

Scouts

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007 offers. Varsity Venture is divided into two groups, sport activities and high adventure. The former consists of basketball, roller hockey, swimming and similar activities. The latter includes canoe camping, caving and fishing.

The Venture Varsity is not intended to take time away from the Scout's troop said Pimm. "Your first responsibility is to your troop and your position," he said. The idea behind Varsity scouting is to take the skills learned and teach them to the younger scouts in one's troop.

Caving is the first activity on the team's list. In March it is scheduled to go to Sharer's Cavern in Lewisburg.

There are four activities a year that are broken into three month spans, including the training and event. After the first event the scout receives a Varsity letter, much like those given in high school sports. Then the scout receives a pin for each event that follows.

"The program is set up so that if a scout comes in at 14 years old and leaves at 18, he wouldn't have repeated a single activity," explained Larry Griffiths, who volunteered to be the "patrols" coach.

Patrolman Frank Ziegler of the Kingston Township Police Department is serving as representative for the Back Mountain Police Association. Ziegler described Team 007 as a "great thing for us to get involved in."

"I don't think anyone has ever asked us to get involved in this capacity. Not only sending them money, but showing up and seeing what's going on," said Ziegler.

Pimm said the Venture Varsity gives the scouts an opportunity to participate in activities they may never get to experience again. "It opens up different doors for different kids," he explained. Team 007 is the only Varsity scouting patrol in the entire NEPA Council, spanning from the Poconos to Tunkhannock.

Eight boys from various troops in the Back Mountain showed up

"I found that a lot of Scouts were getting tired of just camping, they wanted something more adventurous to do."

John Pimm
Team 007 leader

at the first meeting and were positive about the new group. "I wanted to do this because it sounded different," said Matthew Kutish, 17, of troop 281. "It's a good thing for older guys in scouting. It takes scouting to the next level."

For more information, call John Pimm at 639-5158. Boy Scouts from all troops in the Back Mountain are welcome.

Henry

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close relationship with the teachers. I made many lifelong friends there," explained Henry.

He explains his childhood in nearly ideal terms. The son of a businessman who attended West Point, Henry enjoyed homes in both Wilkes-Barre and Dallas. "It was a great place to grow up. It was a free and easy kind of place to grow up, without all the worries of today. People were very friendly."

One of the friends he made while serving on the school's board some 30 years ago is Dr. Wallace Stettler of Dallas. Stettler describes Henry as a selfless and honest man. "He is unselfish, he believes in truth and he lives by that," said Stettler. "I'm so delighted (about his being presented the Preston award); he deserves it."

Stettler sees his friend as an irreplaceable value to the community. "He is a unique person, a true gentleman who only thinks in terms of what he can do to be

School

has shown evidence that a smaller school would be better educationally, said Finn, who has consistently voted against the main campus site and is an advocate of the administration site.

Maureen Banks said she did her "homework" and also found research showing smaller schools provide a better environment for children. "I am adamant that it remain a separate school," she explained. Although she voted to put the school on the administration site, she does not plan to make a motion to put the building back on that site. "We can't keep going back and forth."

One of Banks's main concerns with the campus sites is the possible growth of the Back Mountain. "What if the projections are wrong? All around we seem to be growing," she said. "When the main campus was conceived, plans weren't drawn up well enough to show where to put this last building. Now we're trying to

"It's been long and tedious for everyone involved."

Ernest Ashbridge
School board president

make it fit on a parcel it doesn't really fit on."

To many supporters of the main campus site, a separate building can be built and share facilities such as a gymnasium or a field and still keep its "separate" status.

Board member John George, who said he is certain the school will eventually be built on the main campus, is a strong supporter of adjoining the new building to the existing Dallas Elementary School. "Site D" (as it is known) is more convenient because it puts all the schools in one location and shares the facilities,"

he explained.

Ashbridge sees the campus site as an all-around financial choice. "It would alleviate problems with buses, transport of food, and deliveries. Also, while we're building one, we could be improving the existing school under one bond issue. It's the most economical choice," he said.

The board has changed its mind twice, once on a decision to put the school on the main campus and once to put the school on the administration site. Board members voted to put it back on the main campus on Jan. 6. There are four possible sites on the campus, but none of them could win a majority at a special Jan. 13 school board meeting.

Board members have different views on the proceedings up to this point. "The process has been confusing. It almost seems like everything is going backwards. We have no idea what the building

looks like and we have to pick a site for it," said Banks.

George thinks there has been adequate information presented. "We have had plenty of informational meetings. We should've taken care of it before everyone went on vacation," said George.

Although they agree the process has taken longer than expected, the board members are sticking to what they see as the best site. "I'm not in favor of the campus site and I don't see where I would have to change my vote," said Finn.

Banks, who maintains that the campus site hasn't been shown to be the best option, will most likely vote down all four proposed sites in that area. "I hope that the five people who voted for the campus can decide on a site," she said.

The board members plan on meeting again on Feb. 3, though no vote will be held due to some board members being out of state.

