

Former owner of Hanson's Park passes away

Helen Hanson Sponholtz, a well-known face in the Back Mountain, has died.

Sponholtz, of Harveys Lake, passed away on Tuesday, July 9, 2008 at Keystone Garden Estates in Larksville. She was 89 years old.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Sponholtz graduated from the Toronto public school system. She met John Hanson, the owner of Hanson's Amusement Park in Harveys Lake, while he was visiting Toronto. The two fell in love, married and Helen moved to Harveys Lake.

As a contractor, John Hanson did work for Alfred Wintersteen. The Wintersteens owned the amusement park, known at the time as the Lehigh Valley Railroad Picnic Grounds, and were in financial trouble. Hanson purchased the land and park from them in the mid-1930s and renamed it Hanson's Amusement Park.



Sponholtz

When Hanson died in 1966, Sponholtz and her two stepsons, Robert and Donald Hanson (deceased), took over ownership of the park. Robert and Patricia Hanson returned from Florida to Harveys Lake to help with the park while Sponholtz did much of the secretarial work.

Sponholtz married Ivan Sponholtz who passed away in 1977.

Eventually, Sponholtz and Robert Hanson sold their shares of the park to Donald Hanson who continued to operate Hanson's until 1984.

Despite the fact many knew Sponholtz from the amusement park, her step daughter-in-law, Patricia Hanson, of Dallas, says Sponholtz often kept to herself.

"She was kind of introverted," Patricia Hanson said. "She didn't socialize too much. She only had a few friends she would go with."

Patricia Hanson did not know if Sponholtz was aware that local residents are trying to acquire the old carousel from Hanson's through the "Brass Ring Fund." The fund is raising money to purchase the carousel at an auction and ensure its return to the area.

Carole Samson, a Harveys Lake resident and a member of borough council, remembers regularly seeing Sponholtz at Pickett's Charge Restaurant in Dallas.

"She had a delightful sense of humor; she was always smiling," Samson said. "She always stopped and had a friendly word and asked how you were doing and how everything was going. I always thought she was sweet."

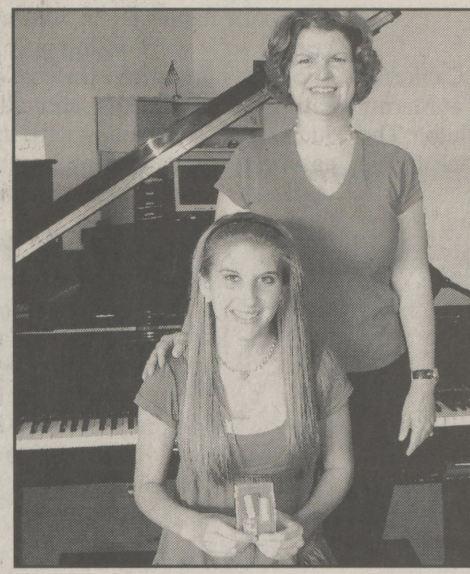
Prater receives gold medal for music

Emily Prater, 14, an eighth grade student at Dallas Middle School, recently received the Paderewski Gold Medal from the American College of Musicians.

Prater was awarded this honor for playing a 10-piece program in the National Piano Playing Auditions for 10 consecutive years, receiving both Excellent and Superior ratings.

She has been a participant in the Pennsylvania Music Teachers National Association's Dorothy Sutton Performance Festivals at both local and state levels receiving superior ratings. She has also performed in PMTA's Honors Recital at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Prater, of Dallas, Prater received the 2008 Accompanist Award at Dallas Middle School where she accompanied both chorus and the select chorus.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emily Prater, 14, an eighth grade student at Dallas Middle School, recently received the Paderewski Gold Medal from the American College of Musicians. Prater, seated, is shown here with her piano teacher, Michele Millington.

She also serves as soloist at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas.

