

Telephone Poles Or Newspapers?

There is apparently no reasonable explanation why Back Mountain school boards keep the audits of their finances out of sight of the public—the taxpayers who foot the bills. The public asks for an accounting of school board stewardships too infrequently to be denied the right to see that accounting in print.

We don't think the boards have anything to hide even though they insist on posting smudged carbon copies of their audits on telephone poles in out-of-the-way spots where no citizen can study them in comfort, at leisure. But there are those suspicious souls who relish the idea that all school directors are not above board. It does seem like childish and inefficient frugality to make interested citizens hunt up some wind-swept telephone pole to study community finance and management. It is an undignified and unbusinesslike procedure at best.

The directors may find argument in economy. It costs less to post audits in this slipshod manner. But we believe it is false economy if it leaves any doubt of where the money goes in the mind of a single taxpayer who has not been able to study this information at first hand. It may prove more costly in the long run than the paltry sum expended for advertising the audit in the newspapers. There have been such examples close at hand.

Text books cost money, too. So does coal, light and janitor's supplies but nobody has ever suggested that school boards should make their own, just because somebody makes a profit on the sale or because supplies cost money.

It would not only be more dignified and businesslike to have these audits published in the newspapers but would be more convenient. Citizens may want to save these reports from year to year. There is also the advantage of having them in permanent newspaper files. Frequently these files are the only source easily accessible to the public from which comparison of income and expense with other years can be made. Now and again people throughout the community call this newspaper for information within our sphere as publishers. They want to know the name of the representative from the 7th Legislative District... the altitude of Harvey's Lake... how many votes Hoover got in Kingston Township... how much Lehman School District spent for its new high school... what was the cost of transportation in Dallas Township school district in 1932. Most of this information is quickly available in our files, but it was a similar question on school finances of which we had no record that led to this editorial.

There was a time when Dallas Borough school finances were so confused that no audits were made for a number of years. There was doubt and suspicion on all sides, and the small cost of publishing the audit would have clarified the matter and brought it to a head before it had been allowed to run five years.

If school board finances are as they should be—and we believe they are in this area—any school board can be pardoned the justifiable pride of wanting the entire community to know it. It is obviously fair and it is obviously good business. Other community institutions regard it as such. Though we offered to run an informal news story at no cost, Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company insisted on publication of a complete official report of its finances this year. It, too, might have nailed its report on a telephone pole, but the members wanted the public to know that the company's finances were handled with businesslike precision.

A few dollars spent on advertising once a year won't break any school board or raise the millage. It may have the opposite effect. It is time taxpayers demand that school boards publish their audits in this or some other newspaper of general circulation; in a place where everybody can read them without feeling like an agent of the F. B. I. or an organ grinder's monkey climbing a telephone pole.

FROM PILLAR TO POST

When we realize that the Lend-Lease Bill has passed, and when we stop to think of all its implications, our mind goes back to the day we had our first argument with Mike Fieger. We used to like to stop often at Mike's gasoline station at Hillside while the little Dutchman in slack-seated trousers waddled out to wait on us with a cherry wave of the hand, his tousled hair cutting capers above his perspiring brow.

Mike was a frugal, thrifty German. He'd make good in America we thought. And then we'd wonder how Americans could have hated the people he represented during the World War. But all that was forgotten now... in a land where opportunity was open to former enemy and friend alike... in a land where newspapermen sat up late in bull sessions listening to stories of the losing side told by men who hesitated to admit that they had once served in the Imperial Navy or aimed a machine gun at Yankee doughboys. This was a land where movie audiences wept and cheered German troops in "All Quiet on the Western Front." This was a country that sympathized with a beaten Germany... that held out an open hand in the post-war reconstruction days.

