



T.L. 6-25-97

By JENNIFER BATTISTA
Times Leader Correspondent

WILKES-BARRE — Along South Franklin Street, amid the imposing brown and gray buildings, there's a flowering oasis, a rose garden amid the concrete.

The rose retreat belongs to George Fenner, an attorney who has kept his garden growing in the city since 1974.

"It just makes me happy," said Fenner. "I always thought the rose was a nice bush, so I started growing it."

Fenner said there are benefits to growing rows of roses next to the asphalt parking lot on the side of his building on South Franklin Street.

"If you have grass and other plants near your roses, that increases the probability of bugs and fungi attacking them, because that's where they mainly come from," he said.

The process of growing roses can differ from one area to another, even within growing zones.

"The rose growth and season differs from Wilkes-Barre to Mountaintop,"

Fenner said. "Roses are very sensitive to the cold. Around here you have to winter-protect them with an insulated fence that you remove in the springtime. But then, heat will drive them off, too. At 100 degrees they almost lose their leaves."

There are specific challenges to growing roses in Northeastern Pennsylvania, said Brian Nelmes, home horticultural assistant for the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Wilkes-Barre.

"In the spring we have to watch out for fungus and bugs, but the roses will flower for a long time in the fall," he said.

Fenner said roses here are at their peak bloom from June 1 to 15, but generally have a longer season.

"We're still picking in September," he said.

If you're tempted by what you see in other gardens and want to start a rose garden, or want to make yours more beautiful and healthy in the Northeastern Pennsylvania climate, Fenner and Nelmes have some advice.

There are three main steps to follow when beginning a new rose garden.

1. Location — You have to plant your roses in a place where they will receive the most sunlight, whether that be near a parking lot or in a large yard.

2. Soil — You should test the soil in the area where you want to plant the flowers. Nelmes said a soil test kit can be obtained from the Agricultural Association for \$6.

3. Select flowers — After you've chosen and tested the area where you want to plant, the last step is to obtain quality rose plants from a certified nursery.

The rest is up to you.

Fenner said it is important and extremely helpful to listen to the growing stories and advice of other gardeners. "Hearing their stories and reading about their experiences in gardening magazines helps you to avoid common mistakes and learn about new techniques in fighting bugs and fungi," he said.

Common garden bugs in this area include the Japanese beetle, the midge bug and the spider mite. Nelmes and Fenner said it is very important to spray in your garden for these bugs. An easy way to test for bugs is to place a white piece of paper under the leaves and shake to see if they fall.

Fungi, such as black spot and powdery mildew, are another common problem of rose growers in this area. They are most prevalent after cool, wet springs, which are common in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

But if problems are prevalent whether you grow your roses in a parking lot or a big field, in Wilkes-Barre or Mountaintop, the rewards are the same too.

Just ask rose gardener George Fenner.

No
matter
where
you
plant
it,



The explosive beauty of the rose may have you thinking of growing your own.

TIMES LEADER PHOTOS/RICHARD SABATURA

a rose is a rose is a
rose



A downtown setting has proved effective for the rose garden of attorney George Fenner.

Gift of land could turn out to be a Trojan horse for the WWV district

Editor:

WWV stands to receive a "free puppy." In his generosity in bequeathing 50 acres of land to WWV (June 19), J. Donald Munson has offered our school district a "free pedigree puppy," but we must consider the future costs and care associated with the puppy.

With taxpayers looking at both property tax and earned income tax increases, the bequest would be more philanthropically used if it were sold at fair

market value with proceeds used to improve existing schools and reduce the tax burden on taxpayers.

Apparently, the school directors who were previously in favor of building a new school — which we could not afford — are going to use the cuteness of this puppy to charm us into giving a go-ahead for their plans. But there are still millions of dollars needed to complete such a project.

Mr. Munson's gift dangles bait at politically hungry fish, and offers them a

time frame in which they can make an emotional decision without considering the future implications.

Local school districts' experiences — Nanticoke, for example — have shown us that conservative use of funds is called for at this time, not grand schemes we cannot afford.

To the estate of J. Donald Munson: Thanks, but no thanks.

T.V. 6-27-97

Mark A. Margavage
Edwardsville

**MORNING CALL (BETHLEHEM
EDITION)**

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TUESDAY 35,363
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Rambling afield

► The Wildlands Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have closed a deal on a 657-acre tract in Luzerne County, which has been added to State Game Land No. 207. Known as Haystack Mountain, the property was donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Fenner Jr., who want the land to remain in its natural state. Part interest was also given to Wilkes University and the Wildlands Trust. The PGC and the trust purchased the college's portion through the Keystone Recreation Park & Conservation Fund and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

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11-19-01

George L. Fenner, Jr.

