

Historic farmhouse damaged by coal mining

WAYNESBURG, Pa. (AP) — The front of a historic farmhouse has tilted and cracks have formed in its walls and floors as the 150-year-old home continued to sink, the result of coal mining some 500 feet below the property.

“The front of the house is tilting, and you walk downhill from the kitchen to the front door,” said Laurie Williams, 75, who has lived in the Greene County farmhouse with her husband, Murray, for the past 23 years. “It is a very strange feeling, sort of like a fun house.”

German-owned company RAG Emerald Resources on Sunday finished mining a 6 1/2-foot-thick, 1,000-foot wide seam of coal beneath the house.

The farmhouse on the 102-acre Thomas Kent Farm has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an example of living quarters in rural Pennsylvania in the 19th century. The farm, about 45 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, also includes a garage, wash house and shed once used by a butcher.

Over the next few weeks, the home is expected to sink along with the earth above the coal seam.

RAG officials have said precautions

— including binding the house in nylon and steel cable and digging 5-foot-deep trenches — should minimize damage and everything so far has gone according to plan.

“The longwall mining machine went under the house and is now about 100 feet off so beyond it,” company spokesman Mike Rounds said Tuesday afternoon. “The house is in the subsiding phase right now. There is some cracking in plaster walls, basement floor, some of the brick work and foundation — about what was expected at this point.”

Rounds said the coal company has hired a restoration specialist to “repair it to the homeowner’s satisfaction — that’s never been a question,” he said.

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April 3rd

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club news

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary announced the winner of a \$1,000 endowment scholarship at their March meeting.

The auxiliary met March 22 at the Goodland post home. President Deb Snethen called the meeting to order in short form.

The POW/MIA prayer was read. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The treasurer’s report was accepted. All bills were approved.

Items were read from the department mailer on the national president’s visit to Junction City in February. Delegates for the spring convention were chosen. This convention will be held April 21 and 22 in Stockton. All members are

encouraged to attend. End-of-the-year reports have been sent to the district and department chairmen.

Bryce Abbey has received a \$1,000 Department Endowment scholarship. Flags will again be given to the American Field Service students for the flag exchange at Goodland High School’s graduation.

The auxiliary will make rolls for the National Honor Society achievement breakfast on May 7 at Goodland High School.

The National Community Service Conference will be held April 5-8 in Washington, D.C. The National Voice of Democracy winners will be announced at this conference. Jason Showalter, the local winner, will attend.

Sympathy Club dues are all paid.

The kitchen will host a Northwest Kansas Technical School dinner on March 24, the University of Kansas recognition dinner on April 5 and a sorority dinner on April 17.

Donations were made to Jo Ann Wahrman and Jackie Elliott for their room at the national conference and \$25 was given to the Kids Run Across Kansas for hospitalized veterans. The run consists of a group of Kansas City students who will start their run at the stateline west of Tribune on May 24 and run across Kansas. The group will

be in Ransom on May 25, Hoisington on May 26, Junction City on May 27 and the Capitol steps in Topeka on May 28. We will also donate \$25 to the Topside Lions Club for their Easter egg hunt. Members are encouraged to call President Snethen if they wish to help with the hunt.

Items worth \$40 were donated to the Veterans Administration Hospital. These items along with the record book will be taken to Topeka in April. The meeting was then adjourned.

Jo Ann Wahrman, secretary

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