

Waters Advocates Consolidation of Borough and Township Districts

This has been talked about as long as I can remember and maybe longer. It has been actively agitated several times and I have personally worked on it a great deal. Heretofore the proposition has always fallen flat due to these conditions:

- (a) the problem is complex, which is seldom understood by those working on it;
- (b) although existing municipal lines are to be disregarded in the actual operation of the schools they must be observed in paying the bills;
- (c) proponents always start out on the untrue assumption that anything bigger is always better;
- (d) there is a wide divergence among the districts in their relative number of pupils to be served, transportation expense required, accumulated assets including buildings and equipment, debts, income sources such as property valuation and per capita taxpayers, public demands, and interests of the people that must be served.

The present trend toward consolidation of school facilities received its best start in sparsely populated areas in the flat country of the west. It was the only way that schools could be provided there. It is being promoted here now allegedly as a means of economy and to promote efficiency. Neither of these objectives can be assured automatically by simply consolidating. Undoubtedly there would be some advantages effected by some consolidation, and the principal questions being how large an area and what types of schools should be consolidated and where should they be located.

Statistical Objectives
Unless changed in the last two years the present state standards for consolidating schools contemplate these objectives:

- (a) full use of existing facilities unless unsuitable;
- (b) school centers located near centers of population to keep transportation costs at a minimum;
- (c) pupils not to walk more than a mile and a half to and from school, or ride on a school bus more than one hour each morning and evening;
- (d) elementary schools, grades 1 to 6 inclusive with a minimum of 180 pupils with six teachers;
- (e) junior-senior high schools, grades 7 to 12 inclusive, with a minimum of 350 pupils;
- (f) junior high schools, grades 7-8-9, minimum 350 pupils;
- (g) senior high schools, grades 10-11-12, minimum 450 pupils.

For all schools larger enrollment may be more flexible but is not always advantageous unless large enough to justify additional teaching units.

Proponents of one big high school for up to ten districts ignore completely (a), (b), and (c) in the above paragraph. Frequently those discussing school matters get so interested in discussing standards, supervision, buildings, equipment, curricula, textbooks, outside activities, etc. that they completely overlook the fact that these are only incidentals and the real item which should occupy their interest is the pupil.

Regardless of the school organization now or as it may be changed, the same pupils living in the same houses must be served. Enough organization should be effected to do this, and no more. A school is not a factory which can be operated on an assembly-line plan and increased size is no measure of efficiency. Frequently small schools can do a better job. None of the great teachers of antiquity including Jesus of Nazareth had any school houses or equipment at all.

There is no justification, in my opinion, for consolidating elementary schools, as a permanent measure, much beyond the state minimum standards of 180 pupils for six teachers, except where bus routes must be operated for high school purposes or other such circumstances make it economical. Minor changes in enrollment with increases and decreases in particular groups from time to time can be adjusted by reassignment of pupils between schools.

For the immediate present, I believe the junior-senior high school is preferable for this area rather than separate schools.

When it comes to what should be offered in these high schools an unlimited field is opened. Coming back to the standpoint of the pupils greatly simplifies this. No pupil in any year can carry properly over four or five full time subjects. Many of these such as English, history, political science, basic science, basic mathematics, etc. are required by law or state regulations. This takes up half to three-fourths, or even more, of the pupils' time before any selection of electives can be even started.

In any event, it must be understood (Continued on Page Seven)

SHOP Pomeroy's FIRST IT'S EASY TO GET TO!

CHURCH NEWS

DALLAS METHODIST CHURCH

Church School meets on Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Three adult classes will study the International Lesson, "How Should We Fight Evil Forces?" One adult class will study the general theme, "Which Way World Government". Classes in the youth and children's divisions will use the closely graded lessons. A cordial welcome is extended to all above three years of age.

The minister will continue the series of sermons on, "The Secret of Spiritual Security" in the Morning Worship Service at eleven o'clock. The theme this Sunday will be, "How to Face Trying Times". Mrs. William H. Goodwin, soloist with the Apollo Club, Wilkes Barre, and the Choric Choir of the Forty Fort Methodist Church will be the guest soloist. Mrs. Ruth Turn Reynolds, organist and director of choirs, will be at the organ.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education will meet at the church on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Plans will be made for the observance of Rally Day and the reorganization of the Sunday School. All divisional superintendents and members of the Board of Education are urged to be present.

Upper Rooms for July and August are available at the literature rack or may be had by contacting Mrs. Sterling Machell, chairman of the Upper Room Committee.

Alderson-Noxen

Services in Alderson-Noxen Methodist Church will be held as follows on Sunday, August 6th: Ruggles—morning worship, 8:45; Church School, 10; Noxen: morning worship with sermon by the pastor, 10, Church School, 11; M. Y. F., 6 P. M.; Alderson Church School, 10, morning worship with music under the direction of Mrs. Fred Swanson, and sermon by the pastor 11:15; Kunkle Church School, 10:30 A. M. Kunkle evening church service with sermon by the pastor, 7:30.

Ruggles Boards Meet

The Official Board and Board of Education of Ruggles Church will meet at the Church Hall Tuesday evening August 8 at eight.

Vacation Bible School

The first session of the Vacation Bible School of the Noxen Methodist Church was held Monday afternoon. The daily session which includes Bible study, Hymn Training, Worship, Recreation and Handwork and Service projects is held from 1:30 to 3:30 each afternoon. The school is being held from Monday to Friday each week from July 31st to August 11th.

Howard DeRemer Takes Distributing Position

Mrs. Thomas Bottoms of King street has received word that her brother, Howard DeRemer has accepted a position with the All-State Distributing Company at Dallas, Texas.

Howard is a graduate of Dallas Borough High School and served during World War 2 with the U. S. Navy. He and his wife have three lovely children, Judith, Neilan and Franklin.