Nov. 16, 2001

George L. Fenner, Jr., an attorney, 88, of Forty Fort died Friday at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Born in Wilkes-Barre on Aug. 8, 1913 he was a son of the late George L. and Jessie Beers Fenner. He was a graduate of the 1931 Wyoming Seminary class, 1935 Princeton University class and a 1938 graduate of Dickinson School of Law. In 1939 he was admitted to practice before the Bars of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and several county courts. He had spent his entire professional life in the Wyoming Valley and his career in land and real estate law spanned more than 60 years. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. He received an honorary doctorate degree from Wilkes University in 1997 and became the school's first honorary trustee. The gift of his home and law office on South Franklin Street, now known as Fenner Hall, and his support to Wilkes led the university to name the new campus greenway Fenner Quadrangle. He was also given the title of Gardener Emeritus at the university. He was a member of the Torch Club, MENSA, Ecumenical Enterprises, Inc., the Westmoreland

Club, the Maple Hill Cemetery Association, the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association and the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, where he was an elder and a life-time member. He was also an accomplished nature photographer, avid fisherman, a collector of specie rocks and was a gemstone lapidary.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Hilda Fletcher Fenner and by a sister, Elizabeth Fenner Meixell.

Surviving are his wife, Minerva J. Fenner; sister, Sara Louise Jones, Mountaintop; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday from the First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre with the Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky officiating. Interment will be at the convenience of the family in the Fenner family lot in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hanover Township. Family will receive friends following the services Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 97 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, 18701. Arrangements are by the Frederick & Snowdon Funeral Home, 617 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

Wilkes University benefactor Fenner dies at age 88 ¹¹⁻¹⁸⁻⁰¹

WILKES-BARRE — George Fenner Jr., an attorney who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars to Wilkes University before donating his own home to the school, died Friday at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

The university's central campus is named for Fenner, who in 1998 engineered a land deal involving 660 acres along the Penobscot Mountain ridge that put \$350,000 in Wilkes' coffers.

"He did it all very quietly and then one day told me he'd done it," former Wilkes president Christopher Breiseth said Saturday.

"George was not a man of many words, but he was a big doer."

Fenner continued to work out of his former home at 171 S. Franklin St., which also houses a faculty club. The building was also home to his late wife Hilda's dress shop.

Fenner, 88, lived in Forty Fort with his wife, Minerva Bays Fenner.

Breiseth said Fenner was in frail health but had continued working with his clients up until last week.

"He knew the land of Luzerne County better than anyone else," Breiseth said.

"He would tell you who bought it, who sold it, if the land was subdivided."

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church at 97 S. Franklin St.

Attorney George L. Fenner Jr.

November 16, 2001

CV 11-19-01

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He was born in Wilkes-Barre, Aug. 8, 1913, and was the son of the late George L. and Jessie Beers Fenner. He was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary in 1931; Princeton University, 1935, and Dickinson School of Law, 1938.

In 1939, he was admitted to practice before the Bars of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Superior Court of Pennsylvania and several county courts.

He had spent his entire professional life in Wyoming Valley and his career in land and real estate law spanned more than 60 years.



He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Fenner had a special relationship with Wilkes University, where he received an honorary degree in 1997 and became its first Honorary Trustee.

The gift of his home and law office on South Franklin Street, now known as Fenner Hall, and his additional extensive support of Wilkes led the University to name the new campus greenway Fenner Quadrangle.

Also, due to his cultivation of the campus rose garden, he was given the title of Gardener Emeritus at the university.

Mr. Fenner's active memberships included the Torch Club, MENSA, Ecumenical Enterprises Inc., Westmoreland Club, Irem Temple Men's Bridge Club, Maple Hill Cemetery Associa-

tion, Dream Mile Club of Bear Creek, Wagner's Run Fishing Association, Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association and First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, where he was an elder and lifetime member.

He was a nature photographer, avid fisherman, collector of specie rocks and a gemstone lapidarian.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Hilda Fletcher Fenner; sister, Elizabeth Fenner Meixell.

Surviving are his wife, Minerva J. Fenner; sister, Sara Louise Jones, Mountain Top; nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. from First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre, with the Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky officiating. Interment will be at the convenience of the family in the Fenner family lot at Maple Hill Cemetery, Hanover Township.

The family will receive friends following the services on Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 97 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701.

Arrangements are by the Frederick & Snowdon Funeral Home, 617 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre.