont Union Gospel Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher, choir member, and active in fundraising and the Christian Women's Club.

She and her husband, John, celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary in July.

Surviving in addition to her husband, are sons, John Jacob, Shavertown; Joseph John, Kunkle; a daughter, Mrs. Earnest (Sheryl) Smith, Cocoa, FL; nine grandchildren; a brother, Charles, Midway Park, NC; sisters, Sister Charlene, Allentown; MaryFondo, Phoenix, AZ; Dolores Leonard, Pittston; Lucille Reed, Peoria, AZ; Carolin Rukstalis, Kingston; Helen Zimmerman, Midway Park, NC; Bernadine Simon, Dallas; Marga-

ret Smith, Harveys Lake.

officiating.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday from the Simon S. Russin Funeral Home, Inc., 136 Maffett St., Plains Township, with Jerry Mattocks, pastor of Beaumont Union Gospel Church,

Memorial donations may be made to the Children's Miracle Network, in care of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, 1000 East Mountain Drive, Plains Township, 18711.

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

People who have never smoked or been exposed to large amounts of side-stream smoke are not totally immune to the risk of getting lung cancer. There is yet another way in which we can protect ourselves and those we love. We can ensure that our homes are not contaminated with radon. Radon is responsible for an average of 14,000 deaths in the United States each year and most of these fatalities can be prevented by simple and fairly inexpensive means. Just because radon has not been in the news recently does not mean that we should ignore it.

Radon is an element that is found in gaseous form. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. And, it is similar to other inert gasses such as helium and argon in that it does not react with other elements to form compounds. In fact, if radon remained radon, it would be totally incapable of harming any living thing. But, it doesn't.

It is created continuously from the decay of other radioactive elements such as uranium and thorium and it fairly quickly decays to more dangerous daughter elements such as polonium-218 and 214. In less than four days, half of any particular quantity of radon has changed to something that can become lodged in our lungs and emit alpha particles which can

Important facts on radon

injure lung tissue cells and lead eventually to cancer.

If you were to take a typical quart jar (approximately one liter) of air anywhere on earth, you would find that it contained a very small amount of radon — in the range of 0.2-0.7 picocuries. That is less than one trillionth of a curie or the equivalent of less than two atoms of radon decaying each minute in that liter of air. Most of the human population could live long and healthy lives if that were all we had to worry about. But, most of us live in houses which tend to trap gases including radon, and some of us are exposed daily to many times this normal background level of radiation.

The only way to determine the level of radon in your house is to have it tested. If your neighbor had a test done and did not find a problem, it does not mean that your house is also safe. The rocks and soils that are high in radioactive elements are distributed rather unevenly over the earth. And, the construction and condition of two houses may be quite different. So, if your house has never been tested, I suggest that you do so at your earliest convenience. The tests are fairly cheap (generally less than \$100) and easy to do. You can buy a device at a hardware store, follow the directions carefully, and send the container off to a laboratory to determine the results. Or, you can hire a professional to do all of that for you.

One of the most encouraging things about radon testing is that even if a severe problem is found it can be fixed. Many new houses are built with radon abatement systems installed. Older houses

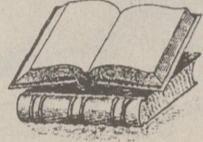
can be fixed by installing one of several abatement systems depending on the severity of the problem and the style of home. These retrofits cost somewhere in the \$700 to \$2,500 range. Although the testing can be done by the homeowner, the installation of radon reducing equipment should always be done by a professional.

The Pennsylvania State Radon Hotline is 1-800-237-2366. Anyone who wants information of any kind may call this number. They have booklets that they can send you. They also have lists of approved professional radon tests and abatement specialists in your area.

Some of you may have heard about people concerned about radon in their water supplies. The EPA estimates that less than 5% of the radon in houses comes from the water. It is true that radon can be released from water (especially hot water) when it is used in the home. It is also true that many wells in Pennsylvania have high radon levels. If the air in your house has been tested high for radon and you use well water, it would be a good idea to have that water tested before proceeding with other abatement projects. The Low Level Radiation Monitoring Laboratory at Penn State (phone 814-863-2647) can help you with this.