"It's all a measure of how many good people you have around you to help."

Frank Henry
Winner of CASE award

helpful," he explained proudly. "We are lucky to have him in the community."

John Shafer, director of development at Wyoming Seminary and who Henry described as an "integral part to the success" of the fund campaign, said no one knows Wyoming Seminary better than Henry. "He personifies the type of individual that you would have chair a fundraising event," said Shafer. "He had boundless energy and boundless enthusiasm."

"The Preston Award was a marvelous and well deserved tribute to Frank, and also the school," said Shafer.

Henry agreed. "It speaks well of the school and its ability to raise funds. Getting recognized by this national organization puts Wyoming Seminary in good company," he said.

Aside from his many contributions to Wyoming Seminary, Henry is responsible for much more. As chairman of the Board of Directors for Geisinger Foundation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, he greatly contributed to the opening of Geisinger Cancer Center in Wyoming Valley. It was dedicated to her and his wife Dorothea in 1992.

The center's location is convenient for people who otherwise would have to go to Danville for treatment, said Dave Jolly, vice president of community relations for Geisinger Cancer Center. "He's a tremendous man who is very committed to causes. The well being of his fellow man is high on his list of priorities," said Jolly.

Also, Henry brings in the Northeastern Philharmonic every Independence Day to play for approximately 70,000 people in Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre.

Henry said he owes it to the community to give back. "You owe it back to the community. You aren't successful solely because of who you are, it's where you live and due to the community you serve," said Henry.

Nearby district kept four small elementary schools

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Dallas School Board, teachers and parents can look to the Abington Heights School District for a nearby example of how local schools have survived.

The Abington Heights district had four K-4 elementary schools for years. In 1989 the school board revealed plan to build one new school for all 1,200 elementary children, closing the smaller community schools.

Parents organized, as many have done in Dallas, some for and most against building one large school. After three years of discussions, the board voted in March, 1992 to keep the four community schools. The average number of students in the schools is 309, with about 25 students per class. Dallas Elementary has approximately 700 students and Westmoreland Elementary has approximately 500.

Tom Parry, vice president of the Abington Heights School Board, said the big school wins hands down if one is looking only at the cost. But, after much research with the Carnegie Foundation, he found that small community schools provide a better environment for children that age, he said.

"After we researched all the information, we felt we had to share

"We presented both sides, with the pros and cons of both a large and small school."

Tom Parry
Abington Heights School Board

it. We decided to get together and go to people's homes," explained Parry. "We presented both sides, with the pros and cons of both a large and small school. It was very beneficial because everyone felt they were very informed. Most people were for the smaller schools after presented with all of the information."

The estimated cost of renovating and additions to the four Abington Heights buildings, along with work on the high school is \$14 million. Dallas board member James Richardson estimated the cost of renovation for the existing elementary school and adjoining the new one at \$10 million. A new building alone is projected to cost \$6 million.

Parry said he knows today Abington Heights made the right decision and offered to talk with anyone from the Dallas school district about research and the process the Abington board used.

If you missed *The Post* - you missed the news!

Dallas School Site Ballot

Where do you think the replacement for Westmoreland Elementary School should go?

The Dallas Post is publishing this unofficial ballot to gain a sense of the community's preference. Please indicate your top two choices below, entering a "1" in the box by your first choice, and a "2" next to your second choice.

The Post will publish the results in the February 5 issue, so please return your ballot promptly. **The final deadline for ballots will be 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 3.**

I would prefer that the school remain at its present site in Trucksville.

I prefer putting a new school building on land now used by Back Mountain Baseball.

Sites shown on the map
(All K-5 buildings):

Site A is near the intersection of Hildebrandt Rd. and Conyngham Ave.

Site B is near the present Middle School.

Site C is where the tennis courts now stand.

Site D would provide a separate school building, but share a gymnasium, cafeteria and other support offices with Dallas Elementary School.

These are the reasons I made these choices:

We need the following information to confirm that you live within the Dallas School District. Names will not be used unless you give permission.

