

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

By PETER P. JURCHAK

This community, in the heart of what has become known as the Back Mountain region, has the possibilities of becoming a town of outstanding beauty. This, however, can never be without some regulation warranted by law.

How can we accomplish this? There are two ways.

(1) By unofficial community cooperation representing all the various sections or  
(2) By legally effected consolidation.

The former, because of sectionalism and the difficulty to legally carry out a plan, has been silently rejected by most of our residents here. It is the purpose of this brief discussion to present the idea of consolidation, (the procedure and benefits) and leave it for further development by the forward-looking residents of the Community.

A part of our Community, consists of Hillside, Trucksville, Carverton, Trucksville Garden, Shavertown, Mt. Greenwood, Fernbrook, and the lower end of Dallas Township. This compact territory has grown into a thickly settled area which is administered under what is known as the Second Class Township Law. The Second Class Township Act was designed for rural communities and was never meant to administer the affairs of populated districts. It is impossible for Township Supervisors and others to solve the problems of such a Community with the machinery of the law by which they must function. In the future, these problems will become more painful.

We are bound to have an increase in population. A borough form of government would be much better adapted for our purpose. Why not do the inevitable now and secure the benefit of more efficient administration at this time? In addition to this is the almost equally important matter of planning the development of the community. The best possibilities cannot be realized unless some regulation can be secured. This is impossible under the present circumstances. To devise plans which have no legal sanction but depend upon the voluntary action of all residents has proven a dismal failure. How else can this be done? The consolidation of the various sections in this area is a possible solution.

This can be done by one of two procedures: (1) by the creation of a separate borough and (2) by consolidation with the existing Borough of Dallas.

The first measure is unwieldy in addition to being less efficient than the second proposal, which seems to be in the minds of most of the residents in this area. Upon examining the law, you will find a most simple method by which the second solution can be effected. The law provides that upon request of a majority of the property owners in any area adjacent to a borough, such an area can, by ordinance, be annexed to the borough.

No proceeding in Court is necessary, although this is required in every other instance of consolidation or annexation. No hearing or election is required to approve such action.

The Act of May 1st, 1927, P. L. 519, Article IV, Sec. 425 and Sec. 426 provides:

### BOROUGH MAY ANNEX LAND

"Any borough may, by ordinance, annex adjacent land situate in the same or any adjoining country, upon petition of a majority of the freeholders of the territory proposed to be annexed."

"A certified copy of the ordinance, together with a description, and a plot showing the courses and distances of the boundaries of the borough before and after such proposed annexation, shall be filed in the Court of Quarter Sessions of the county, or, in case the land proposed to be annexed is situate in adjacent county, then in the courts of both counties. A notice of such filing shall also be filed in the office of the county commissioners of the proper county. THEREUPON THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED SHALL BE A PART OF THE BOROUGH; except when any ordinance and plot are filed in the office of the clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions within two months of any general, municipal, or primary election, in which case the property proposed to be annexed shall not become a part of the borough until the day succeeding such election."

Nothing could be simpler. The only limitation in our case would be that the consolidation would have to be effected by two petitions, first, one for that part of Dallas Township which it is desired to consolidate and after this has been effected a separate petition to consolidate that part of Kingston Township which is to be incorporated into the new borough. This is so because the Act provides for consolidation or annexation of "adjacent" land.

A committee of a few citizens could easily prepare a desirable demarcation of the territory to be included in the Borough in Dallas and Kingston Townships, prepare a petition, secure the necessary signers and have the ordinance adopted and the consolidation perfected all within a very short time.

Such a consolidation would give the proposed borough, whether it retained the name of Dallas or not, a population of over 5,000 people. It would give the entire area a borough form of government with the necessary departments to make community planning a realization.

By simple regulation and a wise plan, the community could develop without the mistakes and difficulties under which it must inevitably labor if left to "JUST GROW."

Streets must be built wherever people build. But under a consolidated municipal administration, the streets could be built with some relation to each other and with better adaptation to the topography of this area.

The hillsides of this community provide a scenic background which a level area could not possibly possess. Approach, however, to the homes which dot these hills must be by gradual approaches and possibly graceful curves, not by attempting to scale the hillside perpendicularly. Improved roads could be linked into a driveway which would be not only a convenience but a thing of beauty to be used not only for vehicles but in the nature of a parkway for walking, horseback riding and other community purposes. With the proper preservation of existing trees, such a highway and all streets could be preserved in their natural beauty.

"A beautiful landscape is a triple benefit. It is pleasant to live with, it attracts others, and it is a business asset." (Rotarian Magazine, March, 1936)

Much more could be said on the idea of beautification, but there are serious practical problems which we must consider.

What about the dangers of improper disposal of waste? This problem can be solved adequately only by a consolidation of this area and unless this is done in the near future, the growing community may pay a heavy toll in health and even in loss of lives until the problem is solved. In fact, unless some solution is attempted the State may compel action by individual citizens which will be costly and burdensome and will not solve the problem as a whole for the community.

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### MAY QUEEN



Sara C. Casey, who will be Queen of College Misericordia's spectacular May Day fete on the campus May 30. She will have as attendants, a court, and an entourage made up of girls from the student body. Chief feature of the day's program will be the pageant based on the story of Ceres, goddess of grain.

### Mothers Honored At Annual Dinner

#### Junior Women's Club Holds Event At Country Club

Irem Temple Country Club was the scene of a lovely affair on Wednesday evening when members of the Dallas Junior Women's Club entertained their mother's at the annual Mother's Dinner. There were seventy present, seated at a horse-shoe-shaped table which was decorated with forsythia and illuminated with yellow and green candles symbolic of spring. Each guest received a red rose.

Ruth Hull was song leader, Mrs. Thomas Shepherd Moore was a gracious toastmaster, and Miss Elizabeth Love, club president, welcomed the mothers and guests.

The program included a duet by Margaret Robinson and Jane O'Kane, accompanied by Mrs. William Baker; two instrumental duets by John Whipple and Frank Kuehn, accompanied by Mrs. Harvey McCarty; readings, Dolores Craig; solo, Mrs. Charlotte Payne, accompanied by Mrs. Baker, and the speech of the evening by Miss Katherine Toohy, dean of girls at Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre, and who discussed women's position in the home from the stone age to modern times.

The club, it was announced, will repeat its minstrel at the Kingston Township High School on May 19, for Trucks.

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### Dinner To Reunite Noxen's Old Grads

#### Annual Alumni Banquet To Be Held In Social Hall May 29

The annual dinner for former students at Noxen High School will be held on Saturday, May 29, at 6:30 p. m. in the M. E. Social Hall at Noxen.

The committee planning the affair includes the officers, who are Albert Keiper, president; Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, vice-president; Marguerite Newell, secretary; Elvin Bean, treasurer, and Mrs. Robert Hackling and Vivian Allen, who will have charge of the decorations.

The supper will be served by the M. E. Ladies' Aid Society. There will be a program and a prominent speaker. About 100 persons are expected to attend.

### LOCAL PASTOR RECALLS STORY OF MOTHER'S DAY OBSERVANCE

By HERBERT E. FRANKFORT  
Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Though the formal designation of a specific day as Mother's Day was but recently made in this country, the custom of displaying filial veneration dates back to ancient times. Authorities say the earliest record of formal mother-worship lies in the tales of the ceremonies by which Rhea, "the great mother of the Gods," was worshipped in Asia Minor. In this worship it was not so much the maternal aspect which claimed attention as the power and majesty of motherhood. The worship of Rhea was introduced into Rome through Greece about 250 years before Christ. Here it served to elevate motherhood into something of the dignity which rightfully characterized it.

With the advent of Christianity, the festival still retained its old forms, but became infused with a new spirit. From the celebration with pagan rites there developed an observance in honor of the Mother Church. On this Sunday it became the custom of the faithful to visit the churches in which they were baptized, bearing gifts for the altar.

### Old Levies Kept By School Board And Councilmen

No Advance For This Year; Board Fails To Name Secretary

#### STORM DOUSES LIGHTS

The transactions of both Dallas Borough School Board and Council, who met Wednesday night to fix the tax levies for the next year, were interrupted when the electric storm effected lines and threw the borough into darkness.

Fortunately council, which meets in the fire engine house, could use the powerful searchlight from the pumper to throw light on the proceedings, but the school directors had to delay their session five minutes until light was restored.

Both groups adopted new levies which are the same as last year's millage. The school board retained the 29 mill levy adopted last year and the per capita tax levy of \$5, based on a valuation of \$720,000.

Although R. L. Brickel was re-elected treasurer, no action was taken to name a secretary to succeed Daniel Waters, who has asked again that his resignation be accepted. A special meeting will be held to name Mr. Water's successor.

The board went on record opposing that part of the Mundy Teacher Tenure Bill which prevents school board from dismissing teachers who are married.

