

*Mrs Potter  
Deceased 10/18/94*

# Franklinton man's bequest to set up scholarship fund

BY ELLEN LYON  
OF OUR DILLSBURG BUREAU

## Will sets aside \$265,689 for disadvantaged students of N. York School District

A Franklinton man's \$265,689 bequest will benefit disadvantaged students in the Northern York County School District through a new scholarship fund.

William Everett Potter "was evidently a brilliant man and he saved his money," his attorney, Jane Alexander, said. Born in Vermont in

1906, the retired toolmaker moved in 1988 from the Camp Hill area to a mobile home on Water Street.

Alexander said Potter told her he wanted to help children of the school district because he had enjoyed living in Franklinton.

"He was so impressed by how friendly the people were," she said.

"He had never had any children but he so liked the children there. It was a doggone good endorsement of Franklinton."

Potter, who died Oct. 18, 1994, stipulated in his will that his estate be turned into a trust to provide for the care of his only remaining family member, a sister, Lois E. Potter.

After her death, which occurred Jan. 3, 1997, the trust was to go to charitable organizations serving underprivileged children in the district or to a scholarship fund for "needy" students graduating from Northern High School.

Alexander said she approached school officials about establishing a fund and they agreed. So far the district has received about \$204,000 from Potter's estate and there are still some Hershey Foods stock to be turned over, she said.

Deputy Attorney General Charles E. Donohue, in the Charitable Trusts and Organizations Section of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, said the money must be used primarily for scholarships.

Some of the money may be used to help underprivileged children in

other ways, provided it is not used to replace any benefit provided by district or government funding, Donohue said.

Potter suggested his bequest be used for such items as a musical instrument for a talented child who couldn't afford one or for tutoring for a bright but disadvantaged student, Alexander said.

Potter also proposed creation of a committee — comprised of one teacher from each school building, three members of the administration and two other people such as parents — who would administer the fund, Alexander said.

Northern York County School District Superintendent Brian Small said the district has not yet decided how to set up the fund or named a committee to manage it.

"We've kind of put it on the back

burner" because school officials have been busy with the district's building project, Small said. "Yes, we're very happy to have the money. Yes, we wished there weren't strings attached.

"We're going to have to be very careful in terms of what we set up," Small added. "To just help the poor and indigent is not necessarily easy . . . Our challenge is to make that in more than an economic way but in an educational way."

The district needs to establish guidelines for distributing the money in a "reasonable amount of time," Donohue said. "I would hope that now that we're in the fall they're giving some thought to how they're going to award the funds."

Potter's bequest has been placed in an index fund account at the Bank of Hanover, drawing interest based on the treasury bill rate, according to district business manager Jeffrey Mummert.

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