But that was before Hitler... and with Hitler's rise Mike Fieger changed. There was more criticism of America. No longer did he damn Republicans or Democrats. It was America, Republicans and Democrats—its physicians, its customs, its businessmen. And then we had the argument. Over a silly thing, Father Coughlin's "Social Justice" that always lay on Mike's cluttered counter in front of the long plate glass windows. Mike wanted us to subscribe. We wouldn't. It was during his enthusiastic sales talk that we rebelled and with our unexpected opposition a hardened coldness replaced the laughing glint in his blue eyes. We swore a little. So did he. And then he told us in a burst of fury that Germany, under Hitler, would take Austria, Czechoslovakia, overrun Poland, defeat France behind its Maginot line, whip Britain. "And what about us?" we finally asked. He laughed, "Ach the United States, too. Nobody can attack Hitler or Germany." That was the day we stopped buying gas of Mike and although we greeted each other with waving hands as we drove by his stand, that was the last we ever talked about his homeland. For that was the day we learned that Hitler, Germans and Germany were one... that Germans gloried in men like Hitler and

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THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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Council Asked To Pay Damages On New Highway

Borough Body Will Discuss Problem At Special Meeting

Land damages incident to construction of the proposed new highway from Dallas to Harvey's Lake will be discussed tonight at a special meeting of Dallas Borough Council. The State Department of Highways has recently advised Council that it will not assume claims along the right-of-way where the new highway will run through Dallas Borough.

Members of Council are of the opinion that damages can be settled without great cost so that there will be no delay in construction when bids are let. Whether the Borough will assume these damages or refuse to pay them, will be learned tonight.

In the meantime agents of the claims division of the State Highway Department are going over blue prints of the proposed highway and contracting those outside the borough who live along the right-of-way. It is expected that an appropriation for the new Lake highway will be made by the Legislature shortly.

Another matter that will demand the attention of Council tonight is a meeting scheduled with State Highway engineers for Monday afternoon to go over proposals for elimination of the traffic problem at the Mill street intersection with the new spur highway.

Rural Carriers To Be Shifted

Woolbert Transferred To Alderson Office

In the interest of governmental economy, rural routes emanating from Dallas Postoffice will be reduced to three on April 1. Rural Route No. 4 served by Addison Woolbert will be broken up to become a part of Routes 1 and 2 now served by Fred Youngblood and William Corcoran respectively. Mr. Woolbert will be transferred to the postoffice at Alderson where he will take over the route now being handled by Harry Allen, Jr.

While the number of routes out of the Dallas office will be cut, there will be no curtailment in the number of rural boxholders served. The two carriers will assume the increased burden; their trips being extended approximately 12 miles each.

Girls' Champions Meet Warrior Run

Ruth Mahler Leads League in Scoring

Dallas Township Girls' Basketball team, champions of the Back Mountain League, will meet Warrior Run in an elimination contest Friday night, March 21 on the Warrior Run floor.

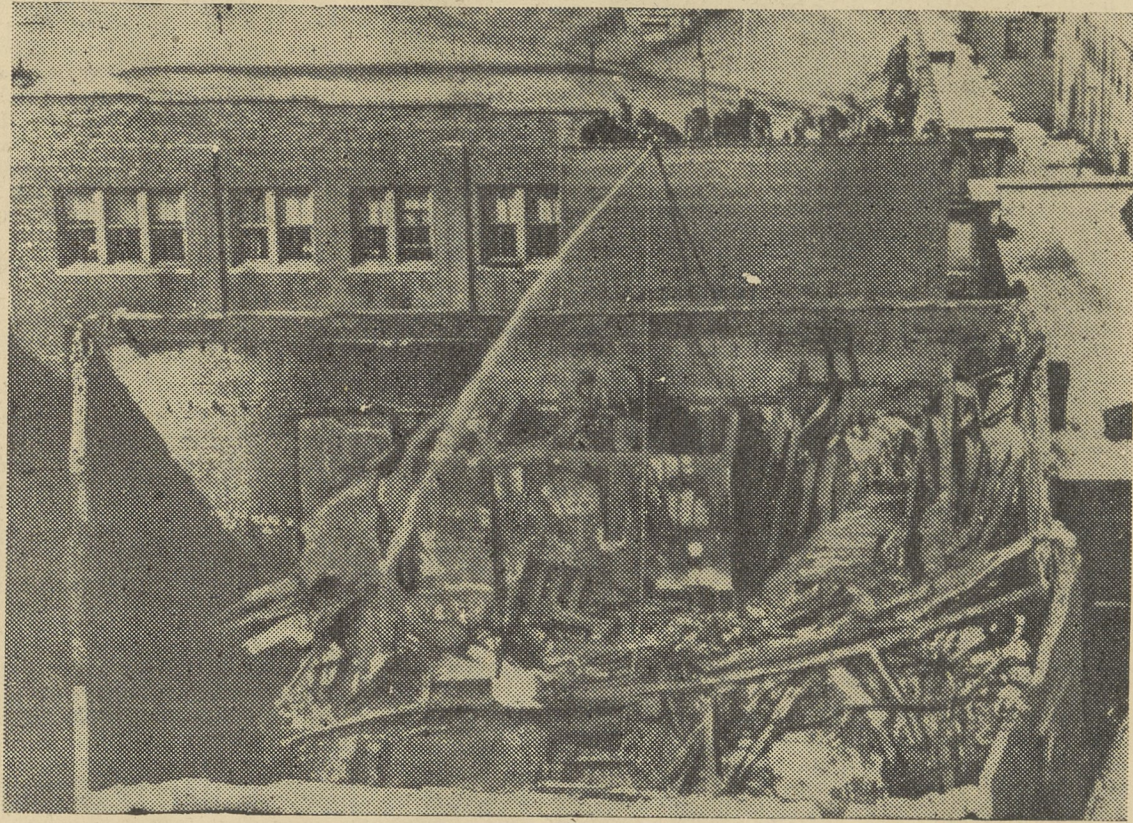
The Township team, undefeated for two years, closed its league season Friday night by defeating Kingston Township Girls 31 to 20. The Kingston Township team was undefeated until they met the Township in the first of the two games late in the season.

Bulwark of the Dallas team during its 16-game season was Grace Mahler, captain. Although good guarding was featured against her, none of her opponents could prevent her from running up a season total of 229 points—almost equal to 250, the sum total of her opponents. Reminder of the points scored were Estella Elston 92; Marilyn Wilson 86, Marilla Martin 27; Norma Knecht, 14 and Mildred Schray 12. Varsity guards were: Molly Poad, Henrietta Spencer, Anna Hudack, Laura Rothery and Mabel Rogers. Excellent team work plus the uncanny scoring ability of Miss Mahler were responsible for the Township's success throughout the season. Miss Antonia Kozemchak coached the team during both of its undefeated seasons.

Demonstration

A demonstration of the Cotton Mattress Program of Luzerne County was explained by a demonstrator from Harrisburg last Monday afternoon at Dallas Township High School.

TWELVE FIREMEN KILLED IN MASSACHUSETTS BLAZE



Twelve firemen were burned or crushed to death and at least eight others seriously injured when the snow-laden roof of this Brockton, Mass., theatre collapsed as the firemen were battling flames there. Most of the firemen who were killed and injured were standing on the balcony playing water on the roof and were buried under tons of debris. The three-story structure was destroyed.

Canning Acreage Throughout State Will Be Greatly Expanded This Year

Increase Has Been In Excess of 100% Every Four Years For Past Sixteen

Three out of a dozen or more of the largest canners of the country, contacted during the past two weeks by James D. Hutchinson in an effort to have a cannery located in the Dallas area, have written Luzerne County Agricultural Extension Association that they will not embark on a program of expansion this year. Others, however, have indicated their interest and Mr. Hutchinson is continuing his program of keeping in touch with them.

In addition, Mr. Hutchinson says there are excellent opportunities to can apples for the bakery trade, or for apple butter, apple sauce and other similar items. During the fall and winter months there is a tremendous amount of apples such as Baldwins, Greenings, Stark, Smokehouse, and Northern Spy varieties available within a ten-mile radius of Dallas. Last year 120 carloads were shipped from this area through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Present indications are that the canning industry will contract for a considerable increase in acreage in considerable increase in acreage in with 1940, according to Mr. Hutchinson. There is no sound reason why farmers in the vicinity of Dallas should not be included among those who share in this sale of increased production.

This is also seen as the tendency in practically all the States where canning products are grown, he said.

It is believed that the contracted acreage will be spread over a wider area, including a greater number of small growers as the result of possible shortages of labor during the harvest seasons. It is considered probable that in some cases the larger growers may reduce their acreage in some products, fearing to chance dependence upon a large labor supply at harvest time. This it is believed may be the case particularly with those areas where there is easy access to defense work.

