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Poster is peek at region's history

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - A remarkable artifact of Dallas history was recently donated to the Back Mountain Memorial Library. A poster, perhaps the only one in existence, from the 1899 Dallas Fair which was previously displayed at the country museum of Charles and Jessie Wiant was presented to the library in their memory.

Attorney Charles Petrillo who has written several books on the history of Harveys Lake, Ricketts Glen and the Susquehanna River was entrusted with the poster by the Wiant's daughter, Mrs. Doris Wiant Harvey of Pleasant Valley. "I told her from the beginning that I would find a good home for it," Petrillo said. "I thought since it was a poster of the Dallas Fair that the Back Mountain Library was the best place for it." Petrillo had the poster professionally curated and framed. He and Mrs. Harvey presented the poster to librarian Martha Butler and the library's Board of Directors.

"We're very happy to receive it because of its historical interest," said Butler. "We're looking for a good place to hang it so that the community can see it. We don't have a lot of display space but when we receive something this special we'll be sure to find a nice spot for it."

The first Dallas Fair was held on October 7, 1886 on the farm of

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Poster presentation. Martha Butler, library director of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, accepts an 1899 Dallas Fair poster. From the collection of Mrs. Doris Wiant Harvey, the poster was donated by Atty. Charles Petrillo, who has written extensively about the region's history.

Gas shows up in some wells

Company estimates about 5,000 gallons leaked from faulty valve

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP - Cleanup crews continue their efforts to contain spillage from last week's gasoline leak in Jackson Township as residents, municipal officials and Sun Pipeline representatives wait for test results detailing the extent of contamination.

Preliminary reports indicate some of the estimated 4,500 to 5,500 gallons of spilled gasoline has seeped into ground water. "Some of the early test results have come back showing a level of contamination in the homes nearest the pumping station," said Shannon Brewer, Director of Media Relations for Sun Pipeline Co. "There are two wells serving the big development (Meadowcrest) across from the pumping station and both of those have come back clean."

She said gasoline was found in four wells closer to the spill. "All those people will receive bottled water," from Sun, Brewer said. Anyone else who suspects their water might be tainted can call collect to Sun at 215-977-3237 during business hours. The company will continue to monitor wells and provide alternative water supplies as necessary.

David Bradbury, who lives in Meadowcrest Manor, is a

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2 fires take toll on Back Mountain homes

Fires left two Back Mountain families without homes in the past week. Last Thursday, Jan. 19, a fire that started at about midnight gutted a two-family house at 112 Main St., Dallas Borough. It was the second fire in a few hours at the house; the first was about eight hours earlier, started by a propane torch as the home's owner, Wesley Lewis of Tunkhannock, tried to thaw frozen pipes. The second blaze has been ruled arson by the state fire marshal, said Dallas Fire Chief Brett Slocum.

Two college students lived on the second floor of the house; a mother and baby lived on the first floor. They had not been allowed back in the home after the first fire, and were not able to retrieve any belongings. The young mother is employed at Offset Paperback, where a collection of items for her and her baby has been started. Items may be dropped off at the Offset

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Old guys find fun, exercise on the ice

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - There's something sweet about the game of hockey. Whether it's played on frozen lakes in the Back Mountain, where kids clear snow using their mothers' brooms or in state-of-the-art arenas professionally maintained by a full-time Zamboni drivers, hockey is essentially the same as it's always been.

The object of the game is simple: put the puck — a small, black, rubber biscuit — in the net. The net is protected by a goalie. The team that shoots the most pucks in the goal wins. "It's really pretty straightforward," said Dr. Mark Polin, who plays in an adult recreational league at the Ice Box in Pittston. "It's not hard to learn how to play hockey but it's very hard to be good at it."

New players who are familiar with soccer rules find hockey is similar. "The concepts are pretty



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Harvey Reiser swept in the first goal for his team in a recent game.

easy to grasp," said Bartt Slocum. "The hardest thing is learning to skate, especially as an adult. If you take up soccer as an adult, it's not that hard because you already know how to run, but learning to play hockey is a little more difficult just because of the skating."

It's important for beginners to resist the temptation of looking

at their feet while skating. "Kids who take up the game are skating like the wind in two months' time, but it may take an adult two years to feel comfortable on skates," said Slocum. "Hockey is a really fast-paced game; you have to pay attention and be ready for just

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Haiti visitors get close look at harsh poverty

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - This is Haiti. The children eat dirt. They sleep in trenches and cover themselves in trash. They fight pigs to drink rainwater from puddles.

The adults don't work. They can't read, write or provide for their families. Whole generations are malnourished, dehydrated and infected.

"The poverty and devastation these people live in is beyond anything you can imagine," said Mary Jane Kozick, Vice-Principal at Gate of Heaven Elementary School and one of a seven-member delegation which returned last week from a visit to the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Medicine shortages and a dearth of well-trained medical professionals makes fighting poverty especially difficult. "We took stethoscopes, bandages, antibiotics, tylenol and liquid vitamins, everything we could get our hands on," said Dr. Sharon Lombard. "I can tell you everything they had on the shelves in the clinic pharmacy when I got there. They had one bottle of amoxicillin, a couple of diarrhea medicines and a few tablets of children's Tylenol."

Officials at a Haitian airport intercepted relief packages containing more than 560 pounds of medications and first aid prod-

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Mary Jane Kozick
Vice principal,
Gate of Heaven School

ucts. "Medicine is sold on the black market so the materials we brought with us are very valuable," said Lombard. "Father Jack (Lambert), who drove the packages to JFK (airport) himself on Sunday, went back to the airport continuously for five days before they finally released the medicine to him. The sad thing is, all that we brought is just a spit in the ocean when compared to all that is needed."

Two members of the Gate of Heaven group are educators who spent time observing make-shift schools established by Hands Together, a relief organization working in Haiti. Three of the parishioners who made the trip are doctors, one is a nurse and another a businessman.

In addition to medical supplies, the delegation took 26 suitcases filled with school supplies, food

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