A \$2,000 payment on a short term loan was authorized, a \$4,000 note with Miss Jane Parks was renewed, and interest paid, and \$400 was transferred from the general to the teachers' fund to meet payrolls.

College Misericordia offered a four-year scholarship to the highest ranking girl in the senior class.

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### Queen's Identity Is Held Secret

#### Dallas Township Will Have First May Day On May 13

The identity of the May Queen who will be crowned at Dallas Township High School's May Day festivities on Thursday, May 13, will remain a secret until the coronation which will climax the day's program.

This is the first time the township school has had a May Day fete. The program includes athletic contests, a baseball game, dances by the lower graders and the May Pole dance, which will include two girls from the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes. The May Queen has been chosen from among the members of the senior class, for qualifications in scholarship, character and civic consciousness. The faculty and the Parent-Teacher Association will have charge of the program.

Committees in charge of the May Day celebration are:

General: Mrs. Thomas Kepner, chairman; Mrs. Grace Nicholson, Mrs. John Girvan, Harvey Kitchen, Mrs. Melvin Mosier, Mrs. Fred Hughey, Miss Elizabeth Love, Ronald C. Doll and Prof. Maurice J. Girton.

Morning Events: Miss Love, chairman; Miss Ruth Paul, Miss Marie Woolbert and Miss Dorothy Williams.

Afternoon Events: Mr. Doll, chairman; Prof. Maurice J. Girton, J. Lloyd Drake and Gerald Snyder.

Refreshments: Mrs. Melvin Mosier, chairman; Miss Emily Goldsmith, Miss Aline Davis, Miss Dorothy Williams, Mrs. Jason Kunkle, Mrs. Albert Kunkle, Mrs. Ray Henney, Mrs. William Reese, Mrs. May Condon, Mrs. James Floyd, Mrs. John Girvan and Mrs. Walter Gerlach.

Costume: Miss Grace Merritt, chairman; Mrs. George Russ, and vocational students.

Property Committee: Gerald Snyder, chairman, and vocational students.

### MARTIN PREPARED TO TEST BOARD'S RIGHT TO IGNORE TENURE BILL PROVISIONS

Agrees To Institute Mandamus Proceedings Against Kingston Township School Board Unless Contract Is Renewed Within Next Few Days

#### MAY TURN INTO TEST OF TEACHERS' RIGHTS

Unless directors of Kingston Township School Board reconsider their defiance of the new Pennsylvania Teachers' Tenure Act their failure to renew the contract of Supervising Principal J. A. Martin may develop into a court test of the strength of the new law.

The directors, who re-appointed all teachers except Mr. Martin on Wednesday night, have failed to file any charges against him. They had until midnight last night to give him his contract. If no recognition of his claim is made mandamus proceedings will be instituted against them within the next few days.

### DROWNS AT LAKE



Iris Stevenson, three-year-old daughter of Chief of Police and Mrs. Ira C. Stevenson of Harvey's Lake. She was drowned last Sunday afternoon when she fell from a dock into the lake.

### Community Mourns With Stevensons

#### Lake's Depths Claim 3-Year Old Daughter Of Chief of Police

The chilly, green depths of Harvey's Lake, so often defeated by Chief of Police Ira C. Stevenson of the Lake, took their revenge last Sunday when they laid claim to the Chief's youngest daughter, Iris, aged 3, in a tragedy which shocked this entire section.

After Sunday dinner pretty, blonde-haired Iris slipped outside while the family was finishing its meal. She took her tricycle from the fire engine house, below the family's apartment, abandoned it, crossed the road, and toddled down to the dock, where there was a canoe. While she was climbing over the canoe, it is believed, she lost her balance and fell into the water.

She had not been gone more than five minutes before the family missed her. Afraid of the heavy traffic, Chief Stevenson came out to look for her and even drove up and down the road. Her two sisters, Ruth, 13, and Claire, 8, searched the water near the dock before Chief Stevenson returned and spotted the body, about twelve yards from shore.

He waded out and brought the body, even then lifeless, in. Elwood Davis, a life guard, was summoned to attempt resuscitation. Drs. George H. Rauch of Noxen and F. B. Schooley of Dallas used a pulmotor, even though they estimated the child had been dead before she was taken from the water.

Mrs. Stevenson was prostrated by the tragedy.

Pallbearers at the funeral, which was held on Tuesday, were James Kistler, William Kistler, Otis Allen, George Kuchta, Robert Avery and Alan Kistler.

Flowers girls were Emily Kistler, June Kistler, Bina Garrity, Lois Avery, Lois Miller, Phyllis Enders and Ruth Boyle. Robert Avery was a flower boy.

