

Williams And Robinson Win

Take Firsts In Dog Show In Harrisburg

Two local dog breeders won in their class at the Harrisburg Dog Show on Saturday, where over 1200 dogs from all over the country and Canada compete.

Russell's Candida, female, eighteen months old standard size Dachshund, shown by Elmer Williams of Dallas, who is new to the show business, went best in her class of American Bred Dachshunds. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Robinson, showing miniature poodles, took two firsts.

Holly Court Star Bright, male, two years old, and Robin Star Tim, eight months old, miniature poodles, both home-bred at the Country Kennels, were successful. Robin Star Tim, the youngest puppy in the group, competed against puppies already accustomed to being shown, and Holly Court Star Bright was up against a formidable class.

Mr. Robinson showed also a dog from Williamsport, Champion Bryan of Hollabird, which won for the third successive year under his handling in the short-haired pointer class.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams will take their Dachshund to the show at Teaneck, N. J. on Sunday. Candida had a nice litter of puppies eight weeks ago, already sold. Mr. Williams will purchase a sire with exceptionally good championship lines.

... Safety Valve ...

UNION DISTRICT OPERATIONS...

Dear Editor:
I believe the following on Union School District Operations may be of timely interest.

I, personally, have always favored a Union District.

Sincerely,
C. L.

The Provisions of the School Code

Generally, union districts result from voter action on state-approved petitions by interested school boards or interested voters.

Sections 251 through 254 and Act 508 of the 1955 General Assembly (which repeals Section 312 of the Code) set forth in detail the necessary legal steps to form a union district. They provide that any two or more districts may form a union district by the following procedure:

(1) Either at least a majority of the members of the board in each district, or at least 25% of the registered voters in each district, may present a petition to the county commissioners requesting the commissioners to place the question on the ballot in each district at the next general or municipal election.

(2) The commissioners then request approval of the petition from the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Harrisburg, and, if approved the question is then placed on the ballot.

(3) If a majority of the voters in each district approve, the union district becomes operative on the first Monday in July after it is formed. All the debts and liabilities of the several districts become debts of the union district, unless otherwise provided by an agreement approved by a majority vote of each board prior to the time the question is submitted to the voters. All rights of the creditors are preserved. All school property of the several districts vests in the union district, and all debts and taxes owing the districts, uncollected in the several districts and all moneys in the treasuries of the several districts, shall be paid to the treasurer of the new district.

The Board

Act 508 of the 1955 General Assembly provides in effect that a union district school board is composed of a number of directors elected at large as are necessary to make up the number of directors by law for school districts of the class to which the union district belongs.

Audit

Section 2401 (7) provides that the court of common pleas of Luzerne County, upon petition of the board of the union district, shall, as soon as convenient after the creation of the district, appoint three persons to audit the financial accounts of the district. The auditors so appointed shall, on the first Monday of July, at the time of organization, or within thirty days thereafter, and within thirty days, carefully audit and adjust the financial accounts of the school district for the preceding school years. At the first municipal election after a union district is formed, there shall be elected three school auditors, one for a term of two years, one for a term of four years, and one for a term of six years, and their successors thereafter shall be elected for terms of six years each. When a vacancy occurs in the office of auditor by reason of death, resignation, removal from the school district, or otherwise, the court of common pleas of Luzerne County, upon petition of the board, shall appoint a person to hold such office for the unexpired term of the person whose place he is appointed to fill. The compensation of both the appointed and elected auditors shall be five dollars per day for each day necessarily spent by each auditor, to be paid by the union district.

In general, the advantages of a union district are the advantages of any single school district. While it is possible to secure optimum educational benefits from joint operations, the task is more difficult because of certain disadvantages in joint operations.

Advantages of a Union District

1. A union district is the ultimate logical method for the reorganization of school districts in areas which may be considered a natural community.
2. Under a union district there is one governing body and possibly a superintendent for the entire school program. The board, though cumbersome at the beginning, ultimately becomes a more workable size than a joint board.
3. In the borrowing of money and the erection of buildings, the union district has the highest degree of permanence.
4. Fiscal affairs in the union dis-

trict are simplified to the extent that there is a single tax rate and no duplication in the work of treasurers and secretaries. Furthermore, there is one budget for the district.

5. Costs of general control are less due to elimination of function and personnel.

Advantages of a Joint Board

1. A joint board may be formed immediately by the participating school boards and need not be voted on by the electorate.
2. Costs are apportioned among the districts in any desirable manner.

Disadvantages of a Joint Board

1. A joint board adds a "superstructure" to existing governmental units. Political boundaries which do not necessarily correspond to logical school attendance and administrative boundaries are preserved.
2. The joint board has often proved to be a cumbersome size working organization due to its being composed of all members of each component board.
3. A joint board does not have the permanence of a union district in planning the future of schools.
4. Additional administrative costs might be incurred because of the necessary adoption and operation of a joint board budget in addition to those district budgets already in effect.
5. The present tax collectors are retained in each sub division.

LIVE CONCERTS AND BASEBALL

Dear Editor:
Thank you loads for the fine article about the Community Concert series under "Barnyard Notes" in today's Dallas Post.

It is wonderful praise and publicity and we are very appreciative. Television and radio are remarkable and thrilling additions to modern man's enjoyment of life but most people, I am sure, will agree that there is no substitution for seeing and hearing "live" a fine concert, a good play, and exciting baseball game.

Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Sanders.

GOD GIVE THEM WISDOM

Dear Editor:
As a former member of Kingston Township School Board, I wish to support my good friend, James Hutchison in the Dallas Area Joint Schools controversy. Due to circumstances beyond his control, Jim was chosen to represent his Board Monday evening at a meeting of Back Mountain citizens interested in better schools held in the Dallas Township school building.

As a member of the panel seated on the platform Jim represented the Kingston Township Board and when called upon to speak he expressed the view of his entire board.

Due to the unique character of the meeting, other members of the various school boards, seated in the audience, were more or less precluded from expressing their views or answering statements with which they did not agree.

This was evidenced by the chairman challenging Mr. Hess of the Franklin Township Board when he arose to speak on a point after having been permitted to present a written statement of Franklin Township's position.

The impression was given that this was primarily a citizens' meeting and school board members should confine their arguments to future Board meetings rather than take up time allotted to the citizens. In other words, if the citizens are sufficiently interested in hearing and determining the personal viewpoints of various members they should make it a point to attend the school board meetings to which they are always welcome and in fact cordially invited.

It is the writer's personal opinion that no one individual or group of individuals attending this meeting should take offense at what Jim said. In his usual forthright manner, Jim said exactly what he honestly felt needed to be said. He has never in the many years in which I have known and been associated with him, been a man to say anything behind your back. If he has something to say to you he tells you to your face, a quality which I shall never cease to admire in any man.

In trying to clarify his position and his board's, he brought up a very forceful simile between this jointure and a hound dog and its tail, which perfectly fits the situation, and should cause no one to take offense.

The three larger districts in the area were likened to the body of the dog and the two smaller districts to the tail. He stated that the present jointure is a "mockery" and that things have reached a point where the tail is wagging the dog instead of the dog wagging the tail. He went on further to point out that if the tail is causing the dog pain or anguish it can and should be cut off and the dog will continue to live a more useful and happier life. On the other hand the tail without the dog is of very little use to itself or anyone else.

Jim Hutchison, without question, probably has more close friends in both Franklin and Monroe Townships than any other member of the Dallas Area Board. Both areas being largely rural-agricultural are predominantly populated by good solid farm folk. During the more than a quarter of a century that Jim served as the Luzerne County Farm Agent, he worked for and with these very same people, partic-

ularly Franklin Township. Monroe Township being in Wyoming County was out of Jim's territory, but nevertheless many of these good folks availed themselves of his expert knowledge and advice due to the proximity of their farms to Luzerne County.

When Jim advised these people to use a particular type of fertilizer on their farms, to rotate their crops or use contour plowing methods, they followed his advice and benefited tremendously.

Many an unproductive farm was put on a paying basis by following Jim's advice and countless farm families raised their standard of living through his technical know-how. After all these years of close association how can these people think that Jim has turned against them? On the contrary the exact opposite seems to be true.

Jim, along with the twenty-four other members of the Dallas Area Joint Board, has sat night after night trying to resolve the very complicated and trying problems connected with transforming five individual school districts into one outstanding district for the benefit of our children and future generations.

Time and again the record shows that roadblocks have been thrown up by members of the two smaller districts both of which have the most to benefit from a larger and better school system. When fourteen men out of a total of twenty-five come to some semblance of agreement on a program for the benefit of all the children in the area and eleven have the power to block such a constructive move and obstinately continue this unreasonable procedure, then the time has arrived to "sever the tail from the dog."

The question naturally arises as to what will happen if the majority of the Dallas Township Board members should also decide to withdraw their board from the present "mock jointure." That would put all the districts back on an individual board basis again, as the previous two-way and triple jointures are now out of existence and therefore null and void.

Monroe Township can, of course, make overtures to become a part of the Tunkhannock Area Jointure, which is what the State Department of Education advocated in the first place. They will then, of course, be faced again with the problem of a much longer bus ride for their students, which is one of the points of argument now over the re-allocation of students.

Franklin Township, however will find themselves in a much more unenviable position. They have no buildings or teachers of their own whatsoever. They will face the alternative of joining with the next closest school district, Exeter Township, or possibly Lake Township or else sending their students to one of the three larger districts on a per pupil tuition basis.

It is to be sincerely hoped that an amicable agreement beneficial and fair to all concerned may yet be worked out for the benefit of our children and the everlasting betterment of the entire Back Mountain community. May God give to all

the twenty-five board members wisdom, faith, understanding and above all the sincere desire and ability to sit down together at a board meeting and each give and take a little, never losing sight of the fact that to put the saving of a few paltry dollars in taxes ahead of the best possible educational advantages for our children is not only foolhardy but downright dangerous for the future of our area, state and nation.

Sincerely yours,
Frederick W. Anderson

Purchases Purebred Milking Shorthorns

Don Risch, Danville, N. J., has purchased Hillside's K. N. Imp. 233633 from W. L. Conyngham, Hillside Farms, Inc.

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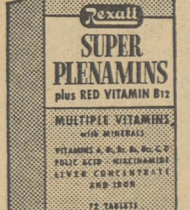
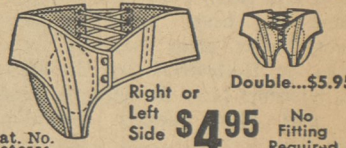
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