The production of farm products for canning or processing has become the fastest growing agricultural enterprise in this State. As recently as 1924 vegetables for canning were grown on only 7,740 acres of Pennsylvania farm lands. Compared with the 41,040 acres devoted to canning crops in 1940 this is an increase of 425 percent in 16 years or at a rate in excess of 100 percent every four years. In addition to this substantial increase in vegetable canning, the processing of apples, apple products, cherries, mushrooms and many other speciality products such as soups, condiments, jellies and preserves, has also increased rapidly in recent years. That this growth in the production of canning crops may be expected to continue is evidenced by recent cannery expansions, by numerous new locations for cannery and quick freeze operations recently acquired or proposed and by the increasing purchase of canning crops of Pennsylvania growers from out-of-state processors.

During 1940, for the first year since 1933, the volume of canning crops inspected did not increase over the preceding year. However, grading actually showed an increase in 1940 over 1939 since inspectors were employed 2071 days at 55 inspection points compared with 1975 days worked at 51 points in 1939. Also

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Fifty Men Apply Daily To Enlist

Thomas Swainbank Is At Recruiting Office

Private Thomas D. Swainbank, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Swainbank, 30 Lehigh Street, Shavertown, and brother of Mrs. Charles Swainbank, Huntville Road, Dallas, Pa., who enlisted in the United States Army in December is on duty at the Army Recruiting and Induction Station, 16-18 North Main Street, at Wilkes-Barre, as a clerk.

Activity at the Recruiting Station has been brisk with an average of 20 to 50 applicants a day all seeking to enlist in the Regular Army for the three year period. This gives the applicant a wider latitude than afforded the one year men.

The three-year volunteer in the regular army may select his own branch of the service and his station assignment. Trade opportunities offered to men now enlisting are the best in many long years, Mr. Swainbank says, in addition to the education they receive as the result of traveling with the army.

Burton Crandall Buried Thursday

Heart Attack Fatal To Shavertown Man

Scores of friends and relatives attended the funeral of Burton G. Crandall, Shavertown, held yesterday morning from the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Patrick Lavelle of Pittston. A high mass of requiem was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Upper Pittston by Rev. Joseph McDonough.

Mr. Crandall who had been a resident of Shavertown for the past eight years, was stricken with a heart attack on Monday night as he drove to Parsons Primitive Methodist Church accompanied by Mrs. Crandall, to show a motion picture of Memorial Shrine. He was taken at once to Rev. Milo Singer to the office of Dr. J. A. Corson who ordered his removal to Nesbitt Hospital where he died Tuesday morning at 10:40. The body was taken to the home of his mother-in-law because the Crandall home in Shavertown was under quarantine for mumps.

Mr. Crandall was former associate secretary of Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce having come to Wyoming Valley from Detroit where he was sales manager of the Exact Weight Scale Company, and later field representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce. In 1938 he became special representative of the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. At the time of his death he was assistant manager of Memorial Shrine.

He was a man of retiring nature devoted to his home and family but one who also shouldered community responsibility willingly. He was formerly secretary-treasurer of Mt. Greenwood Kiwanis Club and was also secretary of the Citizens' Committee. He was elected secretary of Kingston Township Parent-Teacher Association.

Beside his widow, the former Esther Lavelle of Upper Pittston, he leaves five children, Peggy Jean, Robert, Burton Jr., Nancy and Paul; two sisters, Mrs. Pauline McKissen of Cleveland and Mrs.

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- THE POST WANTS:
1. Permanent and legible street markings and numerals on all homes in Dallas, Shavertown, and Trucksville.
 2. Emphasis locally on activities which will train men and women in national defense measures.
 3. The installation of fire plugs in Dallas Borough.
 4. The construction of a new, shorter highway between Dallas and Harvey's Lake before 1942.
 5. Centralization of police protection in the Dallas area.
 6. More sidewalks.

Luzerne Tops Borough Five Tuesday Night

Dallas Team First In History To Play In P. I. A. A. Finals

By Al Davis

Back Mountain Champions played a hard but futile game against Luzerne Tuesday night and lost after coming home the victors in their first P. I. A. A. play-off game with Moosic, Friday night.

Against Moosic the Borough team played a fine game coming from behind in the second half to stop Moosic. Bobby Niemeyer was the star, sinking shots from all over the court, passing the ball accurately and guarding closely. He tallied 17 points and Price tallied 13, more than the whole Moosic team. The Champs have the first undefeated team the Back Mountain has ever had to win in a P. I. A. A. play-off.

