

Cemetery

(continued from page 1)

it will help out people who try to find their family," says Barna. He is recording, stone by stone, all of the information he can. "I've done tombstone tracings" to try to decipher stones, he said.

Barna is learning history as he completes the project. There are graves from the Civil War, the World Wars, and epidemics. "It's surprising to see a whole family here. It feels weird to see someone my age," says Barna. "There are lots of children."

Working in the old cemetery can be dangerous, notes McDonald. Old graves don't have concrete vaults, and the ground can settle. "We had a scout fall in a hole up to his chest last year when the ground gave way," says McDonald.

Dave Neiman, R.J.'s Scoutmaster, has nothing but praise for the work R.J. has done. "R.J. took on this project, even though it's a big job and the stones are old," says Neiman. "If I know R.J., he'll put his heart and soul into it."

R.J. is very active in the troop, and was elected Senior Patrol Leader by his fellow troop members, adds Neiman. "I believe this is an excellent project for R.J. and the community," states Neiman. "It helps the community, especially those who follow their heritage and their family tree."

"It would be very difficult to keep up the cemetery if there were no scouts," says McDonald. "There is a tremendous amount of work to be done."

Other scouts have also been involved in maintaining the Cedar-Crest Trucksville Cemetery. Scouts participating in the *par va lei dei* program and working on their Religion badges have cleaned and raked the cemetery. A group from Gate of Heaven has also come out and volunteered their time.

One additional project R.J. has undertaken is to create a sign identifying the cemetery. He got the wood, and designed the sign, and found Art Bird, of Dallas, to router out the letters and sides. "I heard he needed help," says Bird. "I did it to give him a hand and to help out the Scouts." Bird has donated his time and equipment to make the sign a reality.

Lorna Laskowski, a committee member from Trucksville, remarks that "a lot of people think it's part of the church." Her parents, and brother and sister are buried in the cemetery. "It's a lot of work."

The Cemetery Association is planning a big cleanup for Memorial Day. Anyone who wants to donate their time or money may contact Nancy MacDonald at 675-3133. As R.J. has learned, "It's not just rocks and dead people." It's who we are and who we were.



"It's surprising to see a whole family here. It feels weird to see someone my age."

R.J. Barna, 15
Boy Scout

A rotten tree fell on this grave marker at the Cedar-Crest Trucksville Cemetery, shattering the cast iron monument. It can't be replaced, so the association that cares for the cemetery will cut the top off, then mount the marker flat on top.

Livingston to speak at church March 8

Noted biblical archaeologist Dr. David Livingston will be guest speaker at the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly, 340 Carverton Road, Trucksville, on Sun., March 8. Dr. Livingston will speak at both the 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services and present his findings of Ai, the second city that Joshua conquered.

Founder and former director of the Associates for Biblical Research, Ephrata, PA, Dr. Livingston has been working on the "Ai Project" for over 20 years. He has authored numerous articles for BAR Magazine, Palestine Exploration Quarterly and the Israeli publication, Atiqot.

The pastor of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly, Rev. Dan Miller, extends an invitation to come and explore with us the roots of the Christian faith.

Please call the church office at 696-1128 if you need additional information.

Westmoreland to hold annual concert

On Thurs., March 5, the Westmoreland Elementary School Second Grade will present their annual concert in the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

Deborah Pike, music teacher, announced that this concert will feature three mini-plays: "Be Kind to Each Other", "A Play for the United Way", and "Cinderella". Students will also perform "Don't Let the Music Stop" theme song for Music in Our Schools Month.

Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Girl Scout Sunday

March 8 at Shav. UM

Girl Scout Sunday will be observed at the Shavertown United Methodist Church, Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, on March 8 at the 9 a.m. service. All Girl Scouts are invited to attend. Girls and adults will be taking part in the service.

A special part of the service will be the presentation of service pins to Mary Lou Swingle, her daughters, and granddaughter. Mary Lou will receive a 50-year pin, Cathy Berkey, 35 years; Michele Butts, 30 years and Kim Hogans, 10 years.

A reception will follow in the church social room.

Women's commission

to hold dinner

The Luzerne County Commission for Women will hold its 10th Annual History Month Dinner on Wed., March 18 at East Mountain Inn, Plains Township.

The dinner and program, which are open to the public, begin with a cash bar at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7. Cost is \$25 per person. Tickets are available through any Commission member or by calling the office at 825-1727 by March 11.

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Park

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and the zoning officer. Therefore, the building should be left alone since Cornell did what the ordinance said was correct.

On Feb. 26, the zoning hearing board held their final session regarding this issue. On Sept. 3, McNealis appealed the zoning officer's approval of the park's plan. The board will render a decision March 26 at 7 p.m.

McNealis reiterated to the board that Pikes Creek Park, which includes a miniature golf course and go-cart track, is in clear violation of the zoning ordinance by having a 26 ft. setback between Cornell Rd. and the corner of the building. On a chart in the ordinance it states that the front and rear yard setback for an agricultural zone is 50 ft.

The point of dispute arises with the chart's display of the side yard requirements. The chart states that a side yard should be 25 ft., but there is a small footnote next to the words "side yard." At the bottom of the page, the footnote states that on a corner lot the side yard setback should be the same as the 50 ft. front yard setback. Pikes Creek Park is on a corner lot.

Douglas F. Trumbower, township engineer, measured the front and side yards of the property in January. Both parties accepted the measurements as accurate.

Higgs told the board that the footnote was in the wrong place. "If you're trying to do a plan and looking at the table you're going to be misled," he said. "It's not fair and not right. The zoning officer didn't see it, everyone missed that. Now the man has gone and built his building following the rules. Now he's going to be slapped with a 50 ft. setback? It's not fair. The

"The courts said you cannot have open-ended uses. You have to name them."

Atty. Mark McNealis
Represents park neighbor

ordinance is ambiguous and misleading."

Higgs also said the section regarding screening was essentially hidden from anyone who only looked at the yard and area reference chart. Screening for non-residential uses are listed under Exceptions and Modifications, article eight, in the ordinance. "There is no way you get to article eight from article six (the chart)," said Higgs.

Charles Bartlett, zoning officer, said he believed the final plan complied with screening provisions when he issued the building permit.

The ordinance states that screening should be either a wall or fence or planted evergreen shrubs no less than six feet tall and 15 feet wide. McNealis said there is no regulation screening on Cornell's property on Rt. 118.

McNealis questioned the ordinance's validity. The board of supervisors granted Cornell a conditional temporary use permit in

May. This permit, which is renewed annually, is granted by the supervisors and does not require zoning board input.

McNealis said the ordinance was too broad in its definition of a conditional temporary use and clashed with recent state legislation. "The courts said you cannot have open-ended uses. You have to name them," he said.

He told the board there is a section on race tracks in the ordinance stating that automobile race tracks require approval from the zoning hearing board. "Having a zoning board makes no sense as long as you have an ordinance that says the supervisors can approve to put anything anywhere," said McNealis.

The ordinance defines temporary conditional uses as any temporary use of any zoning district that is not already included in the ordinance or a special exception within a zoning district.

"The zoning board can only approve something as a special exception. The race track was not listed under special exception," said Higgs, in a phone interview. He said there are many standards for conditional uses that the supervisors must follow.

McNealis filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas, citing the same issues. Both attorneys agree there will probably be more appeals from one or the other no matter what the board decides.

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"It's not fair. The ordinance is ambiguous and misleading."

Atty. Bill Higgs
Represents park owner

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