



Marshall Rumbaugh posed with a portion of the wood sculpture he crafted to surround the entrance to the new children's room at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

July 15: To apostrophe or not to apostrophe, that is the question for Harveys Lake. The U.S. Postal Service dropped the mark in 1949, and neither style has dominated since. Even signs on borough buildings differ.

Kathy Bednarek, 16, of Dallas, joined the young "Tigers" on the golf course, winning a Keystone Public Golf Association tournament at Mill Race. She began playing competitively at age 10.

After six innings of sparkling defense, excellent pitching and powerful hitting — and with the score tied 7-7 — Jack Snyder, president of Back Mountain Baseball declared the Astros and Dodgers co-champions of the AAA division, a decision that seemed to please players, coaches and fans.

July 22: A brazen bank robber walked into the Luzerne National Bank office in Dallas at about 11 a.m. Monday, his head covered in panty hose. He threatened a teller with a knife and sped away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Lehman Twp. is the first in the county to attempt to take on the task of renumbering streets and houses for the county 911 system, a job that was supposed to be done by the county. "We don't know how long it will take since we have nothing to base it on," said supervisor Doug Ide.

Bill Wennington, center for the champion Chicago Bulls, visited the basketball camp at College Misericordia, giving youngsters tips on how to play the game.

July 29: Members of the class of 1958, the last to graduate from the old Dallas Twp. High School, gathered at Irem Temple Country Club for a 40th reunion. "It seems like yesterday," said Mae Rome, Dallas. "I can't believe it's 40 years ago."

By sheer luck it seems, there have been no serious accidents on Harveys Lake this summer. Jet skis are the main hazard. Officer Jim Stout said he had seen four people on one jet ski, and 9-year-olds driving them.

The new county 911 system was not living up to promises. The system went online in June, but lacks the "enhanced" capabilities that were promised.

After a slow start to the season, Johnny Oliver, Lake-Lehman graduate, was on a tear with the Charleston Alleycats, the Class A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. He had a 15-game hitting streak going, which included seven home runs and six doubles.

August 5: When they bought the empty former Native Textiles plant, Lynn Banta and Rich Haas thought they would put some retail stores on the front of the building and lease the back as warehouse space. Instead, the rear of the building has been turned into offices and work areas where 200 people are employed. The stores and a restaurant are to be completed next year.

Area farmers were trying to make the best of a year that started with premature warming, then became too wet. Still, there was plenty of fresh local produce available. "The corn is just starting to get good, and the strawberries were good," said Barbara Bell, shopping at Dymond's in Shavertown.

Patrick Rosenthal of Shavertown was awarded one of only five National Merit Scholarships granted throughout the nation. He will attend Duke University in the fall.

August 12: Local shoppers were shocked that the BiLo store in Shavertown would be closing, but heartened to hear that a new, locally-owned store would replace it. Chris and Pam Evans and Tom Baseski said they would open a Thomas' Family Market after renovations were completed.

The Crispell family gathered for their 87th reunion at Dymond's Grove in Noxen. The family traces its roots in America to 1660, when Antoine Crispell and his wife arrived on the "Gilded Otter."

Sean Robbins finished second in the Half Ironman bracket of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon, in his first try at the distance. He never got wet, though, as the swim



Mike Sobek, Harveys Lake, went one-on-one with Bill Wennington, center for the world champion Chicago Bulls, at a basketball clinic at College Misericordia.

portion of the event was cancelled after pollution was found in the part of Harveys Lake used for the race.

August 19: It's the birds' fault. That's the conclusion of people who study the water in Harveys Lake, and the Environmental Advisory Committee wants more done to stop people from feeding the fowl.

Brown Manor, off Carverton Rd. in Trucksville, will finally get sanitary sewers. The 24-home subdivision, which is near Frances Sloum State Park, currently uses on-lot septic systems.

Chris Scharif, who played high school soccer at Lake-Lehman, is the new head coach of the Dallas High School team. He replaces John McCafferty, who decided not to return this year.

August 26: Mrs. Debbie Soles, a 2nd grade teacher from the Pittsburgh area, visited Paul LaBar, mayor of Dallas Borough. It was Soles who came up with the idea that Dallas should change its name to "Steelers PA" when the Steelers played the Cowboys in the Super Bowl a few years ago.

Volunteers were gearing up for a benefit bash to help the family of Judy DeGeorge, who died of cancer August 6. Friends want to help Jim DeGeorge and their three children cope with the loss.

The Huntsville Cemetery will be 200 years old on Aug. 30, and association members and the community will mark the anniversary with a special program. It is said the plot began when Philetus Fuller, age 16, was killed by a falling tree, and buried on the spot.

Sept. 2: Claude Shaver, a descendant of Philip Shaver, for whom Shavertown is named, was 100 years old. Mr. Shaver delivered ice and coal in Dallas and later drove a school bus.

So, what did you do on summer vacation? Phil Gager spent his summer guiding fly fisherfolk out West. One client was Susan Spano, a writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, who described him as "tall, diffident and dangerously cute" in the piece she wrote for the paper.

Sept. 9: Robert Sands, Randy McGeehan and Robert Rickaby were lucky. They were outside working on Sands' truck on Labor Day when lightning struck a nearby tree and traveled down to them. All three refused medical treatment from paramedics who responded. The strike threw Rickaby backwards about 10 feet into a van,

knocked Sands down and blasted a can of spray paint McGeehan had been holding about 30 feet. The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust announced that it had preserved a 37-acre property along Mehoopany Creek in Wyoming County. The Davies family placed the land in trust so that it cannot be developed.

Volunteers in the Lake Twp. Recycling Program could use a few more hands. The program, in its eighth year, needs more than the two to five people who show up at each month's collection.

Sept. 16: An ad hoc committee mailed a survey in the first step toward creating a regional recreation center for the Back Mountain. They hoped to organize all communities in the effort, to increase the chance of winning a financial grant for development.

Supporters of the Lake-Lehman Band wanted to know why sports teams receive funding and privileges not available to the music program. The band sponsors must now pay transportation costs for trips beyond 50 miles.

Dallas High School administrators were strutting their stuff, after it was announced that SAT scores were second-highest in the county, and above state and national averages.

Sept. 23: We knew he was special, but even so it was nice to see Kingston Twp. police officer James Ibbotson featured in the fall issue of the *Gall's* catalog. Ibbotson was recognized for saving a Trucksville family when their home caught on fire in 1997.

Steven Losh and John Gilligan, Dallas eighth graders, were holding their own in the science lab at College Misericordia. The pair was participating in the course as part of the Johns Hopkins program. "When I first saw them I was puzzled," said Misericordia sophomore Jerry Usher. "But, after talking to them, I realized they aren't your average kids."

Sandra Laidler-Valenti and A. Anthony Anzalone were about to be inducted into the Wyoming Seminary Hall of Fame. Anzalone was a four-year varsity football player and captain in 1963-64. Laidler, a 1961 graduate, was MVP in both field hockey and basketball.

Sept. 30: St. Paul's Lutheran Church has purchased land near the intersection of Rts. 118 and 415 in Dallas Twp. "We've run out of space," explained Rev. Charles Grube. The present building in Shavertown will be sold.

The Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Committee will be honored at the 8th annual Environmental Partnership Awards Dinner. One factor in the group's selection was a decision by the borough to ban use of phosphate fertilizers.

Lake-Lehman High School seniors were wondering how they would find time to complete a senior project. Lehman is in the first group of schools that will require a project for graduation. However, the students didn't learn about it until the end of the last school year.

Oct. 7: Pet owners "flocked" to St. Therese's Church for the annual blessing of the animals, held in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. "I figured they needed it," said Bob Cannon.

"The Scholar's Garden" at Dallas High School memorializes teachers who have been an inspiration to students and other faculty members. It was built between two wings of the school and contains brightly colored flowers, trees and other ornamental plants.

Oct. 14: Robert Brody was lucky to be alive after his car crossed Pioneer Ave. in Trucksville and slammed into a guard rail. His car ran directly into the end of the rail, and ended up with it sticking completely through the length of the 1995 Geo Metro. Brody suffered only a sprained wrist.

William Anthony Alaimo, former chief dispatcher for the Back Mountain Communications Center, was charged with falsifying time sheets for \$1,258 worth of work he allegedly didn't perform.

Grace Moore, who now lives at the Meadows Nursing Center, celebrated her 96th birthday. She and her husband Robert moved Payne Printery to Dallas after they bought the business.

Oct. 21: A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) said work would begin on the Dallas center intersection within a few weeks, and be done by spring. In order to make room to widen Rt. 415, the entrance to the post office will be moved to the side of the building.

Will Conyngham said 26 years is enough, but George Hasay touted his experience and seniority as the two prepared to square off in the general election.

The Lake-Lehman boys cross country team won its third consecutive Wyoming Valley Conference championship, beating Hanover 24-31. Hanover was the

only team that could have stopped the Black Knights. Joe Maskalis was the leading runner, at 16:35.

Oct. 28: Parents said the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) at Dallas High School helped them "stay connected" with their children. The group sponsors a variety of events, including the Student of the Month awards.

William James again challenged Phyllis Mundy for the state representative post in the 120th District, but few gave him much chance of unseating the popular legislator.

Nov. 4: Proving that nothing is too difficult for local officials to tackle, members of the Harveys Lake Borough Council took on Job Johnnies that may be installed illegally around the lake. It seemed there were regulations for the temporary toilets, but they hadn't been enforced. But no one was sure what constituted the "limited duration" the ordinance allows their use.

Police ruled accidental the death of a Nanticoke man whose body was found in his pickup truck parked next to the Orloski's Quik Mart in Trucksville. Joseph Todd Lewis III had apparently fallen asleep with the engine running.

The volunteers lounge at the Meadows Nursing Center was named for Myrle Coolbaugh, the first volunteer at the Meadows.

Todd Smith told police that he returned from an extended trip to find his 1986 Camaro missing. He had left it with a friend, but told police it had been sold to someone else.

Nov. 11: It was Dallas 1 - Lehman 1 in fall sports. On Friday, Lehman beat Dallas 2-1 to win the Black Knights' second con-



It's not hard to see why David Harding won the Most Original category at the Halloween Parade sponsored by the Dallas Kiwanis.

secutive district championship. But the next day, the Mountaineers won the 51st annual Old Shoe football game 20-0.

The third annual Back Mountain Holiday Food Drive was gearing up in time for Thanksgiving. The collection benefits the Back Mountain Food Bank, which is administered by the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Emmett Hoover and his son, Allan, were finishing up a stone wall on Idetown-Huntsville Rd. Emmet has been a mason since he learned the craft from his father, Robert.

Nov. 18: Estimates of the price tag for renovations to the Dallas Middle School, high school and elementary school climbed to \$8 million. Improvements include a "technology suite" at the high school, a new roof for the middle school and a gas heat system for the elementary building.

Sheldon Ehret prepared to exhibit his painted items at the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors craft show. The 83-year-old Lehman man started out painting signs on trucks.

The Dallas Mountaineers could hold their heads high after meeting perennial power Berwick for the first time. The Dawgs won 42-13, but Dallas gave them plenty to think about. Berwick coach George Curry did not meet Dallas coach Ted Jackson at midfield for the traditional post-game handshake.

Nov. 25: College Misericordia inducted Dr. Michael MacDowell as its 12th president. Also, a \$10 million fund drive was closed early after exceeding the goal. Most of the money will go to the new library.

It's okay to hire relatives of borough officials, as long as everyone knows the relationship, the council voted.

The Lake-Lehman soccer and field hockey seasons came to an end, both at the hands of the eventual state champion. Both teams fell in the semifinals, by a single goal each.

Dec. 2: Ed Johnson and fellow bird lovers were ready to head out for the annual Christmas bird count. Johnson, 71, started counting 40 years ago and hasn't stopped.

The recycling program at Penn State Wilkes-Barre celebrated its 10th year. Started by Dr. Tom Winter, a physics professor with an interest in the environment, the program has sent an estimated 313 truckloads of material to market.

Nikki Banfield and her German Shepherd, Loki, won first place in the Schutzhund III National Championship in Denver. What was unusual was that Loki is a female, and Banfield trains her as a hobby.

Dec. 9: Random drug testing of athletes at Dallas High School turned up the first violator, a student who was immediately removed from sports and sent to counseling with his family.

While driving along Pioneer Ave. in Shavertown, you may have noticed the unusual piece of furniture in the front window of a ranch house. It's a bright red miniature rocket ship, once a children's ride, restored by Ross Piazza. But he is on to bigger things, like an antique Jaguar he's working on for a customer.

Dec. 16: The former Yalick farm along Rt. 415 in Dallas Twp. has been sold to a businessman from Virginia with local ties. J. Naparolo isn't sure what he'll do with the 48 acres, but expects some sort of commercial development.

Shoppers are pleased with the new Thomas' Family Market in Shavertown. A trio of Back Mountain natives took over the former BiLo, and spruced it up before the opening last month. The store employs 70 people.

The Back Mountain has a different area code. Commonwealth Telephone said we'd be 570, not 717, but that calls to the old numbers would go through until April.

Ross Macarty of Shavertown was named the Outstanding Young Alumnus by Wyoming Seminary. He's an active 1980 graduate of the school.

They weren't panicked, but administrators at Dallas and Lake-Lehman took notice of state test scores that showed more declines than gains. The tests are given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.

Dec. 23: The Back Mountain Recreation Inc., the group formed to investigate creation of a regional recreation park, was negotiating for an 80-acre parcel of land that could alleviate the shortage of playing fields for youth sports. A survey conducted by the committee showed overwhelming support.

Ron Blosser, traveling in the area, took a tumble nearly into Toby's Creek with his Pontiac Grand Prix. He swerved to avoid a car turning across Rt. 309 at Carverton Rd., went through an aluminum fence and down an embankment. He was wearing a seat belt and his air bags inflated, so all he suffered was a scrape on one forearm. "I'm lucky," he said.

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