

Building Boom Would Revive School Consolidation Issue

Long-range Plan Seen As Major Need In Dallas

Cooperation Of Borough And Twp. Suggested By Interested Citizen

The likelihood of increased building and growth in the Dallas area in the next five years is reviving talk about consolidated schools and there is a strong possibility that school boards will soon face again the issue which has aroused so much discussion in the past.

Twice within the last fifteen years Dallas Borough and Dallas Township have discussed a consolidated school system, and each time obstacles have been unsurmountable. Both districts have good high school buildings now, but signs of overcrowding are apparent, and consolidation probably will be a paramount question before long.

The merging of the two school districts has been suggested by the Department of Public Instruction at Harrisburg before this. The project was given serious consideration in 1929, when the State pointed to the tremendous savings and increased efficiency which would be possible through consolidation.

At that time an official of the State Department recommended a joint supervising principal and cooperation in teaching such subjects as music, health, shop, home economics and foreign languages, with particular reference to grades 10, 11 and 12.

Questioned about the oft-discussed plan, a man who has had long experience in local school affairs, decried the lack of a constructive, long-term, joint plan for development of school facilities here.

Stop-Gap Plan Costly

"School facilities in this section have grown by leaps and bounds and are still growing, in the same manner," he said. "The difficulty is that no permanent program is considered and even after spending a lot of money, piecemeal, only stop-gap schools are provided for a short time. In a few years population increase or obsolescence of buildings requires another spurt.

"The trend is toward consolidation seemingly everywhere but laws have been enacted to encourage and in some cases enforce consolidation of districts or certain schools in adjoining districts. Local interests and prejudices have always been so noticeable here that any real effort of consolidation districts has been dropped like a hot potato.

"The Dallas area is apparently beginning to experience a building boom. The new by-pass and water improvements as well as general conditions would seem to point to such an experience. While the regularly elected school directors are legally responsible for coping with this outlook, they always have had enough headaches in their routine duties to occupy their minds and in practically every local change heretofore frantic effort is made AFTER the need arises to provide school facilities which by that time are urgently required and demanded.

New homes are usually erected by young married people, which means an increase in younger pupils first. These gradually move through the school systems step by step and after the pressure once starts at the bottom makes ten years. Trying to make ten frantic adjustments to such a situation means ten years of hard work for the school directors and many years of unsatisfactory facilities for the pupils.

"Additional building means increased tax revenues. While imposing prohibitive taxes would be the worst thing to do to encourage building, a reasonable tax expenditure will eventually be required and new home owners should be gradually educated to expect to assume such a burden. Cost figures published locally and nationally indicate that in very few families do the parent-taxpayers contribute the actual expenses of the education of their offspring.

Deplores Procrastination

"Improvements in Dallas Township and recent building changes in other nearby districts appear on the surface to provide adequate schools. However, if past experience means anything, this is a delusion. It is only a temporary relief of acute pressure. Sitting idly by until another and harder pressure is felt is going to make it possible for some impractical group to leap into a poorly located and inadequate school building because of extreme emergency which makes doing something at once more meritorious than doing it properly.

"Just now when there is no hard pressure anywhere would be the ideal time to begin work on a real long-time program. No one can have a difficult problem under stress as well as after mature deliberation.

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SNYDER'S GROUNDHOG SLEEPS ON, MISSES CHANCE FOR FAME

B. E. Snyder of Luzerne has been double-crossed by a groundhog.

Just when everything was in readiness for Br'er Groundhog's annual prognostication last Friday the contrary woodchuck decided to postpone its 1940 reappearance and didn't even stick its snout out of its winter home in Mr. Snyder's cellar.

As a result, the groundhog missed a tempting meal and Mr. Snyder's friends are still in the dark as to what kind of weather the next six months will bring.

Butler's Grandfather Dies In Wayne County

William H. Shaffer of Gravity, Wayne County, grandfather of Rev. C. Duane Butler, pastor of Lehman Methodist Church, died on January 28 at the age of 90. Mr. Shaffer was one of 12 children, 11 of whom died past the age of 70, five being in their 90's. One sister, 82, survives. Mr. Shaffer had six children, all of whom survive him.

Mrs. Norman Thompson Of Noxen Died Sunday

Mrs. Norman Thompson, 49, Noxen, died on Sunday afternoon at her home and was laid to rest in Orcutt's Cemetery, Noxen, on Wednesday afternoon. Services were held in the Noxen Methodist Church, with Rev. David Morgan officiating. Mrs. Thompson is survived by her husband, four daughters, Mrs. Mary Klopka and Mrs. Ruth Dymond of Noxen; Mrs. Mildred Campbell, Dallas, and Norman at home; five brothers, Jacob Traver, Ruggles; Peter and Frank Traver, Evans Falls, and Daniel and Severn Traver, Noxen; four sisters, Mrs. Frank Turner, Mrs. Charles Patten and Mrs. Edward Nelson, Noxen, and Mrs. Sarah Dymond, Binghamton, N. Y. Six grandchildren also survive.

Death Takes Child

Norman Sutton, 7, son of James Sutton, died at 8 on Sunday morning at the home of William Nulton, Alderson. Death was attributed to pneumonia. The funeral was held from the Nulton home on Tuesday afternoon, with interment in Beaumont Cemetery.

"As far as Dallas Township and Dallas Borough are concerned consolidation is not new. They once were consolidated. Efforts have been made from time to time in comparatively recent years to either consolidate the districts again or consolidate their facilities. But at such times the acute condition has prevented any calm and reasonable consideration of any proposals. "Grandiose schemes of consolidating all the rural section into one district have always fallen of their own weight and perhaps always will. Some of the larger districts can well maintain themselves and receive outside pupils on a tuition basis. On account of their peculiar situation it would seem that the two Dallas districts could well work together on the high school problem."

Dallas Firemen To Meet Tonight At Hose House

The regular meeting of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company will be held tonight in the hose house on Mill Street. Calvin McHose, chairman of the play committee, will report on plans for the firemen's benefit production on March 7 and 8 and tickets will be distributed. A full attendance is urged.

Dallas Borough Board Will Meet Tonight

The February meeting of Dallas Borough school board will be held tonight (Friday) in the high school building at 8 p. m.

New Schedule Announced For Lehman And Idetown

Rev. C. Duane Butler, pastor of Lehman charge of the Methodist Church, yesterday announced a new schedule of services, as follows: Idetown, church service, 10 a. m.; Sunday school, 11; Lehman, Sunday school, 10 a. m.; church, 11:15.

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Judge Sentences Fernbrook Men

Brothers Convicted Of Taking State's Gravel

Andrew and Joseph Sebolka of Fernbrook were convicted this week of stealing crushed stone from the Pennsylvania Department of Highways and were paroled from a six-month prison sentence on promise to pay the cost of the stone and the prosecution.

Andrew Sebolka was arrested on complaint of Superintendent W. C. Schmink of the Highway Department, who charged that the man took 32 tons of stone from the property of George Learn at Jackson Township.

His brother, Joseph, was given a similar sentence by Judge John S. Aponick after it was established that he had taken five tons of crushed stone from the same property. The men told the court they were informed by a "farmer" that they could have the stone and they did not realize they were committing a crime.

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5.25/5.50-17.....	9.60	7.20
5.25/5.50-18.....	9.15	6.86
5.25/5.50-19.....	10.95	8.21
5.25/5.50-20.....	11.35	8.51
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