

Community *Photo* Album

Doing the neighborly thing

Community service meant pulling on work gloves and rolling up sleeves Sunday, as neighbors pitched in to spruce up a home on Rice Street, Dallas Borough - the only home 85-year-old Merle Thomas has ever known.

Thomas's grandfather built the 150-year-old house, which still displays evidence of its former grandeur in paneled doors decorated with etched glass and carved wood. "I was born there," Thomas said, as he surveyed the volunteers who were tearing down a dilapidated shed porch at the rear of the house. They also cut down dead trees and brush and gave the yard a good cleanup.

Dallas Mayor Timothy Carroll arranged the cleanup, as a project of his not-for-profit "Mayor's Club." He also arranged to have electricity to the home turned back on. The volunteers were assisted by R.N. Fitch & Sons and Carroll Construction, which donated the use of a chainsaw, weed whacker and a tractor; Apex Waste Service, which donated a large dumpster.

Thomas was pleased. "Well, I think it's great," he said of the project. "I give all the credit to Tim Carroll."

POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK



Dean Fitch trimmed weeds while other volunteers loaded up the dumpster.



Merle Thomas, right, and Tim Carroll stood in front of the only home Thomas has ever known.



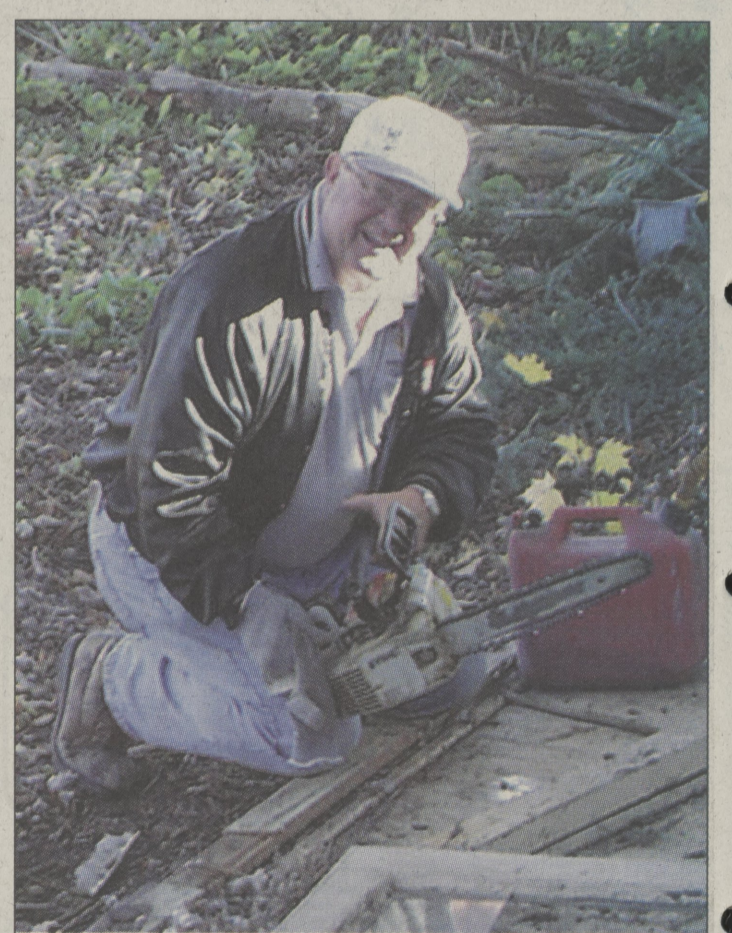
Joe Hudak helped take down the rotted back porch.



The front door of Merle Thomas's home retains the etched glass and carved wood trim of an earlier day.



Karissa Donahue, left, and Christine Treiber loaded up trash to be tossed in the dumpster.



Tim Carroll, Mayor of Dallas Borough, got the chainsaw going.