

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# Borough neighborhood historic, convenient, vibrant

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Dallas Post Correspondent

According to Durelle Scott, if you drove from Wilkes-Barre through the Back Mountain 50 years ago, you didn't come across much of anything until you arrived in Dallas. The monotonous trip passed mostly wooded land, he remembers.

But when you got to Dallas, you saw banks, movie houses, grist mills and stores from which Scott, then a young boy, remembers buying 5-cent candy. Scott attended the four-grade grammar school on Huntsville Road where Antoinette Mason taught second grade and the school bell chimed in the morning, at lunch and at the end of the day.

Then Scott lived in his aunt's on Huntsville Road. He later bought what he and his wife, Connie, think is the original Norton family farmhouse on Norton Avenue. Another farmhouse is mentioned as the Norton farmhouse on the corner of Spring Street and Lehman Avenue in the book "Dallas History" by D.A. Waters. Is the Scott's house a second larger farmhouse or the original one?

Scott has only fond memories about the neighborhood, sectioned off for lots around 1894 from two large tracts, the Norton and the Machell farms. The area now includes Norton, Lehman and Pine Crest avenues and King and Spring streets, bound on the west by Machell Avenue and on the east by Huntsville Road.

Scott remembers angering farmer Jerry Machell after being caught burrowing in hay in the barn with his friend.

State Senator Lisa Baker, who grew up in the same farmhouse on Norton Avenue, remembers her mother making applesauce, using apples from five different kinds of trees in the back yard.

Today, the neighborhood offers much more than apples. Thirteen-year-old Andy Zeyher likes being within a block of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, the Gate of Heaven Bazaar and the Dallas Fall Harvest Festival. He likes the "big back yard" he plays in but probably doesn't realize that his yard had been a neighborhood horse and buggy turn-around for many years.

His 9-year-old sister Katie enjoys having her friend, Alana Evesland, right next door.

The street swings with bikes, balls, carriages, children and young families. The Zeyhers live in a house built in 1917 by Reese Isaacs, an area homebuilder, for his daughter-in-law, a Norton girl.



Isaacs also built the Risley house across from the library, the barn on Lehman Avenue and many of the neighborhood's large turn-of-the-century homes to accommodate sprawling families. Many of the homes have since been added on to, suggesting the robustness of the area.

"It's always been this way," adds Mark Chappell, who has lived on the corner of Norton and Huntsville his entire life, now with his two children, Maura and Eli, and his parents, Walter and Mary Chappell.

"It's a good neighborhood, relatively quiet with good people," he says, "and there are always plenty of kids to play with."

Behind Chappell's house is a small two-story garage which Chappell says originally faced Huntsville Road. It was the first location of The Dallas Post in 1889.

Wrapped in history and still vibrantly alive, the area has one more special feature to offer.

It's close to everything.

Twenty three years ago, Nancy and Bob Dingman raised their children on Lower Demunds Road in Dallas, then moved to Wells, Vermont, for 13 years. Tired of the isolation and long car trips, they happily returned to the area, settling on Spring Street, close to the library where Nancy volunteers, and their



Nine years ago, Bob and Nancy Dingman moved back to the center of Dallas on Spring Street in order to be within walking distance of almost everything. Bob thinks the hardware store is one of the best places in town and Nancy walks to the library where she volunteers in the bookstore.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

friends the Gritmans and the Haydens.

Their home is within walking distance of one of the "best hardware stores anywhere," says Bob.

The Dingmans like to do business at the local pharmacy and bank in town, knowing they also can hop on a bus to downtown Wilkes-Barre whenever they want.



Emma Switzer and her friend Alison Francis play after school on Norton Avenue.



