

Rate hike

(continued from page 1)

The state Public Utility Commission (PUC) denied NUI's last request for a rate increase of 49 percent in January 1997. Stagnant rates and increasing costs have resulted in net operating losses for the past several years.

NUI and the Public Utility Commission are currently negotiating an agreement by which the utility will divest itself, over a five-year period, of the 18 water systems it currently manages. The settlement is complicated because of the large distances separating each system from the other.

"We have had difficulty finding a buyer who is interested purchasing the entire group, and we are reluctant to allow larger water companies to cherry pick the most profitable systems because that would place an unfair burden on the remaining customers," said Lomma.

Judge Richard Lovenwirth is examining the rate case for the PUC. "We investigate issues such as rate structure and design, quality and quantity of service, maintenance costs, annual revenue and rate of return for the company's shareholders," said Lovenwirth. "We do not want to see this utility company, or any other, be forced into bankruptcy."

The Office of the Consumer Advocate has issued a protest citing the utility's poor record. "We have filed a complaint against the rate increase and we will oppose any bump in rates until NUI improves water pressure and service," said Dianne Dusman, Assistant Advocate.

State Rep. George Hasay, who attended the public hearing, agrees that the rate increase is not warranted. "My office has received many complaints from Lehman Township residents who believe this is a poorly managed company, providing water of dismal quality and equally dismal service," he said.

Hasay expressed concern that an increase would be detrimental. "Higher rates will truly be a burden for senior citizens on a fixed income and young families struggling to make ends meet," he said.

Customers residing in Oak Hill can expect an average water bill to increase from \$29.74 per month to \$46.82 per month if the Public Utility Commission authorizes the proposed rate hike. Those in Rhodes Terrace will pay an additional \$12.73 each month as their average bill increases from \$22.18 to \$34.91. Midway Manor and Warden Place homeowners will see a jump from \$15.40 per month to \$24.24 per month.

OBITUARIES

STANLEY WILLS

Stanley C. Wills, 83, of Hillcrest Avenue, Shavertown, died April 13, 1999, at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of the late Stanley and Florence (Downs) Wills.

He was a graduate of E.L. Meyers High School and had been a resident of Shavertown for the past 57 years.

Before retiring, he was employed as a stockroom attendant by Owens Illinois in Yatesville.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Shavertown; George M. Dallas Lodge 531, F&AM; Oneida Lodge 371, Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Dallas; and Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co. Fire Police.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia Jones Wills.

Surviving are his son, Todd Lance Wills, San Diego; daughter, Lauren Kaiser, Shavertown, four grandchildren.

Interment, Edge Hill Cemetery, in the West Nanticoke section of Plymouth Township.

Memorial donations may be made to the New Church Fund of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 196 N. Main St., Shavertown, 18708.

AGNES MACIEJCZAK

Agnes J. Maciejczak, 78, of Sweet Valley, Ross Township, died April 18, 1999, at her home.

Born April 21, 1920, in Kingston, she was the daughter of the late John and Magdalena Ordon Garbush.

She attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John W. Maciejczak; sons, Walter, John and an infant baby boy Maciejczak.

Surviving are her daughters, Lorraine Daum and Annette Brown, both of Sweet Valley; Jean Yorks, Hunlock Creek; sons, Stephen, Theodore, John III, Richard and David Timothy, all of Sweet Valley; 17 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Interment, Lateer Cemetery, Sweet Valley.

MARK WALKO

Mark J. Walko, 37, of Trabuco Canyon, CA and formerly of Dallas died April 18, 1999, while on business in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Funeral arrangements are pending from the Harold C. Snowdon Funeral Home, 140 N. Main St., Shavertown, Kingston Township.

JOSEPH GILROY

Joseph Patrick Gilroy, 88, of Long Iron Court, Longwood, FL and Kingston, died April 16, 1999, at Hospice Care of the VNA Inpatient Unit at Heritage House in Wilkes-Barre.

He was born in West Pittston, and was a life-long resident of Wyoming Valley. He was the son of John F. and Mary Walsh Gilroy. He was a graduate of St. John High School in Pittston and was valedictorian of his class. He attended the University of Notre Dame and University of Pennsylvania and King's College.

He was a licensed real estate broker and was a member of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors, and the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors.

He was a member of Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas. He was a master sergeant in the United States Army in Topka, Kan., and served in World War II. He was a member of the American Legion, Post 395, Kingston and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Council 302, Wilkes-Barre.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marie; brother, Edmund; sisters, Agnes O'Hara, Regina Newcomb and Romayne Brislin.

Surviving are his wife, the former Margaret Liddon (Margo); daughter, Sally McHale, Dallas; Nancy Answini, Plains Township; son, Joseph Gilroy Jr., Dallas; brother, Jack, Gainesville, FL; sister, Sister Ellenita Gilroy, IHM, Marywood College; grandchildren, Deborah Boyle Hoffman, William Boyle, Chelsea McHale, Scott Answini, Jill Answini and Ryan and Sean Gilroy; great-grandson, Hunter Hoffman; stepdaughter, Valerie Goldsmith, Orlando, FL; and step-grandchildren, Jennifer and Garret Goldsmith.

Entombment, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care of the VNA of Luzerne County, c/o 90 E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre, 18701.

J. RICHARD STINE

J. Richard Stine, 67, of state Route 29 in Noxen Township, died April 17, 1999 at his home.

A life resident of Harveys Lake, he was the son of the late Charles and Iris (Kitchen) Stine.

He attended Dallas Township High School.

