



Candlelight service honors Casey Zalenski. Page 8



THE POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

For love of horses, a barn is saved

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Some of Pennsylvania's most beautiful and historic buildings are hiding in plain sight. Located off the beaten path, their seasoned timbers, sturdy construction, and ornamentation are now part of history — testaments to an agrarian culture since passed.

They are taken for granted, uncared for and sometimes are hardly standing, until the next winter storm humbles them forever.

Or they are rescued by people like Allison and Rob Friedman of Shavertown.

There is a glory in the three-story, red gambrel roofed barn the Friedmans have

"It is breathing again. It came back to life."

Rob Friedman
About his Dallas barn

purchased, a local landmark near the corner of Lower Demunds and Mt. Olivet roads. Built in 1912 and added onto in 1927, it measures 40 by 180 feet, and is rumored to be one of northeastern Pennsylvania's largest dairy barns, once accommodating 70 cows and other farm animals.

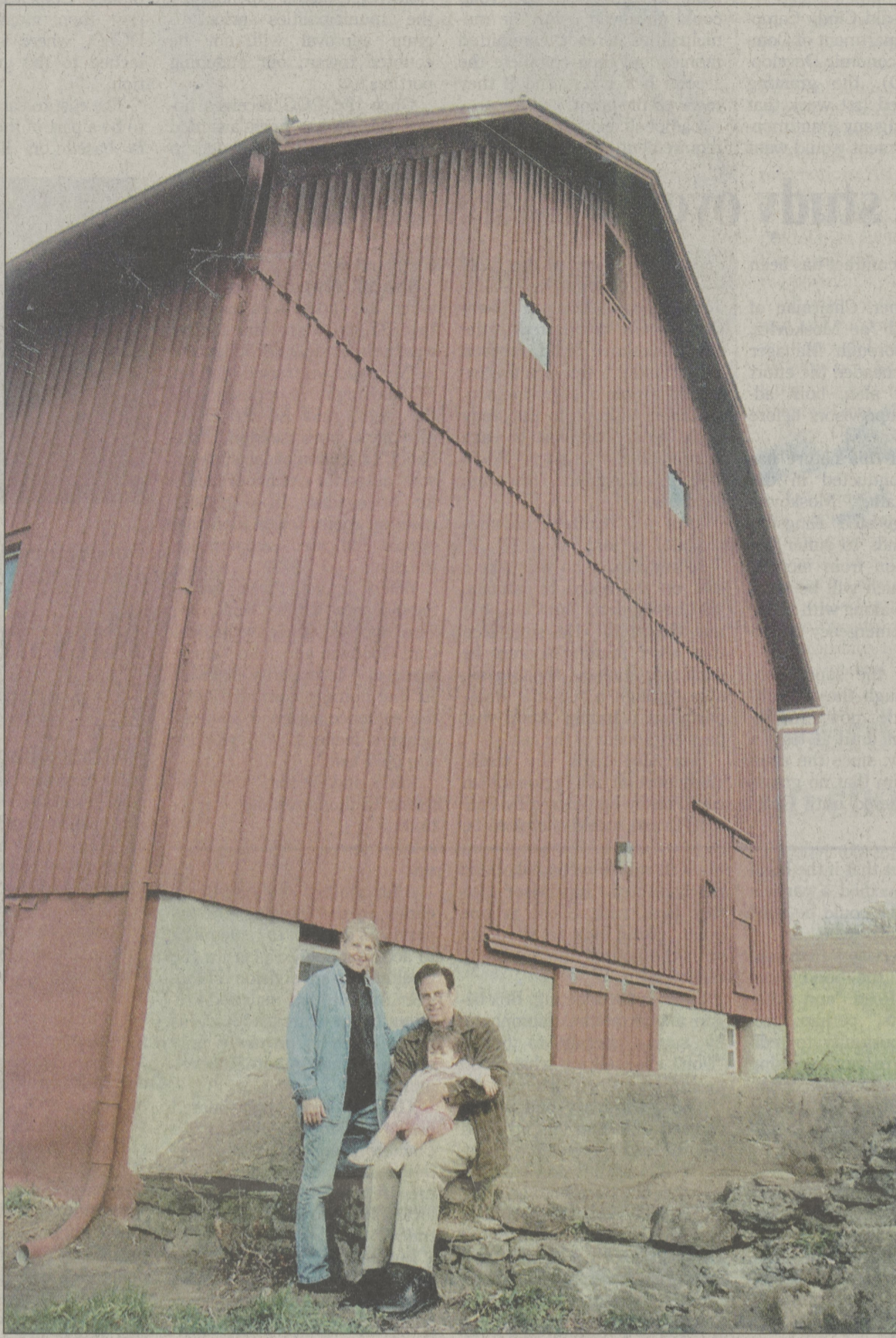
The largest turn-of-the-century barn, when it was completed in 1891, measured 400 feet long by 100 feet wide and stands two stories high in Vermont.