In addition to music accomplishments, Prater is member of the Dallas track and cross country team and the Ameri-

can Girls travel soccer team. She studies piano with Michele Millington of Mountaintop, a certified teacher of piano by the American College of Musicians and Music Teachers Association.

SERVING

Continued from Page 1

in foster homes until they are adopted. Susquehanna Service Dogs charges an \$800 adoption fee because of careful breeding and the intense training the dogs have had.

Prospective volunteers must undergo training, a home interview and evaluation. The organization provides volunteers with a bandana, harness, crate, identification tag, dog license, collar and leash. Volunteers are responsible for buying the dog's food and must enforce positive clicker training.

"I think the hardest thing people will find is that you can't yell at the dog," Kabata said.

Veterinary care for Prince Caspian is being donated by Makara's veterinarian, Rose Ann Crisci, of Sweet Valley Vet Clinic in Hunlock Creek, and Kabata's veterinarian, John Shonis, of Fishing Creek Vet Clinic in Benton, cares for Princess Cinderella.

The three area women raising Susquehanna Service Dogs, who are required to meet at least twice a month, meet every Wednesday at the Bear Creek Township Municipal Building to share advice and practice training techniques with Susquehanna Service Dogs' satellite trainer Meg Irizarry.

The women frequently take their dogs to restaurants, stores, work and church, allowing the animals to become accustomed to distractions such as children and noise and things like automatic doors and elevators. The dogs are allowed in public places under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"It's very important for them to get out and do these kinds of things," Makara said.

Both women have dogs of their own at home and say it's good for the service dogs to interact with other animals because their future owner may have pets or visit places with animals. The dogs also get to become familiar with their trainer's family members. Makara lives with her husband, Rick, daughters Kaitlyn, 20, and Kelsey, 17, and son Matthew, 8. Kabata lives with her husband, Ray.

Despite training to be working dogs one day, the dogs are still shown affection and the puppies return love by sitting in their owner's laps and giving plenty of kisses.

"At home, they're like any other dog," Kabata said.

That includes the struggles that come with raising dogs. Makara has trouble getting Prince Caspian to sleep past 6:30 a.m., forcing her out of bed early. Kabata is having a difficult time housebreaking Princess Cinderella, who recently suffered a urinary tract infection, setting back her progress.

Although the women admit to becoming attached to their dogs, they remind themselves the dogs are not theirs and will soon go to their permanent homes.

"It is tough, but what gets me through is it's going to help somebody else," Kabata said.

"A lot of people compare it to having a dog for 18 months and taking it away," Makara added. "But you know it's going away when you take it."

Makara and Kabata feel giving up the dogs will be hard but fulfilling. The women were told they can attend a graduation ceremony where they will meet their dog's new owner.

John Frederick receives \$500 book scholarship from the Dallas Lions Club

John Frederick, a June graduate of Holy Redeemer High School, was one of two recipients of \$500 book scholarships presented to students in the Back Mountain by the Dallas Lions Club.

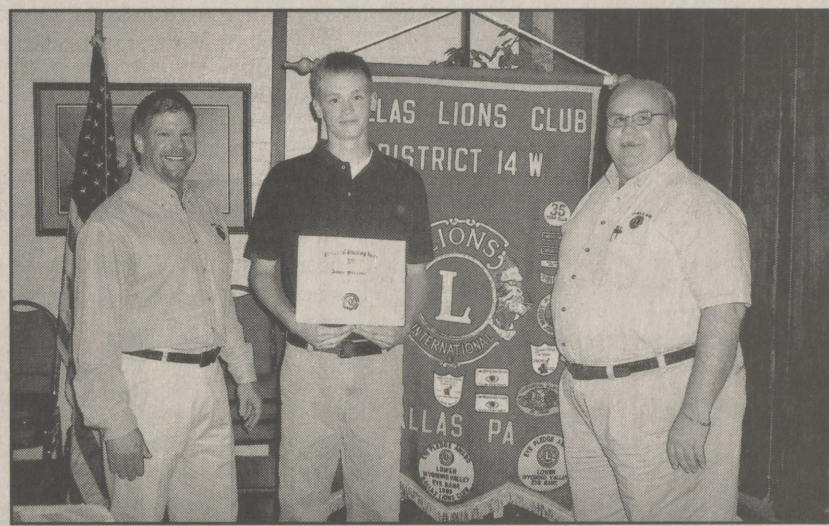
Frederick and his parents, Wayne and Ann, were guests of the club at a recent dinner meeting held at the Castle Inn.

