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Former Methodist campground, and its memories, on the market

BY SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. - It has been said that "what Mother Nature giveth, Father Time taketh away."

Such is the case for a unique property we happened upon in Dallas Township. It is zoned for agriculture and contains 34 wooded acres, a huge home, 37 cabins and other outbuildings.

The improvements on the property, including a tabernacle, cafeteria and cabins, date back to the 1920's. In its heyday in the 1950's, people came from all over Pennsylvania and surrounding states to attend the Free Methodist Church sum-

mer camp on the grounds.

Although it has been closed for several years, there is one local resident who still remembers the days when the camp was bustling with activity.

Now, it is on the market for \$425,000. Lois Cooper, a former caretaker of the property, told us that it had been a favorite retreat for church members where conferences were held and worship services were conducted. "It was always full," she said. "Some people owned their own cabin and some came to the campground in their own small trailers. Entire families came to spend the week together. Some would eat in the dining hall while others would prepare their own meals in

their cabins or trailers."

Mrs. Cooper also said that while parents attended conferences and services in the tabernacle, children could be found at Bible study, playing games, walking in the woods, or making crafts. "It was a family place," she said. "It was a happy, more innocent time when families always ate together, read together, sat down and talked with one another, and shared their experiences and feelings."

With the onset of movies, television, computer games, numerous sporting events, and children who need a daily calendar to keep their activities straight, there seems to be no need for such a place anymore — or maybe there is!



POST PHOTOSANDY PEOPLES

The old Free Methodist Church campground in Dallas Township is now for sale.



POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH SKRAPITS

Members of the Diversity Club at Dallas High School hold the poster advertising the Dr. Martin Luther King Day program to be held Jan. 15. From left, front row: Traci Patts, Jill Youngblood, Rebecca Hoffman. Back row: Adam Nolan Morgan, Corey Pajka, Kris Nardi, Mrs. Donna Trebilcox, advisor.

Students learn, teach the value of diversity

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The Diversity Club at Dallas High School has grown in size, scope and impact since its inception three years ago. The club was the brainchild of club moderator Donna Trebilcox, an English teacher at the school.

"The first year we had seven students and we took a lot of heat and harassment," said Mrs. Trebilcox. "This year nearly 70 students are involved and we had to split up for our meetings. The juniors and seniors meet one Thursday and the freshmen and sophomores meet on alternating Thursdays."

The club has four main focus points and members participate in activities according to their interests. All members must actively participate. First, students interested in communication read newspapers, watch television news, specials and documentaries, and report back to the club about things they've learned.

Second, the Diversity Club has started fundraising activities this year in order to do some special projects. They are currently collecting good clothing, toys and money to send to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the Dakotas.

Third, students make posters and bulletin boards to promote

"The club helps me because I feel like I can be different. It backs me up."

Traci Patts
Diversity Club secretary

their motto which is "Respect the dignity of all people." That doesn't always happen, though.

"We have to laminate our posters because some kids think it's funny to write on them," explained Kris Nardi, vice president of the club. "We're always going to have some kids who are against it. Everybody is raised differently. I went to Diversity Camp at College Misericordia between my sophomore and junior years and I learned a lot about that. The camp was really awesome."

Kris is planning to use his interest in diversity training to do his graduation completion project. "I'm putting together a program to present to the elementary schools that will promote understanding of differences like racism. It helps to get kids on the right track," Nardi stated.

The fourth main focus of the group is community outreach. Students keep track of what is

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Author touts region's role in U.S. growth

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - The birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution was the Wyoming Valley and Northeastern Pennsylvania, according to a newly published book written by a local resident. Thomas Dombroski of Trucksville used his 35 years experience as a consultant and about a year of direct research to gather information for his book, *How America Was Financed: The True Story of Northeastern Pennsylvania's Contribution to the Financial and Economic Greatness of the United States of America.*

"All business deals are private and confidential," said Mr. Dombroski. "Therefore, to come to conclusions you have to use fact, imagination and speculation to understand everything." The book contains facts about J. P. Morgan's power in the coal mining industry from the late 1800's until his death in 1913. The book explores how Morgan was the controlling person behind over 112 major corporations through his use of profits from the coal industry.



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Thomas Dombroski sat at the computer in his Trucksville home. The businessman has written a book that highlights the contributions of Northeastern Pennsylvania to America's industrial growth.

Mr. Dombroski graduated from King's College and did graduate work at Wilkes University. For 10 years he was a senior process engineer with General Telephone and Electronics Sylvania Electric Division in Towanda.

"In 1965, I formed a management consulting firm, called D & L Consultants, in Wilkes-Barre," said the author. "Over the years I've done the

preliminary groundwork on various major development projects in Northeastern PA. I've worked on projects like the Hanover Industrial Park, the industrial park at the airport, and the early stages of eliminating flooding problems in Wilkes-Barre Township around the Arena project."

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Often-absent supervisor steps down from post

By ELAINE SLABINSKI
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. - Supervisor Michael Lando announced his intention to resign his office as of March 2, 2001, giving the township 60 days in which to find a replacement. Lando's prepared statement cited employment responsibilities which included frequent travel and prolonged periods away from home. The move came as no surprise, since he missed at least four consecutive meetings, leaving the two remaining supervisors without a tie-breaker.

Supervisor John Wilkes, Jr. will continue as Chairman for 2001. The township police chief, secretaries, and cleaning personnel will be receiving 4 percent hourly pay increases this year.

Questions were raised regarding the possible devaluation of properties with contaminated wells or water supplies as a result of last year's gasoline lead, and the impact on the township's tax base. Solicitor Blythe Evans noted that first, "It will be up to those individual people themselves to ask for a reduction in their taxes."

Since contamination levels continue to drop, it is difficult to predict the eventual outcome or the length of time it will take some areas to reach federal safety levels. Evans said he is aware of several

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