### D. T. H. S. Scores School Victory

#### Plays Kingston Township At Trucksville This Afternoon

The Dallas Township baseball team won its second consecutive victory Tuesday afternoon when it defeated the strong Lehman nine, 12 to 9. The game was a close one until the sixth inning, when the township scored five runs. Lehman came back in the seventh but failed to overcome the lead.

Babe Williams of Lehman and Forrest Stevens of Dallas Township had home runs. Chuck Kinsman of Lehman was another star in the game.

On the same afternoon Kingston Township defeated Dallas Borough, 11 to 1.

Today Dallas Township and Kingston Township, who are tied for the league lead, will meet at the Trucksville diamond. Lehman and Dallas Borough will clash in the other league game.

The Mundy Teachers' Tenure Law, designed to give public school teachers their political independence, prevents school directors from dismissing teachers except for certain established reasons. Failing proof of such reasons, dismissals are illegal.

#### Political Background

Friends of Mr. Martin charged yesterday that a complicated background of politics motivated the board's action in dismissing him after five years employment by the district, for four of those years as supervising principal. They pledged him their support in carrying the case to the Supreme Court, if necessary, to test the legality of the Mundy Act.

The board elected its teachers on Wednesday night, at the same time it named Howard Appleton, a member, secretary of the board at \$480 a year, and E. W. Hay, another member, as treasurer at \$250 a year.

When the list of teacher appointees was read by Earl Newhart Mr. Appleton protested the omission of Mr. Martin's name and made a motion that it be included. George Prater seconded his motion, but since there was already a motion on the floor to appoint those whose names were read action was taken on that first, with Prater voting negatively and the other four directors voting affirmatively.

Appleton then moved that Mr. Martin's name be included among the appointees and Mr. Prater seconded the motion, but it was defeated, 3 to 2.

Mr. Martin's attorney, Jonathan C. Valentine, attended both the Monday and Wednesday meetings of the board. On Monday he informed the directors that any attempt to evade provisions of the Tenure Law would result in legal proceedings against them.

If the board does not renew Mr. Martin's contract and if mandamus proceedings are instituted the directors will be compelled to take action to forestall penalties.

Sources close to Supervising Principal Martin said yesterday he is prepared to make a test case of his dismissal if the board refuses to recognize the provisions of the Tenure Law as binding.

He has asked for formal charges, if any, and is reported to be ready to explain such charges in court proceedings which he will institute.

The directors, who have adopted a tentative levy of 30 mills, four more than last year, say their reason for not renewing Mr. Martin's contract is economy. They will try, they say, to do without a supervising principal in Kingston Township.

### Kramer To Leave For West Coast

#### Grange And Scouts Sponsor Farewell Dinner At Kunkle

Kunkle Grange, No. 930, and the Kunkle Boy Scout Troop united in conducting a farewell party for Hans Kramer on Tuesday night at the Grange Hall. Mr. Kramer, who is steward of the Grange and scoutmaster of the Kunkle troop, will leave this month for his home in San Francisco, California.

In presenting a traveling bag from the Grange and the Scouts to Mr. Kramer, Rev. Guy Leinthal, pastor of the M. E. Church, expressed the appreciation of the community for the exceptionally fine work done by Mr. Kramer in organizing and training the boys, and for his activities in the Grange.

There was a delightful program with Mr. Kramer leading songs and stunts. Mr. Kramer will visit his sister, Mrs. Edward Klein of Reading for a week before leaving to make his home with his parents in San Francisco.

Those present: Rev. Guy Leinthal, Mrs. John Isaacs, Mrs. M. C. Miers, Mrs. Ralph Elston, Miss Maraget Kunkle, Mrs. Julia Kunkle, Mrs. Emma Miller, Mrs. Mabel Murphy, Miss Gertrude Smith, Mrs. Minnie Kunkle, Dorothy Elston, Mrs. Ray Henney, Estella Elston, Fred Weber, Philip Kunkle, Hans Kramer, Harold Smith, Russell Smith, Owen Jones, James Meirs, Charles Sayre, Charles Brace, Allen Brace, Lawrence and Donald Smith, Nile, Harold and Robert Hess, Gilbert Boston, Gomer Elston, Marvin Elston, Buddy Mitchell, Carl and Loren Kunkle, Robert Miller, Charles Murphy, Stanley Willard, Ralph and Raymond Hoyt, Charles Kunkle, Frank Zalska, Eddie Polonus, Dana Campbell, Robert Ashburner.