



# Funeral home part of city's history

Q&A answers questions on a broad range of topics each Tuesday.

**Q** I have some questions regarding the Miller Bean funeral home on Cedar Avenue in South Scranton. Is that the original location? Was it ever known as just Miller's? When did it first start conducting funeral services? Its advertising shows that it was established in 1870, yet my family has documents pertaining to the deaths of family members from as far back as the 1850s and 1860s that refer to Miller's on Cedar Avenue in South Scranton as handling the undertaking.

**A** Michael Miller, who lived and owned a store on the site of the Lackawanna County Courthouse when he settled in Scranton, was the originator of the business, according to Robert J. Miller Bean, the current president of Miller Bean Funeral Home Inc. Hoping to include a livery service, Mr. Miller moved his business to Cedar Avenue and Hickory Street, when he found the now-courthouse square downtown grounds too swampy for horses.

The livery service and store were known as Miller's until his granddaughter, Mary Louise Miller, married Carl J. Bean. Store ledgers from the 1850s and 1860s show instances of the owners supplying and handling funeral and burial services, doing much of the work for free, since, "We make our living off the people of this community and you must give something back."

"...The store was doing well, the livery service was growing, but they were taking quite a loss relating to funerals," Mr. Bean said. "That is when I think that they felt it was time to treat it as an actual business enterprise and saw a need to make a modest profit in doing so to keep it going."

The funeral business was established in 1870, with the family even using their own living room for viewing of those who just arrived in town or were homeless ("moving the Christmas tree and all the decorations out only to put them all back a few days later."). Some families, Mr. Bean said, paid their funeral expense with live chickens.

**Q** Since it's almost the witching day, can you tell us anything about a muse-

# Reader Q&A

um in Salem, Mass., based on the witch trials that took place there?

**A** The Salem Witch Museum, located at Washington Square North in Salem, offers an extravagant, informative and historical look at the famous 1692 trials and executions.

"The Salem Witch Museum brings you there, back to Salem 1692. Visitors are given a dramatic history lesson using stage sets with life-size figures, lighting and a narration — an overview of the Witch Trials of 1692," the museum's Web site says.

It adds, "Our new exhibit, *Witches: Evolving Perceptions*, examines the stereotypical witch, aspects of witchcraft in the 17th century, modern witchcraft and the phenomenon of witch hunts. Do you believe in witches? Don't answer until you visit us."

The museum operates year round, only closing for Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for senior citizens and \$5 for children ages 6 through 14. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, you can reach the staff by phone at 978-744-1692 or visiting their Web site, [www.salemwitchmuseum.com](http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com).

**Q** Can you tell me when black bears hibernate? This summer, a black bear broke down my bird feeder three times, so now I put it in the garage every evening and put it up again every morning. I'm tired of doing that, so when the bears hibernate I'll leave it up all night.

**A** You might want to keep taking it down at night a little longer. The hibernation or "torpor" period for bears usually begins in late fall and lasts usually about six months or so, all depending on the severity of the winter.

During this period the bears rest, but do not necessarily go into a deep sleep in their den. A slowing down in their metabolism allows them to do without any nourishment or having to defecate or urinate until their slumber ends in early spring, around late March or April.

**MAIL YOUR QUESTIONS** to Reader Q&A, The Times-Tribune, 149 Penn Ave., 18503. Items may also be e-mailed to Lisa Zaccagnino at [readerqanda@timeshamrock.com](mailto:readerqanda@timeshamrock.com) or faxed to 348-9135.

## Pasta dinner



LINDA MORGAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Committee members gather to plan Dunmore Senior Center's biannual pasta dinner Thursday with takeouts at 3:30 p.m. and dinner at 5. From left, Carol Angerson, Carmel Arnone, Addie Michalek and Jeanne Hugenbruch, center executive director. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Reservations can be made by calling 207-2662.

# New science may name 'Beth Doe'

*Murder victim's remains found 30 years ago below Interstate 80 bridge.*

BY JILL WHALEN  
STAFF WRITER

She had brown eyes, brown hair and was pregnant with a baby girl.

Little else is known about the young woman who has been known for more than 30 years as "Beth Doe."

However, much is known about her death.

She was strangled, shot and dismembered. Her remains, along with the remains of her fetus, were crammed together, stuffed in three suitcases and thrown from a 300-foot-high bridge into the Lehigh River.

Beth Doe's real identity still puzzles investigators. But a lot has changed since 1976, when the remains were found underneath the Interstate 80 bridge near White Haven. Technological advances have been made in the field of forensics.

Investigators from state police in Hazleton are scheduled to begin exhuming Beth Doe's remains this morning from a cemetery in Lehigh Township, Carbon County.

"We are going to apply some of today's forensics to see if we can identify her," said Trooper Thomas C. McAndrew, the lead investigator.

Remains of both Beth Doe and her fetus will be re-examined by a forensic pathologist, two forensic odontologists and a forensic anthropologist.

It was Dec. 20, 1976. Kenneth Jumper Jr., then 14, was walking near the Lehigh River when

he came across a grisly scene — parts of a human body had tumbled onto rocks from two broken suitcases.

Police discovered a third suitcase along the icy banks of the Lehigh River. Inside one of the suitcases, they found a fetus.

According to reports, police scoured the scene but came up with no evidence. Also found inside the suitcases were sections of the New York Sunday News and a cut-up pink chenille bedspread, both items had been used to wrap the body parts.

An autopsy determined the victim was a female in her late teens or 20s. She was about 5-foot-4 and weighed 140 pounds. Her baby had grown to full-term.

