

Fire Co.

(continued from page 1)

meetings but we'd really like to get some pictures from before 1961," said Mr. Paxton. "I just got hold of some film of the Shavertown Methodist Parsonage fire in 1941. I had it put onto video for easy viewing," he added.

Not that the department lacks for exciting background stories.

"The biggest fire we ever had was when the Back Mountain Lumber and Coal Co. and Wyoming National Bank burned in 1961," said Fire Chief Gary Beisel, who has served in that capacity for 19 years.

"The fire company then made a deal with Granville Snowden, owner of the lumber company. They needed a wedge of our property to square up their new building with the road. In exchange for the land and to thank the fire department for its work during the fire, Mr. Snowden built a new fire house. That's why the brick face matches on these buildings," said Chief Beisel. There was a 99-year lease involved and some other stipulations that, when met, left the department owning the building.

There have been some changes to the building since the 60's. "Originally the building had 12' x 12' doors and they were changed to double-wide doors for the double bays we now use," Beisel said. "We're adding some offices in the back area, also, but our biggest purchase was the 1993 LTI Quint 1,500 gal pump, 75-foot ladder truck."

He explained that fundraising for that purchase is ongoing with the aluminum can recycling drive being he primary means. "We also have bingo every Sunday night, bake and hoogie sales, and raffles like our current one for Pocono 500 'Skybox' seats," Paxton said.

Fundraising, training and recruitment are constant activities at Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co. "We are always recruiting," said firefighter Kathie Hospodar who is also on the anniversary planning committee. "We always need more firefighters," she added.

There are 39 current members of the fire department but only about 25 are really active.

"The problem is that more people used to work here and



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Gary Beisel and his sister, Kathie Hospodar, show helmets from the 1940's, 1970's and today.

"Anyone over 14 can be a fireman but they really have to want to do this themselves. There is a lot of time and training involved."

Gary Beisel
Shavertown Fire Chief

could close up to go to a daytime fire. It's just not like that anymore. We have a hard time getting people who are available during the daytime," said Beisel.

"The state doesn't have any minimum training requirements but we do training programs every Monday night. We strongly encourage our new guys to take the basic 480 hour course and we also send people to the annual fire schools in Dallas and Williamsport," he added.

While senior members offer support, they realize that being a volunteer firefighter must be a

labor of love.

"Anyone over 14 can be a fireman but they really have to want to do this themselves. There is a lot of time and training involved. Most of our recruits are related somehow to current firemen," said Beisel.

The Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co. also provides demonstrations to schools and scout organizations. "A fireman in full gear with a breathing apparatus operating can be a very scary sight coming at you in the dark," explained firefighter Erik Sowga. "We like to show kids what we look like so they won't be afraid to come out of a burning building with us."

The anniversary committee is just in the planning stages. They

may have a parade and a bazaar and, definitely, some type of open house. If you have old photos you can share, please call Jerry Paxton at 696-3212 or the fire department at 675-1302. Ricky Taddei is the third member of the planning committee.

Shavertown is a volunteer fire department. According to the February, 2000 issue of *PA Fireman* a monthly publication, there are 2,400 such fire companies in the state, with 65,000 volunteers saving taxpayers an estimated \$4.5 billion a year. The state has a toll free recruitment number that will give you pertinent information and put you in touch with your local fire department personnel. It is 1-800-FIRELINE.



Donation benefits scholarship program

The GFWC, Harveys Lake recently held its annual arts festival at the MAC Fine Arts Gallery, Harveys Lake. The club raffles off an oil painting donated by Andrea Scorey, owner of the gallery. Proceeds benefit the club's scholarship program.

Members of the GFWC are shown, left to right: Jackie Hollos, art chairman; Andrea Scorey; Karen Boback, president; Bonnie Covelski, education chairman.

OBITUARIES

DONALD ATKINSON

Donald E. Atkinson, Sr., of RR 3, Wyoming, Franklin Township, died Feb. 26, 2000, at Hospice Community Care Inpatient Unit of Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Dallas, he was the son of the late Bruce and Vivian Hubble Atkinson. He was educated in the Dallas schools. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Bruce Atkinson; and sister, Violet Atkinson.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, the former Florence Redmond; sons, Donald E., Jr., and Duane B., both of Carverton; Dale R., Harding, Exeter Township; brothers, Byron Atkinson, Spring Hill, Fla.; Thomas Atkinson, Dallas; five grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Interment will be in Mount Zion Cemetery, Exeter Township.

DANIEL SALVATERRA

Daniel Salvatterra, 62, died Feb. 22, 2000, at Allied Services, Scranton.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre, son of the late Rev. Alexander and Gertrude Pantaloni Salvatterra.

Surviving are daughters, Lisa Klein, California; Drena and Rachel, Kingston; sons, Daniel and Joshua, Kingston; brothers, Nazareth, Montclair, N.J.; Cornelius, Shavertown; sisters, Marie Miller, Dallas; Diamond Hendrickson, Mesa, Ariz.; Betty Jones, Clifton, N.J.

Interment will be in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hanover Township.

DOROTHY M. CHOCALLO

Dorothy M. Chocallo, 69, of Sweet Valley and formerly of Long Island N.Y., died Feb. 28, 2000, in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

She was born in Larksville, daughter of the late Andrew and Mary Dula Parulak, and was a member of Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake.

Husband, Robert W., died in 1979; brother, Andrew, also preceded her in death.

Surviving are son, Richard R., with whom she resided; two grandsons; sisters, Bertha Reimondi, Long Island, N.Y.; Josephine Summers, Long Island, N.Y.; Mary Wills, Vero Beach, Fla.; Helen Serbel, Dallas; Isabelle Zionkoski, Kingston; Catherine Flynn, Dover, Del.; brother, Albert, Vero Beach, Fla.

Interment will be in St. John's R.C. Cemetery, Dallas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sweet Valley Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 207, Sweet Valley, 18656.

PHYLLIS LASKOS

Phyllis C. Laskos, 80, of Ninth Street, Wyoming, died Feb. 26, 2000 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Lodi, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Fred and Olive Bahr.

Surviving are her husband of 56 years, John J.; daughter, Mary Ann Sutton, Shavertown; sisters, Irene Swisher, Laceyville; Amy McConegly, Binghamton, N.Y.; step sister, Esther Golden, Orlando, Fla.; two grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Interment will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

Memorial donations may be made to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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County Conservation District accepting applications for Chesapeake Bay Program

The Luzerne Conservation District is currently accepting sign ups for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The program is available to farms or agribusiness in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed of Luzerne County.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has cost share funds available to help pay for 80% of the cost of the installation of Best Management Practices up to \$30,000. For more information, please contact the Luzerne Conservation District at 674-7991.

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Shipping Address: 607 Main Road, Dallas PA 18612
Office hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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The Dallas Post (ISSN - 1090-1094)

Published weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc. \$20 per year in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA); \$24 elsewhere in PA, NY or NJ; \$27 all other states. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612.

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