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THE POST

50¢

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

School to housing? Meeting may decide

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — When he was younger, Bill Jones attended the now-closed Lake-Lehman Middle Level building. Now he hopes to turn it into something entirely different, affordable housing for the elderly.

"As you age, your housing needs change," Jones said recently. "The Back Mountain needs more housing for seniors."

He cites his own parents as an example. They moved to the Oak Hill section of the township after the 1972 Agnes flood.

Three decades later, the spacious lot that was once so attractive has become a burden to maintain.

A public forum will be held Wednesday, April 7 on plans to turn the former school building into 26 one bedroom units of housing designed for the senior population.

"We envision a building with spacious rooms, a great deal of activity, and a very safe, affordable housing option for the elderly of the Back Mountain and Sweet Valley areas," said Jones, Vice-President of Volunteers of America.

Renovations to the building are estimated at \$3 million. Jones said 70 to 80 percent of the funding would come from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. His group would seek the balance from three or four other sources. While he anticipates HUD approval this fall, a final schedule for the conversion would depend on securing the other funding sources.

Jones said the basic structure of the building is sound.

"The roof is good, the foundation is

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At right, Rev. James Wert shows an exact replica, color and all, of the type of trolley that used to make its way through the Back Mountain and on to Harveys Lake. Below, College Misericordia students Renee Lavin, seated, and Jenna Grabowski interviewed Wert as part of an ongoing oral history project.

POST PHOTO/ ERIN YOUNGMAN



LOCAL HISTORY

Students record local lore



Plans are for 40 interviews this year

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

Reverend James Wert is a trolley enthusiast to the "nth" degree. Mention the once-popular mode of transportation and his eyes light up, his hands begin to move and his voice booms with excitement — all the stuff a good storyteller is made of and an interviewer's dream.

Wert is one of about 40 people who will be interviewed between now and next fall for College Misericordia's Oral History Project. Nine students and two faculty members are taking part in the effort aimed at gathering as much historical information about the Back Mountain region as possible.

Misericordia professor Allan Austin said intense community-wide interest has propelled what started out a year ago as a three-person service project into a large-scale grant-funded undertaking.

History major Renee Lavin and El-

ementary Education major Jenna Grabowski interviewed Wert at his home in Exeter last week. Large production equipment filled the living room — video cameras, microphones and a tripod.

This is Lavin's second year with the project. The Dallas High School graduate said she has a number of reasons for being involved in the program, from preparing for graduate school to learning about a wide variety of topics.

Although Wert cautioned he didn't have all of the information stored solely in his mind, he rarely looked at the large cue cards his wife, Jean, was holding.

"This is the history of the Back Mountain's Tumultuous Trolley line, that ran from 1887 to 1939," Wert started, "I say tumultuous because it had trouble, struggles, upheavals and violence."

The United Methodist minister ef-

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Organizations eye local history

BACK MOUNTAIN — Those who just can't get enough of local history now have an organization to call their own. The Back Mountain Historical Association, which formed about two years ago, offers talks by local historians on local subjects.

Any person can attend the meetings and if interested, become involved in one of two ongoing projects, said Dr. Allan Austin, professor of history at College Misericordia and member of the association's steering committee.

The oral history project has taken on a life of its own, after beginning as one of the group's projects. Most of people who will be interviewed were either suggested by association members, or frequent the meetings themselves.

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Refusing sewer line exam could double rate

Cost would jump to \$1,278

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — Ask folks in the borough about their sewer rates and their eyes begin to roll.

Then ask them about the newest notice they received from the General Municipal Authority of Harveys Lake (which governs the sewer system) and you'll likely hear, "I'm not happy about it" and "The rates are already high."

In January residents were hit with a \$111 rate increase, bringing their annual bill to \$639. Then last week, many homeowners opened their mailboxes to find letters threatening to double that rate if they don't return a form allowing an inspection of their storm water hookups.

"We've already got the highest rate in the area," said Jim Koutnik who

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Little League change draws parents' ire

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

A change in policy made by Back Mountain Baseball has humiliated some children and raised the ire of their parents.

"It's wrong; they're devastating kids," said Paul Clemson, whose 11-

Back Mountain Baseball will hold a general meeting Monday, April 5, at 8 p.m. at the Dallas American Legion. The meeting is open to all parents and the public.

year-old son was told that he will not play on a Major League team this year. Until now, 11-year-olds who had come up in the program automatically advanced to the Majors from the AAA level.

Back Mountain Baseball has a hierarchy of teams organized by age and skill level. Players can begin as young as age 6 in tee-ball, then advance through A, AA, AAA and finally the Major League.

Jack Snyder, president of the league,

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Robert and Paula Civlick sign a card that will be sent to soldiers in the 109th Field Artillery Unit. Six cards were made by Missy Eneboe of New Visions Art Studio. Children's artwork and messages were pasted on the cards, and members of the community added their own signatures and well wishes.

Legion Auxiliary sends big message to soldiers

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

DALLAS — The Dallas Legion Post 672 Ladies Auxiliary is well-known for supporting American service men and women. So much so that the group was recently recognized for sending the most material overseas of any auxiliary in the nation.

So, what to do next? How about instead of toothpaste and bottled water, sending cards from home. Not just any cards, but oversized versions containing sentiments and encouragement from more than 1,000 school children and anyone else who wanted to sign.

"Why should we just keep sending them goods?" Deana Moelder, auxiliary president, asked herself one day. Instead, "we wanted to show them how we felt — and to get kids in-

A sampling of children's sentiments, page 2

volved."

They succeeded in a big way. The initial idea to create and send three cards, each 18" by 24" when folded, proved inadequate when 1,048 notes and pieces of artwork were contributed by students in grades 1-6 at Dallas and Wycallis elementary schools. In the end, six cards and seven posters with children's artwork were on display March 28, when visitors to the Dallas American Legion could add their own messages and signatures.

"They need something like this to cheer them up," said Barbara Jacoby, the primary organizer of the card

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