Fresh-Air Children Visit Back Mountain

Responding to the plea that local residents take fresh-air children from New York for a vacation, the Dimmick family in Noxen is doing its share. Mrs. Ella Dimmick welcomed her first young visitor yesterday afternoon saying that either a boy or a girl would suit her, and her son John and his wife are planning to take a child.

A daughter of Mrs. Dimmick's, Mrs. John Hayden of Lake Winola, is also planning for a fresh air visitor.

Fresh Ground Hamburg 53c lb.	Pork Liver 39c lb.
Lean Boiling Beef 33c lb.	Center Cut Chuck Roast 59c lb. by piece
Slab Smoked Bacon 49c lb.	Skinless Hot Dogs 45c lb.
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YOU KNOW ME BY AL, HIMSELF

The trouble with this house of ours is that there are not enough closets in it to get a daughter married properly. Our youngest daughter is to wed August 12 so with the gifts arriving, and the clothes that the family has purchased, every chair in the house but one is full of boxes, string, wedding acceptances and new curtains. Our wife even asked us to bring home the wedding cake the day previous to the big event, but we vetoed that, stating that we wouldn't have a place to put it.

We had a visit yesterday from a cousin of the intended bridegroom. She came with her husband and two daughters (girls around twelve and fourteen). They were all strangers but wanted to get acquainted before the wedding, so what could be nicer on their trip home to Philadelphia from the Poconos, than to drop in on us? Our wife succeeded in getting daughter-in-law and grandson to entertain them on the front lawn until a few chairs could be vacated, but she didn't have time to remove all the dresses, shoes and underthings before they burst in on her.

"Oh!" said the intended bridegroom's cousin, "How nice that everything is just like my house, we wondered if you would be regular people or kind of difficult to talk to."

She made herself right at home, removing a freshly ironed dress from the lounge and placing it on top a new pair of curtains on the wing chair so she could have an inch or so to sit down. The two kids deployed themselves with our grandson on the floor between a hat box and a wrapped gift, the contents of which we have been trying to guess for a week. The husband got himself interested in a drink of water in the kitchen, so a good time was had by all, winding up with a swim in the most beautiful lake they ever saw.

We are so sold on this lake that when we came home from work and heard the story of the visit and the pleasant remarks they had made about it, we were sorry we had not brought the wedding cake even if it had to repose on the one chair still vacant.

But no, that chair must stay empty. Our wife "laid the law" down on that years ago. Every house has a "Pop's" chair. It is the place where pop, home from work, can lounge while reading his evening paper, with a cold glass of beer at his elbow. It must have the contours applicable to the strange shape of his body with a low arm rest that can support a leg thrown over it for comfort. It is a luxury that cannot be removed no matter how often new living room furniture is purchased. Our wife has kept this household "Pop's" chair in repair for years. If we had a dollar for everytime she has made new slip covers to hide its age we could retire. It is always empty except when we use it because that is the law. That is the only command we have ever been able to enforce.

But it wasn't always that way. When we were first married when our wife would come home from a shopping trip all the parcels would be dumped in pop's chair—"Oh, just until I get supper started," said our wife.

Then the kids came into this world and hats and gloves would be laid in pop's chair until they found the time to hang them on the hundreds of hooks that pop had screwed in their closets.

Pop put these things away in their proper place for years. Pop demonstrated. Pop scolded. Pop pleaded, but to no avail. At last pop hit upon a cure. Everytime he found anything on his chair he threw it on the floor. Mom was too good a housekeeper to stand for that so she moved the chair to the corner of the room away from the door. It was too inconvenient for any one to use it as a "catch all".

It wasn't a complete victory for pop, but it was enough. Even a wedding hasn't changed it.

Chuck Holes To Be Filled

Plan Guard Rail At Wardan Place

According to Norman Johnstone, Secretary-Manager of Wyoming Valley Motor Club, chuck-holes on the road circling Harvey's Lake, a hazard to motorists, will soon be filled. A guard rail at Wardan Place is being considered, the answer to a petition by property owners in the vicinity who consider present conditions dangerous to traffic and pedestrians.

Recommendations to remedy local highway conditions are the result of a survey made this past week by William C. Klein, traffic engineer of Pennsylvania State Highway Department in conjunction with Norman Johnstone. Further survey will be made the coming week.

Miss Janice Helen Lacy Engaged to J. W. Ashman

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Janice Helen Lacy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Verne Lacy of Pioneer avenue, Shavertown, to Joseph William Ashman, son of Mrs. Ruth Ashman of Forty Fort.

Janice attended Wyoming Seminary and New York Phoenix School of Art. Mr. Ashman was graduated from Kingston High School, attending Wyoming Seminary and is a graduate of Harvard University. He is a student at Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. During World War 2 he served as a U.S. Navy aviator. He is a member of the Naval Reserves.

Gets Woodcraft Insignia

James J. Durkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Durkin of Lake street, a camper at Valley Forge Summer Pioneer Camp at Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pa., was awarded the basic woodcraft insignia at the weekly Sunday Camp Fire. This insignia indicates completion of instruction in basic woodcraft, pioneering, nature study and Indian lore.

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Seymour Wins Trip

Minneapolis, July 28—Willard G. Seymour has been informed that he has been awarded an expense paid trip to his firm's National Convention at French Lick, Indiana this month. Seymour is Zone Manager for Investors Diversified Services.

To Hold Rummage Sale

Dallas Junior Woman's Club will hold a rummage sale in Luzerne, in September. Mrs. Fred Guyette is general chairman. Members are urged to solicit rummage in their neighborhood.

Crispell Reunion

Annual Crispell Reunion will be held Saturday, August, 12 at Claude Crispell's Grove, Noxen.

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