Frederick served as an altar server at Gate of Heaven Church and was a member of the Upward Bound program at Wilkes University. At Holy Redeemer, he was a member

of the stage crew and lighting crew. He was an Honor Roll student at Bishop O'Reilly and, on two occasions, was the recipient of the "Bishop of Scranton Youth Award."

He was employed by Jewelry Doctor and Hilbert's Tractor Store and his hobby is restoring motor vehicles.

He is planning to pursue a degree in electrical technology/building automation and has been accepted at several schools, including Penn State, Wilkes and Bloomsburg.



John Frederick, of Dallas, was one of two recipients of \$500 book scholarships presented to students in the Back Mountain by the Dallas Lions Club. Shown here during the scholarship presentation are, from left, Joseph Newhart, scholarship chairman; Frederick and Dave Fitch, president, Dallas Lions Club.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Old School Days Reunion is today

The Sixth Old School Days Reunion will be held at 1 p.m. today, Aug. 10, at Pavilion #2 at Moon Lake Park. Anyone who attended one-room school houses in Ceasetown, Oakdale, Mountain Top, Hillside or Rome is invited to attend and bring family members and friends.

Everyone attending is asked to bring a covered dish to share. For more information, call Helen Franklin at 675-4238.

MU plans Open House

Misericordia University invites high school students and their parents to the Summer Open House program at its Back Mountain campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16.

The open house schedule includes registration, refreshments, campus tours, a faculty session and lunch, and meetings with representatives of student services and athletics as well as a session on financial aid.

For more information, call the Misericordia University Admissions Office at 675-4449.

Lake-Lehman HS plans Open House

The Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School will host an

Open House August 26-28. This yearly event allows seventh, eighth and ninth-grade students to try lockers, locate rooms and become familiar with the layout of the school. Information pertinent to the Open House will be mailed home shortly before. Students must bring this information with them on the day they choose to visit the school.

Students and parents are welcome to attend according to the following schedule: 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26; 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27; and 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28.

DHS Class of '68 plans reunion

The Dallas High School Class

of 1968 will hold its 40th anniversary reunion Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 5-7. A mixer will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, at Joe's Grotto, Harveys Lake. The Dallas Senior High School Farewell Tour will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6.

The reunion evening will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Huntsville Golf Club. Appetizers and drinks (cash bar) will be served on the veranda at 6 p.m. after which classmates will assemble at 7:15 p.m. on the side lawn for the 40th anniversary reunion photograph. A barbeque of steak, chicken, salads and more will be served at 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$49 per person and checks should be made payable

to Charlotte Gelb Farley, 5661 Main Rd., Hunlock Creek, PA 18621 no later than August 25. For additional information, call Sally Walk at 283-3886.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the following classmates if asked to e-mail lfness@msn.com:

Jeanette S. Evans, Emma M. Gydosch, James J. Hummel, Natalie M. Jacobs, Deana C. MacLean, Daniel A. McCoog, G. Luella Olver, Sharon A. Palmentera, Ronald Richards, Ronald Roberts, Myra Schroer, Ann Marie Showers, Walter Stuart, Dale E. Swan, Robert N. Welsh, Rosann Strickland Nodalski, Richard Bogdan, Roger Maury, Constance Vaskas Constantine and Nicholas Perrella.

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