



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 109 No. 9

Dallas, Pennsylvania

March 4 thru March 10, 1998

The Quick and the Dead

Cemetery association, Scout work to preserve history

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - It has been said that to care for the dead is an act of truthful and pure loving kindness, because there cannot possibly be any ulterior motive — the dead person can never repay the debt. A group of dedicated people in Trucksville know that to be true.

Most people driving by the "Little White Church on the Hill," the Trucksville United Methodist Church, believe the cemeteries on either side and behind it are part of the church. But they are not. They are selflessly maintained and survive thanks to the work of a group of dedicated volunteers.

"My father's grandfather, Jacob Rice, donated the land for the church and the cemetery," recounts Margaret Goodwin, president of the Cedar-Crest Trucksville Cemetery Association. He, and many of her family, are buried there. "I have a personal stake," she adds.

"But time and poor management had left the cemetery neglected. The 150-year-old maples and started oaks became hollow and started falling. Headstones, sunk so that only the uppermost names can be seen, had weathered smooth. Noble monuments had broken. Vandals tore down street



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

R.J. Barna stood among the grave markers at the Cedar-Crest Trucksville Cemetery. He is working to complete a map of all the grave sites and clean up the cemetery, which is located around the Trucksville United Methodist Church, but is not owned or maintained by the church. He is standing by a grave marker for

William Perrego, who died Sept. 2, 1864 at the Andersonville prison. The marker is ceremonial, Perrego's body is not buried in the cemetery and is probably at Andersonville. Below, grave markers for one of the church's early pastors, J.P. Rice, and his wife Sally Ann.

signs.

"In 1972, I got a group going," reports Goodwin. "We've bought new equipment and really cleaned it up." The cemetery has a trust that provides a small income for the committee, but that is not enough to cover all of the expenses to maintain the site. That's why the work of volunteers is needed.

"The cemetery started in 1844. On the right is the old Trucksville Cemetery," says Nancy McDonald, secretary of the committee. "On the left and behind is the



Cedar-Crest Cemetery." Many long-standing family names — Rices, Schooleys, Howells — are represented. "Over 750 people are buried here," reports McDonald.

Interest in family trees and the Back Mountain's history have been strong incentives for maintaining the cemetery. "We got a call last week from Wisconsin from people looking for their relatives. We get a lot of calls from people when they're doing their family trees," says Goodwin.

But the old stones can't be read clearly. Sev-

eral have long epitaphs and detailed information that would interest many today. Multiple fires have destroyed old church records. That's where the work of R.J. (Robert Jason) Barna, of Dallas, comes in.

R.J., who is 15 and a student at Bishop O'Reilly High School, is working towards Eagle Scout and has undertaken the daunting task of organizing the cemetery's records. Barna is creating a detailed map and catalog of all of the burial sites in the cemetery.

"It's a lot of work, but I feel

See CEMETERY, pg 8

Woman begs for help ridding yard of noisy cats

By JESSICA APPOLO
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. - Emotions were running high at Monday night's Jackson Township meeting, which seemed to attract many complaints stemming from the usual business of American Asphalt to the very "unusual" business of cats. (Not the record running Broadway hit.)

Gloria Repotski of 252 Briarwood Drive, Shavertown, captured all eyes and ears when she broke down in tears and begged for help in ridding her yard of pesky neighborhood cats. "I can't take it anymore," Repotski said. "All I want is peace at night." Besides the constant meowing beneath her windows, "the cats are killing rabbits from the yard and digging holes in the landscaping," said Repotski.

"I can't take it any more. All I want is peace at night."

Gloria Repotski
Jackson Twp.

An ongoing problem since April of last year, Repotski begged police to again warn pet owners neighboring her. Chief Jones and supervisors suggested Repotski try contacting her neighbors, and the S.P.C.A.

Repotski agreed to try the suggestions but warned that an unlicensed animal should not be allowed roam freely. Ironically, Repotski said she owns four dogs and takes great pride in the fact that they are not a nuisance to her neighbors.

Chief Donald Jones issued another seemingly simple request for one of his officers. Part-time officer Stabeda was overlooked last year when winter police jackets were ordered for new and officers. Stabeda has been requesting a winter jacket ever since and still has yet to receive one. Stabeda even came to the Jackson Township meeting several months ago to appear before board members on his own behalf to request a jacket.

It seems the money allotted for uniforms was used and the budget doesn't have funds for a winter jacket for Stabeda, who averages about 32 hours a week working for the Jackson Township Police Department.

"We always give him one of our coats when he responds to our calls," said Bernice Manzoni, an E.M.T. for the Jackson Township Ambulance crew.

School district could save money with joint insurance purchases

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The Dallas School District may be positioning itself into a stronger purchasing position in the health care insurance market.

The district is beginning preliminary talks that could lead to formation of a Health Care Trust. The trust is essentially a self-insured medical plan, in which the 12 districts in the Intermedi-

ate Unit 19, West Side Vocational Technical and Wilkes-Barre Technical would have control of a hefty joint premium.

Al Malone, acting business manager of the district, shared his knowledge of the trust with the board at Monday's school board meeting. Malone said such a large group would have purchasing power when buying insurance from Blue Cross/Blue Shield or other insurers. "Hopefully, therein lie the savings," he

said.

Malone said area superintendents, including Dallas's Gil Griffiths, met and put the idea together based on the movements by unions. "The unions are willing to explore this idea with the district," said Malone.

The trust would hire and contract Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but would maintain control of the premium.

"Blue Cross/Blue Shield is actively participating. They are will-

ing to administer the plan and allow the trust the same fee schedule," said Malone.

Griffiths told the board the trust would be one of the largest in northeastern Pennsylvania. He said a January startup date is possible.

Also at the meeting, Mark Kraynak, superintendent of buildings and grounds, received board approval to dump dirt from upcoming construction projects on school property. The estimated

900 tri-axle truckloads of dirt will be dumped in front of the existing soccer field near the Dallas Elementary School.

Kraynak said the fill would be leveled out as it was dumped. Other areas he designated for dumping are behind the middle school, behind the tennis courts and alongside the football field.

He said the decision will save the district money by not having to haul the dirt somewhere else.

Zoning board will rule on park construction

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. - The Lehman Township zoning board must decide whether or not the zoning officer made a mistake when issuing a building permit to Dan Cornell, owner of Pikes Creek Park.

Atty. Mark McNealis says a mistake was made because setback and screening requirements set by the township zoning ordinance were not met on the final building plan. McNealis and Janet Baccera, his client, ultimately want the entertainment park torn down.

Cornell and Atty. Bill Higgs claim the ordinance is written in an unclear manner that misdirected Cornell, his developers



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

A new amusement park at the corner of Rt. 118 and Cornell Road may have been built with improper setbacks. The Lehman Twp. Zoning Board will decide at a meeting March 26 if the zoning officer improperly granted a permit for the park.

See PARK, pg 8

■ 'The Cat' visits
'The Cat in the Hat' paid a visit to Dallas Elementary School for Read Across America day. Pg 3.

■ Senior lifestyle
New Post feature, on page 7.

INDEX

14 Pages, 2 Sections
Calendar.....14
Classified.....12-13
Crossword.....14
Editorials.....4
Obituaries.....10
School.....11
Sports.....9-10

CALL 675-5211
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
NEWS OR ADVERTISING

The Dallas Post
MAILING LABEL - Please enclose this label with any address changes, and mail to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612-0366