

# History

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their lives connect current residents to many of the pivotal events in local and national history, such as the Revolution, Civil War and Black Hawk Wars.

"It is fitting that we remember our forebears and the sacrifices they made and the hardships they endured to establish this community," said Killian.

A steady stream of people surrounded Mary Manzoni and her sister Anna who brought in a photo of their family's original homestead. The women brought in the picture to include it in a photo collection the association is putting together.

Anna Manzoni explained the photo shows the small log cabin her grandparents lived in when they first came to the area from Ireland in 1839.

"I didn't want to bring that photo. I was afraid someone would pick it up and take it," she said about the family's irreplaceable photo.

She said her grandfather John walked from the site near the State Correctional Institute on Follies Road to Nanticoke where he was employed on the North Branch Canal, earning 50¢ a day for his labor.

Organizers also updated the



William Wentz took some time to look over John Hill's collection of historic Back Mountain postcards.

POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

group on two ongoing projects, an oral history and the photograph collection.

History club participants and College Misericordia students have been gathering oral histories from long time Back Mountain residents. Dr. Allen Austin

who is coordinating the project said it has been "gathering momentum."

John Sipper, one of the student volunteers, described to the crowd what it has been like to work on the project.

"It was very interesting to find

history of landmarks you see every day and to know that we're part of preserving the history of the Back Mountain," said Sipper.

Clyde Davis, who is coordinating the photography project, was accepting old photos of buildings, parks, hotels, amusement parks and more. Volunteers are going to scan the photos to make digital copies. Davis said the goal is to create a photo map of the area and, possibly, a book.

"We remember some of the things that have already gone, torn down in our lifetime. Photos are an immensely wonderful way to show to (the) current generation what Back Mountain communities like Trucksville and Dallas, looked like."

John Hill's collection of early Back Mountain postcards attracted numerous onlookers. "I started collecting four or five years ago from ebay," said Hill.

Hill had a large collection of cards depicting Dallas in the

early part of the twentieth century when the Raub Hotel stood where the closed down Sunoco station is now, and a train station was at the present Dallas Post office site.

"I've always been interested in the areas I've lived in," said Hill, who moved to the Back Mountain from northern Delaware 23 years ago.

"History occurs everywhere even in your own backyard," said Sipper.

## Volunteers needed at Mercy Hospice

Volunteers are needed for Mercy Hospice in the Wilkes-Barre area as well as the surrounding communities. Mercy Hospice is a non-profit, hospital-based, certified agency that offers a way of caring which brings comfort to people at the end of life.

Volunteers can assist by visiting patients in their homes to give families a rest or allow them to work or run errands. They can also assist with shopping for the family, provide general comfort and support or work on clerical projects in the Hospice Office. If interested in volunteering, contact Nancy James, Mercy Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 826-0102.

## Dallas man pleads guilty to burglary

**WILKES-BARRE** — Prosecutors on Monday agreed to drop a charge of possession of child pornography against a Dallas man in exchange for his guilty plea to charges of burglary and tampering with evidence.

Jason Bealla, 30, of Sunset Street, entered the plea before Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Peter Paul Olszewski Jr.

Bealla previously stood trial in September, but Olszewski declared a mistrial after Assistant District Attorney Ingrid Cronin questioned Bealla on why he did not provide police an alibi when he was arrested.

Cronin said Monday the plea bargain was accepted because Bealla is pleading to the most serious charge. Burglary is a second-degree felony, whereas the child pornography charge is a third-degree felony, she said. A charge of fleeing or attempting to elude police was also dropped in exchange for the plea.

According to an arrest affidavit, police found child pornography in Bealla's car when he was apprehended for fleeing a police officer in October 2001. His vehicle was impounded, and Bealla later broke into a borough garage and removed the vehicle.

Bealla was taken to the Luzerne County Correctional Facility pending sentencing scheduled for Dec. 3.

## Yard waste drop off

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors would like to remind residents that yard waste such as grass, leaves, twigs and small tree branches may be dropped off free of charge at the Township Public Works Facility grounds on East Center Street in Shavertown, or at the Dallas Area Municipal Authority located just off State Route 309 North, opposite Wasserrott's.

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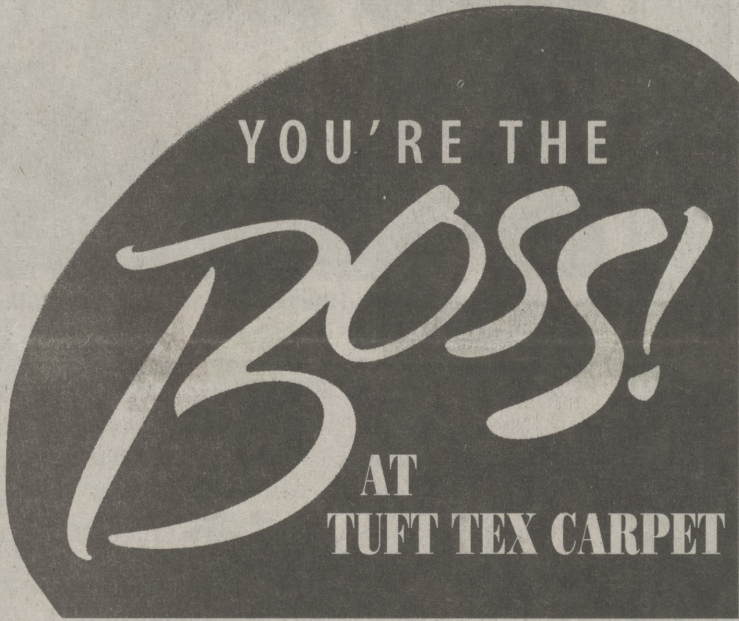
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