Although a composite sketch was made of her face, the artist was unsure of the nose shape because it, along with her ears, had been removed by the killer, according to information from The Doe Network, an amateur group that researches cold cases. And because it was 1976, DNA was unable to be collected. Forensic investigators can use DNA found in blood, skin or hair to identify a perpetrator or, as in this case, the victim.

No one has ever stepped forward to identify Beth Doe. She was buried in Laurytown Road Cemetery in Lehigh Township, a burial ground known to locals as "Potter's Field," or a cemetery for unknown and indigent people. Of 84 grave markers in the cemetery, only 14 bear a name.

**Contact the writer:**  
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**COURT NOTES**

**MARRIAGE LICENSES**

- Roberto Federico Ruzzi and Mary Patricia Collura, both of Richmond, Va.
- Wayne Steven Urbaniak Jr. and Heather Marie Kauffman, both of Scranton.
- Juan Reyes and Reyna Becerril, both of Scranton.
- David Michael Rose, Carbondale, and Elissa Marie Horton, Mehoopany.
- Baldomero Cervantes and Luz Maria Campa, both of Scranton.
- Bradley Allen Hopkins and Shannon Higgins, both of Clarks Summit.
- Fernando Cervantes and Francisca Espinoza, both of Scranton.

**PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

- P and J's Development Co. Inc., Jessup, to Yolanda M. Kirtland and Robert J. Thomas, Archbald, a property on Beverly Drive, Archbald, for \$223,000.
- Catherine and John Copertino, Spring Brook Township; Raymond Snarski, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Annette and Robert Grudinski, Gouldsboro; John and Theresa Copertino, Litz; Daniel and Ann M. Copertino, Spring Brook Township; and Donna and Brian Rimbey, Bath; to Matthew Poplawski and Brian Ravaioli, addresses unavailable, a property at 3277 Pittston Ave., Moosic, for \$120,000.
- Jesse J. and Barbara Hinkley, New Milford, to Christine Richard, Newton Township, a property in Newton Township for \$356,730.
- Sandra Lynn Borgna, Olyphant, to John Andrew Borgna Jr., Olyphant, a property at 519 E. Grant St., Olyphant, for \$85,000.
- Mark J. Gabriel, Bryn Mawr, to James T. and Mary T. Backus, Scranton, a property on North Main Avenue for \$80,000.
- Dorothy Jane Gordon, Scranton, to Michael and Patricia Burke, Scranton, a property on Snook Street for \$350,000.
- M and E Buildings Inc., Pocono Lake, to Ernesto Casanova, Paterson, N.J., a property in Thornhurst Township for \$175,500.
- Patricia Gallo, Throop, to Eleanor E. and Elaine Lapinski, Throop, a property at 121 Harriet St., Throop, for \$67,000.
- Keyser Van Service, 1308 N. Keyser Ave., for \$2,809.73.
- Lentak Enterprises LLC, P.O. Box 141 Jermyn, for \$1,623.31.
- Linda J. Little, 19 Oakford Glen, Clarks Summit, for \$8,323.60.
- Kinback Corp., 1204 S. Main Ave., for \$10,369.05.

**STATE TAX LIENS**

- Kenneth E. Jackson Sr., 1823 Ferdinand St., for \$568.63.
- Harold R. Babcock, 116 E. Taylor St., Taylor, for \$6,339.14.
- Phyllis A. Tomczyk, 354 Evans Court, for \$1,722.14.
- Christine D. Benio, RR 1, Box 139B, Dalton, for \$1,505.88.
- Amanda McCauley, Rear 363 N. Garfield Ave., for \$1,629.16.
- Omar Herrera, 105 Townhouse Blvd., for \$642.28.
- Royal Food Shop Inc., 1735 N. Keyser Ave., for \$934.85.

**WHY MANAGE PAIN WHEN YOU COULD ELIMINATE MOST OF IT LIKE DONNA DID! DEPRESSION 100% GONE IN ONE DAY! SUICIDAL TENDENCIES GONE IN 2 DAYS!**

**Donna Riviello**

On May 19, 2007, depressed, desperate and riddled with intolerable pain, I went to Cee-Kay Auto to pick up water cure information. I did the program and within 2 weeks my pain had decreased 75%. My doctor told me to keep doing what I was doing, "I cannot argue with proof," he said.

**Update: August 25, 2007- Donna Riviello, LPN- RSD, I now have much of my life back, no more \$3,000 painful shots that delivered minimal results, I lost 25 pounds and above all, my children have their mom back.** Yet the most amazing thing is my 17 years of extreme pain, suffering, and tears has enabled me to experience the joy of helping other people get well too without costing them one cent. I'd love to speak to you and your group. Email [Bonita45@hotmail.com](mailto:Bonita45@hotmail.com) or call 570-457-5801. It hurts me to know that countless people are suffering needlessly when the solution is right in our kitchens. I don't want anyone to suffer the way I did. I want to thank God for helping me by helping you. I wonder why our 2200 billion dollar a year medical system, which failed to help me, has no interest in learning how a no-cost solution did. Even our legislators and newspapers have no interest. WHY??? View my interview on WYOU TV at [http://www.watercure2.org/Video/wyou\\_interactive\\_riviello.wmv](http://www.watercure2.org/Video/wyou_interactive_riviello.wmv) and also hear Jim Rising's amazing story, "Cured of Diabetes!" DVD's of this interview may be borrowed at Cee-Kay Auto in Moosic.

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