Name _____

Address _____

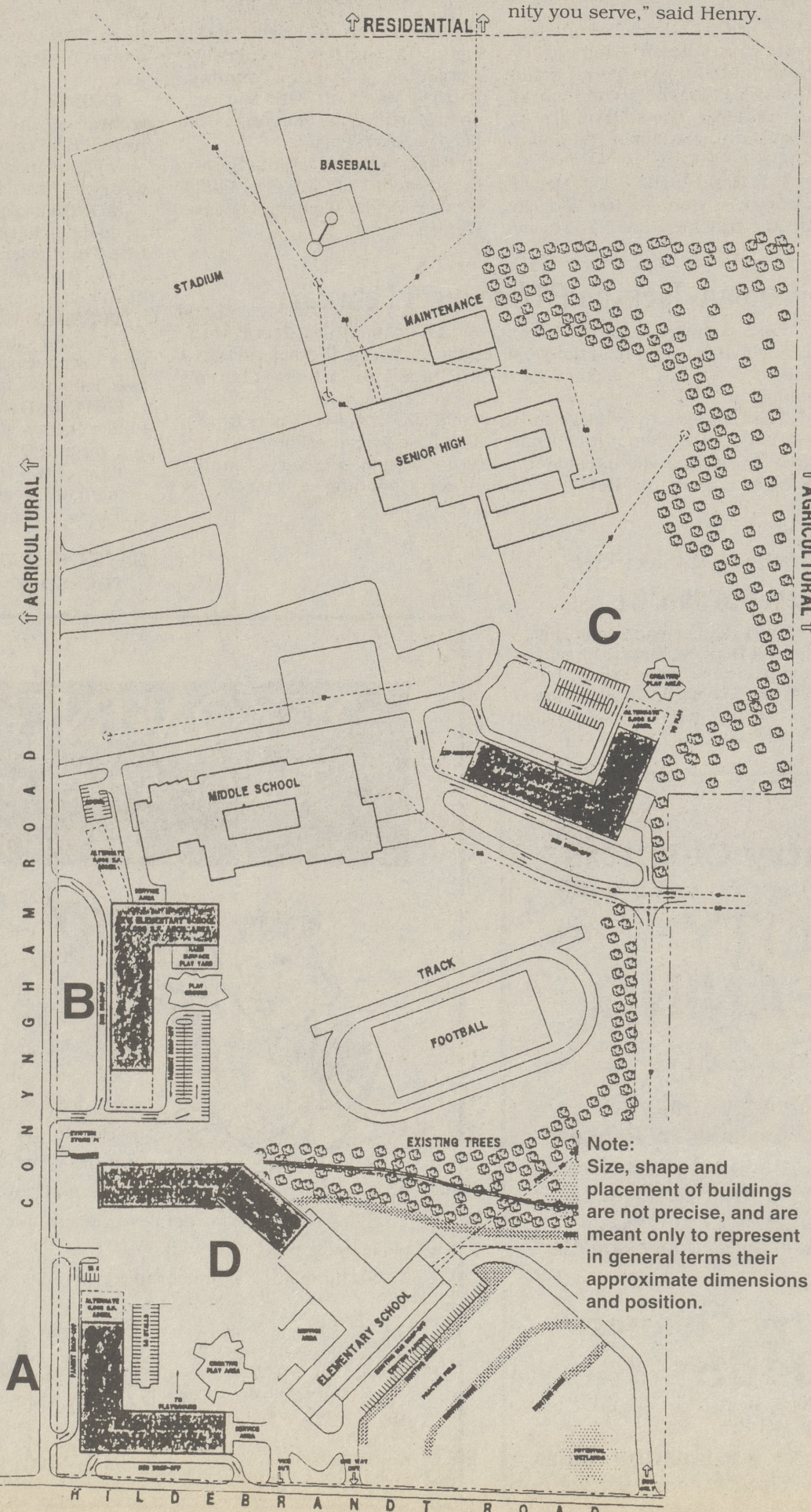
Township or Borough _____

Phone No. _____

We will call if we want to use your comments in an article.

Bring or send completed ballots to:
The Dallas Post
607 Main Rd., P.O. Box 366
Dallas PA 18612.

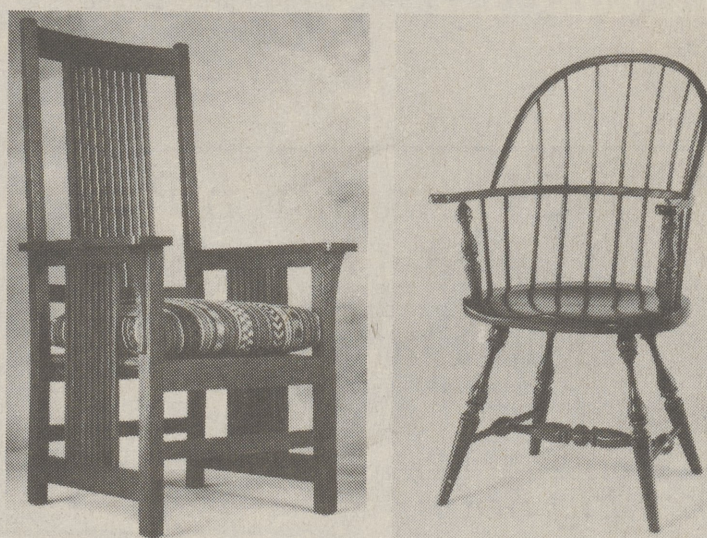
Return by 5 p.m.,
Mon., Feb. 3



Note:
Size, shape and placement of buildings are not precise, and are meant only to represent in general terms their approximate dimensions and position.

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Call for reservations

#2 - Shifman Bedding Sale
All Month

#3 - Oriental Rug Sale
February 14, 15, 16 (12 - 5) & 17 (12 - 5)

#4 - Hickory Chair, Mt. Vernon Collection
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