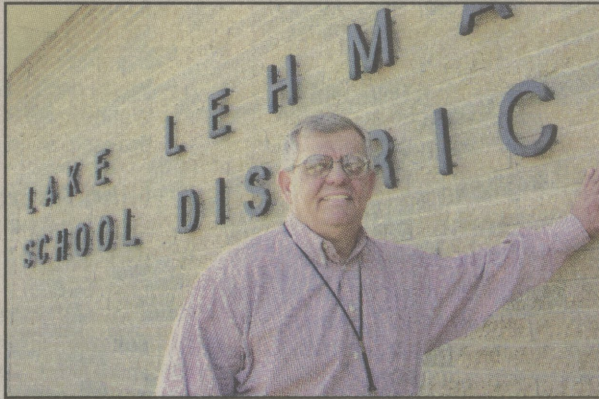


THE POST

50¢

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

Sure, you can go home again



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Former longtime principal John Oliver recently came out of retirement to serve as Lake-Lehman's interim superintendent.

Oliver returns as interim superintendent

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

LEHMAN TWP. – So many things have changed on the Lake-Lehman High School campus since John Oliver retired just a few years ago.

The school itself – which is now home to the high school and junior high – is new. There's a new gymnasium. And even many of the teachers aren't the same.

But at least one thing hasn't changed for the former longtime principal.

"I've always had an affection for the Lake-Lehman School District," Oliver said. "I did when I was working here and I still do today."

That's one of the reasons Oliver stepped forward when School Board asked him to serve as the district's interim superintendent. The superintendent's position became vacant when Michael Healey left for the same post in the Tunkhannock School District. Oliver began his duties April 1.

"They asked me to do them a favor," said Oliver, who worked for 36 years in the district, including 29 years as a principal before retiring in 2002.

"They needed a caretaker until a permanent su-

"They asked me to do them a favor."

John Oliver

See OLIVER, Page 8

Amusement parks focus of meeting



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES PETRILLO

The carousel was one of the many attractions at the former Hanson's Park in Harveys Lake.

The bi-annual meeting of the Back Mountain Historical Association will discuss the "Amusements of the Back Mountain" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 in the Banks Student Center's Kennedy Lounge at College Misericordia.

Local historian Charles Petrillo, author of "Harveys Lake" will be the feature speaker. The discussion will focus on the attractions at Harveys Lake – such as Hanson's Amusement Park – steamboats, hotels and other activities at the state's largest natural lake. He will also talk about the former Fernbrook Park.

Fernbrook Park was located in Dallas, where Offset Paperback is now located, along the Dallas and Harveys Lake Trolley Line. In 1928, Fernbrook Park advertised 18 amusement rides for the season, one of which was the recent addition of a roller coaster designed by Herbert Schmeck and built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1926, named the Wildcat.

The feature attraction of Fernbrook Park was the dance pavilion, capable of holding 2,500 people. During the Great Depression, rides were removed one by one until only the dance hall remained. The dance hall was later used as a skating rink before being closed in 1946.

Don Hanson's Amusement Park was situated at Harveys Lake on what was once the Lehigh Valley Railroad Picnic Grounds. Some of the early attractions at the picnic grounds included a dance hall, carousel, arcade, bowling alley, a small roller coaster, miniature railroad, swimming beach, and a Shoot-the-Chute.

By the 1920's, attractions included a shooting gallery, restaurant, bingo, a penny arcade, and dodgem cars. In the early 1930s, John A. Miller and Oscar E. Bittler built a 65-foot high roller coaster called the Speed Hound. In the 1940's, more rides and attractions were added, including a Ferris wheel and a new miniature railroad. Hanson's Drive-in Theater was built in 1948 and Kiddie Land opened in 1950, featuring boats, fire engines, pony carts, a miniature whip, and the Starlight Express, a small wooden children's roller coaster.

In 1980, the Speed Hound roller coaster was structurally damaged and was removed. With rising insurance costs and declining attendance in the early 1980s, many local amusement parks – including Sans Souci, Angela Park and Rocky Glen – were forced to close. In its last years, the Merry-Go-Round, the Pretzel Ride, the Whip, and Flying Coaster still served Hanson's.

See AMUSEMENT, Page 8

Hundreds of fishermen answer casting call

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

Alan Ide didn't have too much trouble catching his limit of five trout, casting his line in Leonard's Creek near Beaumont. A short distance downstream, Dave Vernon and his grandson Alex Berlew didn't have much luck, putting just one fish on the hook between them.

But despite the difference in success, the three fishermen concluded the first day of trout season with the same sentiment: it was a very enjoyable day.

Hundreds of anglers took to the various waterways in the Back Mountain on Saturday morning. Fishermen young and old could be seen at places such as Harveys Lake, Bowman's Creek, Frances Slocum State Park, Leonard's Creek and Moon Lake State Park.

"I've been fishing pretty much all of my life," said Ide, a Dallas resident who spent the day fishing by himself. "It gives me something to do. It gets you away from the grind. It's nice to spend some quiet time with a fishing pole in your hand and a line in the water. It was pretty good fishing. I took me half of a day, but I got my limit."

Not everyone was as fortunate. "We caught nothing, not a thing," said Joe Stier. The Dallas man spent a short time fishing on Harveys Lake with his father John, brother Dave, son Joey and niece Ashley. Stier's father and brother took out him out for a few hours to relax after a recent surgery. "We were only out for a short time, but it was a beautiful day."

The fact that they returned home



The Soltyski family – Mike Deb, Brett and Sean – of Tunkhannock boards a boat for the first day of trout fishing at Harveys Lake.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

empty-handed didn't put a damper on the day, says Stier.

"It's all about the experiences," said the 31-year-old. "Even when you don't catch any fish, you can have a great time. It's a great way to spend time together."

Joey Stier says he enjoyed the time he spent fishing off the boat with his father, grandfather, uncle and cousin.

"I like going in the water and being able to catch stuff," said the 10-year-old Wycallis Elementary School student, who plans to go fishing for trout and salmon in Ontario, Canada in August. "Fishing for walleye is my favorite.

They're big and challenging. Fishing is fun, but it requires a lot of patience. I like talking with my friends and family when I'm fishing."

Vernon spent most of the day fishing with his oldest grandchild. The pair spent about seven hours fishing in Leonard's Creek, with Vernon catching just one trout, while 10-year-old Alex will be able to talk about the one that got away.

"We weren't the only ones who didn't have any luck," said Vernon, who lives in Dallas. "There were about 20 people fishing around us and I think only four or five fish were caught. We still had a good time. It was the first time I was

able to take (Alex) trout fishing. He's learning. He does a pretty good job casting."

While he encourages his grandson in other activities – Alex plays youth baseball and basketball – Vernon says fishing is something that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

"I just want him to have a good time and enjoy the outdoors," said Vernon, who has been fishing for almost four decades. "This is something he can have fun doing the rest of his life. I used to fish with my father and my friends. I've been doing it since I was a little kid. It's nice to be able to do the same thing with my grandson."

Inside The Post

10 Pages, 1 Section

Civic	3
Church	2&5
Only Yesterday	4
School	6&9
Sports	7-8

How To Reach Us

News: 829-7248
 thepost@leader.net
 15 N. Main St.
 Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711
 Advertising: 829-7101
 Subscriptions
 and Delivery: 829-5000