In this world, there are many risks over which we have little or no control. However, the two major causes of lung cancer—smoking and radon—are almost totally avoidable. We simply need to be aware of the dangers and then do the logical things to protect ourselves and our families.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The month of August will be celebrated as 'Puzzle Month' at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, in the display case. On top of the display is a 1,000 piece puzzle, put together by Paul and Jean Rodda and friends.

The completed puzzle stands at 42 inches high. It is the Empire State Building. The size of the 1,000 pieces is 1" by 1/2". It took the group about 10 days to put it together. The base is glued with a box for Foundation, the rest of the puzzle is not. The pieces are foam rubber, with paper over-lap with

It's Puzzle Month at library

authentic windows and doors. There is a separate topper for the building.

The display will be at the library until August 21. Paul would be willing to give the puzzle away, if anyone is interested after August 21. We will accept names who are interested at the front desk in the library and will hold a drawing to determine the lucky winner.

The display case itself includes small puzzles put together by our PHEAA students, Lynn and Jeff, a puppy called Bark Simpson and a kitten called Well Orchestrated. They were timed putting them together and Jeff completed his in 26 minutes and Lynn in 30.

There are two puzzle books, a large children's puzzle put together, a Coca Cola 700 piece puzzle in a can, a 'Coke is It' 500 piece puzzle, two clever puzzles from the children's collection, and various other baffling puzzles,

rubic cubes, and a number matching puzzle. Puzzle contributors include Jeff, Lynn, Paul, Marilyn, Millie and Nancy.

Newbooks at the library: "The Last Don" by Mario Puzo is about the inner workings of the Mafia, a product of five years of work and a lifetime of research into the mores of the mob, Vegas and Hollywood.

"Vegas Rich" by Fern Michaels is the story of Sallie Coleman who leaves Texas and heads west to get away from the squalor of her dirt-poor beginnings. Las Vegas seems like Paradise with its shifting sands, saloons and bingo palaces.

"Rosehaven" by Catherine Coulter, is a novel of passion, intrigue, and obsession in medieval England. Severin returns to his family's estate in England to find his father and elder brother dead and his mother demented.



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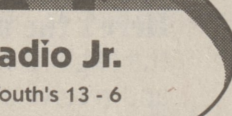


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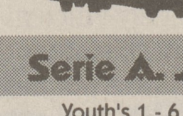
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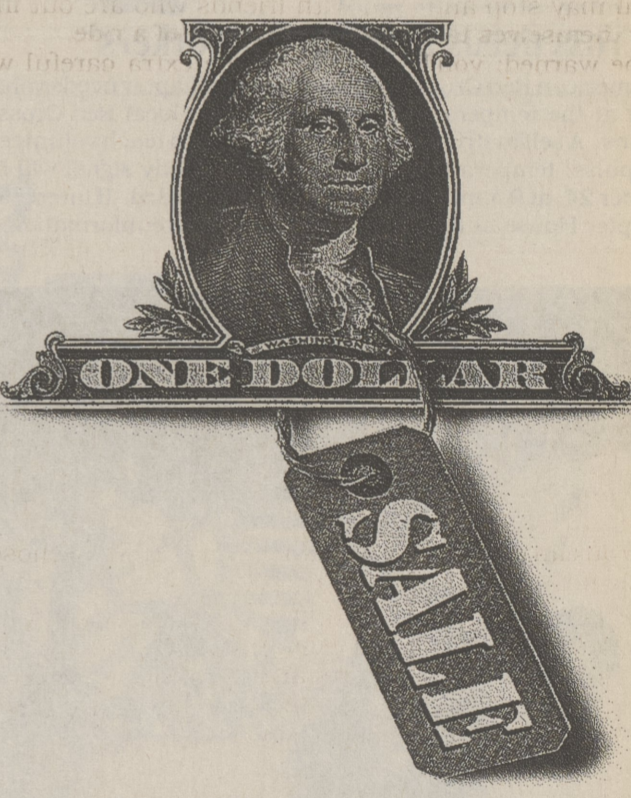
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