After defeating Moosic the Borough boys met Luzerne. Coach Tinsley's unbeaten five were mentally 20 points behind before Luzerne came on the floor. The Champs, playing under pressure, were frightened by the crowd and the name of "Crossin". As the whistle blew, the Back Mountain Boys ran around the floor in a daze. They threw the ball at "The little man who wasn't there" or else didn't throw it at all. They did many things they would not have done if they hadn't have been nervous. After Luzerne's first team left the floor, the Dallas Borough Champions showed what they could really do when they were not nervous.

The ball was passed accurately, shooting came up 100 percent, and guarding was good. They scored 15 points to Luzerne's 5. In the second half with Luzerne's first team back on the floor, Dallas was again unnerved.

Price tallied 15 points, taking scoring honors while Gould played the finest brand of basketball ever played by anyone in the Back Mountain.

The Borough had the upper hand in rooting. The band played, and cheers were led by the Borough cheerleaders who have improved considerably since last year.

Attention should be called to the little white-haired lad who was with the Borough Champs this year and last. He is the finest manager any champ could have — "Little Eddie Tutak."

All in all it was a great year for Dallas Basketball and the town is proud of its first undefeated team, with or without Luzerne under its belt.

Township Club Offers To Work

Will Assist Merchants With Office Routine

Commercial Club of Dallas Township High School is undertaking a new and large business project. At a recent meeting members decided to visit business places in the adjacent school community, and inquired if proprietors would cooperate with members by having them do commercial work.

The purpose is to acquaint business pupils with actual business situations and problems; also to be of some aid to the community by making use of their business knowledge. The students are anxious to show what they can do.

The Club is under the direction of Miss Antonia Kozemchak, and will type or mimeograph, as preferred, advertisements, business letters, sales sheets, etc.

Parents, Teachers To Present Plays

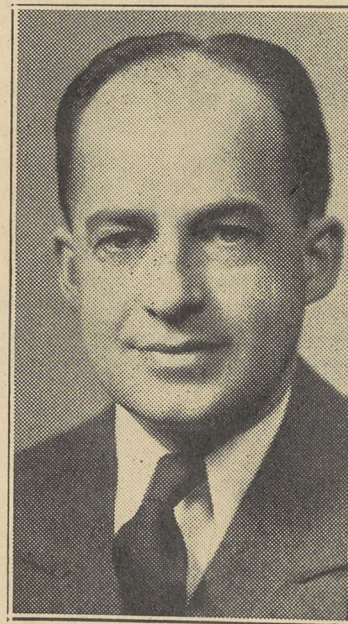
Plan Entertainments for Township PTA Meeting

Parents and teachers will present the entertainment at the meeting of the Parent Teacher Association on Monday evening, March 17, at 8 o'clock in the high school auditorium.

The teachers will present a one act comedy, "The School at Cantaloupe Center." Miss Evelyn Everard will be director of the following cast: Miss Gladys Schoonover, Jane Darrow, Antonia Kozemchak, Martha Zehner, Mary Jackson, Evelyn Knappman, Joanna Basehore, Mrs. Lenora Honeywell, Arthur Kemmerer, Robert Patrick, John Rosser, Robert Dolbear, Gerald Snyder and Roy Austin.

Mrs. Edgar Adolph is directing (Continued on Page 8)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



D. L. Edwards

His Policy Is The Golden Rule

Dewey Edwards Applies It to Insurance Business

Nobody knows where the driving force of the D. L. Edwards Insurance Agency got the moniker, "Dewey" but it's a safe bet that ninety-nine and 99/100 percent of his friends know him by no other name and after years of association are still unaware that the D stands for Dana and the L for LaRue. There's a story that his classmates in Berwick High School coined the sobriquet, but the incident for its origin and application are veiled in mystery that its owner refuses to divulge.

Oddly enough it is appropriate, for if there is any recreation he enjoys above another, it is deep sea fishing. Perhaps it is his zest for salt air and sprawling fishermen's boats that has pinned the great Admiral's name on him for keeps. But if Dewey likes fishing and boats there is one element he shuns—water. It is almost impossible, so his wife says, to get him in a bathing suit.

That was overcome a few years back on one of Jim Oliver's picnics to North Lake. After futile pleadings to have him take a dip with the rest of the crowd, somebody suggested that he might learn to like water if someone threw him in. Whether the experiment removed his hydrophobia is doubtful for he still avoids swimming suits and to all practical purposes the effort appears to have been a failure.

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