Before retiring he was employed as a mechanic by Proctor & Gamble Co. Mehoopany.

He was a member of the Alderson United Methodist Church, Harveys Lake.

Surviving are his wife, the

SPENCER HOLMGREN

Spencer Alfred Holmgren Jr., 60, of Noxen, died April 18, 1999 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born Dec. 27, 1938 in Kingston, he was the son of the late Spencer and Mildred Rowe Holmgren Sr.

He resided in Noxen for the past 37 years.

He graduated from Dallas High School in 1956 and earned associate degrees in mechanical engineering and drafting from Penn State University.

He was employed by Culbro Machine Systems, formerly General Cigar, Kingston and was a design engineer for Technology Designs Inc. in partnership with Daltech Inc., Wilkes-Barre.

He was a member of Noxen United Methodist Church, where he served as a trustee and administrative councilman. He was also a member of the Noxen Ambulance Association and the Orcutt's Grove Cemetery Association. He was secretary-treasurer of Noxen Township and was active with the Antique Car Club, Wilkes-Barre.

He and his wife, the former Margaret Gunton, celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary on June 10, 1998.

Surviving in addition to his wife, are daughters, Cheryl L. Reeves, Beaumont and Karen L. Reeves, Allentown; sister, Ellouise Rogers, Mehoopany and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Thursday from the Noxen United Methodist Church with the Rev. Keith F. Benjamin, pastor and the Rev. James Howell, pastor of Northmoreland Baptist Church, officiating.

Interment will be in Sunnyside Cemetery, Tunkhannock.

Friends may call 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home, Inc., corner of Routes 29 and 188, Pikes Creek, Lake Township.

Memorial donations may be made to the Noxen United Methodist Church, RR 1, Box 196A, Noxen, 18636.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following properties were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of April 9 - 15:

Glenn W. Ferguson, et ux, to Donny D. Goodwin, et ux, see deed, Dallas Borough, \$87,000. Thomas Bottoms, Jr., et al, to Christopher M. Berish, 2 parcels Sec. F., Fairview, Dallas Borough, \$80,000. Kenneth Marquis, to Glenn Vesloski, et ux, see deed, Franklin Twp., \$97,000. Arline Stroud, (Estate), to Christopher Roberts, et al, Lot

8, Plot 2, Kingston Twp., \$99,000. Hill Brook Corporation, to William E. Burak, et ux, Lot 30 Hill Brook Farms, Kingston Twp., \$40,000. Edward Grosek, Jr., et ux, to Back Mtn. Harvest Assembly, 2 parcels, Kingston Township, \$175,000. Dody Jean Marsh, et al, to Wayne Meeker, et ux, 7.001 acres, Ross Twp., \$24,500. Robert Deremer, et ux, to Jane M. Brewer, Lot 35, Ross Twp., \$59,500.

JT Spaghetti Dinner benefits recreation area

Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser to complete the little league field, do landscaping, improve parking facilities as well as to maintain the Jackson Township Recreation Area will be held Saturday, April 24, takeouts, 4 p.m., 4:30-7 p.m. for sit down dinner at Jackson Township Fire Hall. Adults \$6, children, \$3 (ages 3 to 8), under 3 years of age free. Ticket orders call Bill Holena at 696-3376 or they may be purchased at the door.

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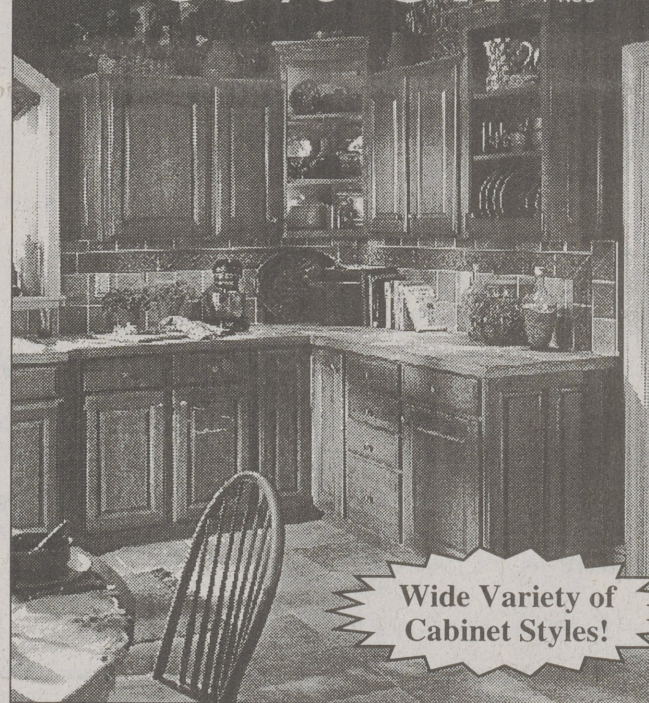
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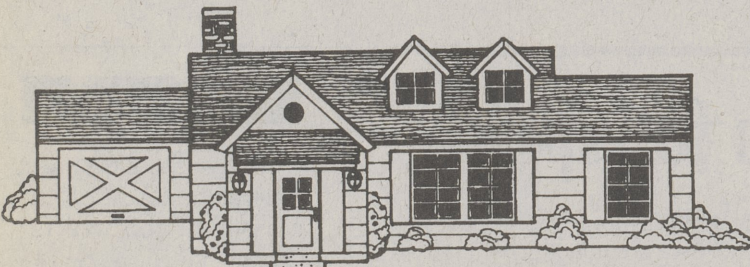
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