The Friedmans' barn had three large silos, one on the southern end and two on the western side, none of which remain. Wooden walnut studs placed on end, then glued and tarred into the stall floor, gave bovine hooves some comfort. Teal colored doors with brass hardware, paint-cracked with age and weather, open to small rooms lined with sheet metal or wire mesh. The use of these rooms is lost to memory.

The Friedmans have replaced all the windows, and re-sided where necessary with red German siding. The Swiss and German immigrants originally painted their barns red, with a mixture of red oxide from the soil, linseed oil from flax, and casein from cows' milk.

Allison Friedman admits the renovations

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Rob Friedman, holding the couple's daughter Diane, and his wife Allison are restoring one of the Back Mountain's largest barns. They plan to keep horses there and build a new home nearby.

Trinity mourns the death of first pastor

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Plans were underway at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas to conduct a special worship service and reception to honor the founding pastor, Rev. Andy Pillarella, on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry in April 1954.

Instead, Wednesday morning the congregation learned the sad news that their beloved former pastor and friend had lost his long battle with illness at the age of 85.

He told me "I will preach the gospel until I can't," said Rev. Mark Harper, current pastor at Trinity. "And until recently he preached three sermons every Sunday at Inkerman Presbyterian Church, Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre, and the First Presbyterian Church in Pittston."

Pillarella was widely known for his compassion and endless amount of energy when hard times came upon anyone who needed help. "He sat with me all night long at the hospital when my son was in an accident many years ago," said Dana Dungey, a founding charter member who served as his secretary at the church for 18 years.

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Rev. Andrew Pillarella

School board members walk when letter is read

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Four board members, including president Ernest Ashbridge, walked out of the November 10 Dallas School Board meeting.

The move prevented fellow board member Frank Natitus from reading a copy of a letter that was sent to board members by a prospective new member. But it also made apparent a growing division over who members of the board want appointed to the open position.

Dennis Gochoel, whose candidacy fell short in the November 4 election, sent the letter. In it he requested to be considered for the vacancy creat-

"I just thought the public should know that we got a letter."

Frank Natitus
School director

ed by Anthony Barbose's November 1 resignation. By law, the board must appoint someone to fill the position by November 30, or the decision will be made by a Luzerne County judge.

Natitus brought up the letter two separate times during the meeting. After the secretary finished reading incoming correspondence, Natitus

asked whether or not the district had in fact received a letter from someone interested in the school board vacancy. Ashbridge replied that the letter came to the board members, not the secretary.

"Isn't that considered correspondence?" asked Natitus.

"Not unless it goes to the secretary," responded Ashbridge.

During the new business portion of the meeting Natitus began to read the letter. Ashbridge interrupted him and said, "I think with the absence of a quorum, the meeting is adjourned."

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Kids take up mother's battle with lung disease

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — Donna Lee Oatridge wants what any mother wants for her children. "I want them to grow up, leave the nest and lead happy, productive lives," she said.

But for now, Tara, her 23-year-old daughter, and Frank, her 19-year-old son, have put their own life goals on hold so they can help take care of their mother. As Frank puts it, "So we can be there for her like she has always been there for us."

Donna Oatridge is suffering

from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and emphysema. She lives in daily discomfort, is constantly tethered to an oxygen tank, and has endured repeated trips to the hospital.

Her illness can be easily measured financially from all of the bills she receives, but the human cost to the family is increasingly difficult to endure. As most families come to learn, when one of them is suffering, all of them are affected.

Frank, a sophomore at the

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POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Donna Lee Oatridge was flanked by her children Tara and Frank in this photo. Donna is awaiting a lung transplant.

Cop training, mayor says

By DAVID WEISS
and
ERIN YOUNGMAN
For The Post

DALLAS — A potential borough police officer awaiting to be certified by the state did not violate any laws by riding in a patrol vehicle, the mayor and a council member said last week.

Another Back Mountain chief of police said Wednesday that such on-the-job training isn't uncommon at his department.

Steven Klingler, Berwick, who was hired by the borough in July, has not been sworn in as an officer and is only observing other officers on duty, said Mayor Tim Carroll.

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