Arguably the original Norton farmhouse on Norton Avenue is draped in afternoon sunlight.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following transfers of Back Mountain properties have been recorded in the Luzerne County Office of Recorder of Deeds for the week of Sept. 17-21, 2012:

Donald and Ann Heness to James E. Greiner, Lots 57 & 58, Anderson Plot, Harveys Lake Borough; \$70,000

Leo Wallace, Dolores D. Dorak (Estate), Judith Malacarne, Michele and Nicole Zimmerman to Kyle Wickenheiser, Lot 17 & p/o lots 15 & 16, Applewood Manor, Dallas Township; \$160,000

George E. and Mary Elizabeth Thomas to John E. and Melanie L. Rupert, Dallas Township;

\$215,100

Robert N. Hackett to Michael A. and Maria C. Tague, 23 Westpoint Ave., Harveys Lake Borough; \$66,000

Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind to Diane Kocik (executor), Dale A. Nicholson (co-executor) and Anne W. Nicholson (estate), 47 acres, Tract C, Harveys Lake Borough; \$500

Fannie Mae (per attorney in fact) and Phelan, Hallinan & Schmieg (attorney in fact) to Jason Rushmer, 391 Green Pond Road, Kingston Township; \$96,325

Joseph and Sharon L. Beeunas

to Carmen III and Suzanne Attanasio, 2.5 acres, Ross Township; \$30,000

Romanowski Development Co., Inc. to Lakshminarayan Yerra and Anuradha Tunuguntla, Lot 12, Slocum Estates, Kingston Township; \$480,000

Harry J. II, Mabel A. Sally Anne, Marion H. Jane Helen, Jane H. Harter, Sally Ann and Sally H. Sprankle to Romanowski Development Co., Inc., Kingston Township; \$7,500

Frederick J. Rohrbeck (executor), Helene Kretchik (estate) to John J. and Bernice S. Sando, 6 Tamanini Drive, Lot 14, Sunrise Estates, Kingston Township; \$205,000

## CUB SCOUTS EXPLORE BOULDER FIELD



Cub Scout Pack 155 of Trucksville explored Boulder Field in August and completed a mile-long hike at Hickory Run State Park in Carbon County. The hiking trip was part of a series of outdoor activities the Scouts had to complete to earn the national Summer Activity Award. From left, first row, are Alex Jennings, Matt Cheskiewicz, Brendon Austin, Brandon Fleschut, Ethan Shilanski, Douglas Newbinging, Dennis Dukinas, Austin Sowga. Second row, Carther Thompson, Nicholas Godin, Bryce Voitek, Chris Campbell, Thomas Figora. Third row, Russ Banta, Cubmaster; Jacob Banta, Joseph Sowga, Erik Sowga, Assistant Cubmaster; and Zack Calkins.

## Vigil remembers Corey Ehret, others

Dallas High School's Mini-THON will hold a "Candle Light Walk for Cancer in Loving Memory of Corey Ehret" from 7 to 9 p.m. today, Sept. 30 at the Dallas High School track inside Mountaineer Stadium.

The walk is being held in honor and memory of

anyone who has battled cancer.

Candles can be pre-ordered by emailing Heather7171@yahoo.com or calling Heather Cave at 690-3500 with a name and number of candles wanted.

Candles will also be sold at the event.

## DHS alumni band members invited to play

Michael Potoeski, director of the Dallas High School Marching Band, invites all alumni band members to play with the current band on Saturday, Oct. 6 during the Mountaineers homecoming football game.

Alumni should arrive at noon to have music handed out and receive information about alumni activities.

For more information, contact Potoeski at mpotoeski@dallasd.com.

## HAUNTED

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This worked until just the other day when groundskeepers noticed what appeared to be nightmares had come to life but seemed to be bounded to the woods of Market Street. Without a child for the spell, the

nightmares cannot leave the witch's ground.

The witch was smart. Many years after those three boys had passed away of old age, she sold her cursed land to the town when she heard they needed to build new schools. She could not catch the children so she brought the children to her.

Now, every nightmare is there to terrorize the children in the woods behind the ele-

mentary school on Market Street. The witch is still lurking, waiting to catch one child at night close to Hollow's Eve to complete her spell and the nightmares will walk among us for eternity.

Do you dare enter the Woods at nightfall close to Hollow's Eve? Can you out-run a 200-year-old witch? Do you think you can make it through nightmares made especially for you?