

## Local Suburban Areas Seen Unfit For Unification Now

### Board Reelects David Schooley To Presidency

#### 1962 Auction Head Dick Demmy Takes Place on Board

David Schooley was reelected president of Back Mountain Memorial Library Association at the annual meeting Thursday night in the Library Annex. Re-elected also were Homer Moyer, treasurer, and Mrs. Fred Howell, secretary.

Durrelle Scott replaced Mrs. Thomas Heffernan as vice president.

Richard Demmy, 1962 Library Auction chairman, was elected to the board, and prior election of Richard Patterson, to replace Mrs. Stanley S. Davies, was confirmed.

Re-elected for three year terms as directors were Mrs. Hanford Eckman, Homer Moyer, Mrs. Charles Frantz, Mrs. Paul Gross, Robert Bachman, and Ralph Hazeltine.

Mr. Schooley warmly commended Mrs. Albert Jones for her efficiency as acting librarian since the resignation and subsequent death of Mrs. Prosper Wirt.

Mrs. Jones outlined the expansion of the main library to take in the second floor, crediting the Key Club, Library Volunteers, staff, and Board members for their help in moving.

An Open House was held Saturday 9.

The total netted \$41,35 at the auction. State aid approximates \$2,488, forty percent of the amount earmarked for children's books, has already been partially spent.

Total circulation for the year was 68,034, with a notable increase as soon as Dallas Borough school children were once more permitted to visit the Library.

Mrs. W. H. Smith reported on Story Hour; Stefan Hellersperk on Building and Grounds; Mrs. Thomas Heffernan on Volunteers; Fred Eck, Finance; Mrs. Fred Howell on schools; Ralph Hazeltine, expansion; Robert Bachman, Public Relations; Mrs. Paul Gross, House; Mrs. Eckman, Friends of the Library; Mrs. Charles Frantz, Cultural Activities.

Dick Demmy reported a gross of \$23,838 net of \$16,569, for the 1962 Auction.

Mitchell Jenkins presided during the first part of the meeting. Mr. Schooley having been delayed.

Taking the chair, Mr. Schooley paid a tribute to the late Howard W. Risley, saying that nobody could estimate his contribution to the Library and to the Annual Auction. A resolution, published two weeks ago in the Dallas Post, was spread upon the minutes.

Mrs. Jenkins, retiring president of the Book Club, and Mrs. Paul Gross, recently installed president, poured from a table gay with red tapers and silver candelabra.

Attending, in addition to those already named, were: Miss Frances Dorrance, Fred Howell, Albert Jones, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hutchison, Frank Saff, Messadems Mae Townsend, Dana Crump, Homer Moyer, and Harold Titman.

### Present Validity of Issue Questionable

"That either Back Mountain or Mountaintop area should be interpreted as our recommended settings for municipal consolidation is ironic," says Raymond Carmon, Pennsylvania Economy League Central Division Director, whose firm recently completed a three-page report on local government in this area.

"Our report not only shows that feasibility of consolidation is still under study," he continued, "but shows it to be legally impossible, unless the borough were to annex the townships."

Purpose of the Economy League's studies, the director pointed out, is solely to investigate areas of possible economic cooperation between adjoining jurisdictions such as Dallas Borough, Township, and Kingston Township.

A similar study is being made in the Mountaintop complex of seven townships.

Neither study recommends consolidation, and, in fact, the League has found such an endeavor would be geographically and economically impractical at this time. Total population in the three local units concerned is 12,089 in an area of 36.4 square miles.

The Pennsylvania Economy League is a non-partisan, nonprofit, private research organization, which seeks areas of economic progress in local government, when invited to do so by political and civic leaders.

In the case of Luzerne County's two suburban areas, the Central Division found it convenient to do research on its own since the test area was close to the office, distributing reports to some 70 civic leaders in this area.

The League's Harrisburg office operates on the state level, testing budgets and plans, and many of its officials ultimately are picked for administrative jobs for the government.

Although the report offers no specific areas of cooperation, Carmon suggested as examples road-repair and water control. Local control of such facilities in the Mountaintop area is even more desirable than in the Back Mountain.

Clearly, the director noted, local politicians are not going to be enthusiastic about the idea of political unity among their communities until utilities, services, taxes and budgets enjoy equal footing in each jurisdiction.

Certain municipalities would not touch others' finances with a ten foot pole.

A detailed study of all expenditures and anticipated income in each municipality would be in order, before predicting any feasible political unions, and the first step, the chairman noted, would be informal meetings between community administrative and civic leaders to discuss possible cooperation.

In any case, he said, referring to recent mysterious rumors of impending political consolidation, "It will take a lot more study and knowledge before any solution can be offered."

Less reserved, but equally well-informed sources estimated ten to twenty years as the time it would take for Dallas Borough, Township, and Kingston Township to become a political unity.

Still unanswered was the question: How did political consolidation of our communities become a vital concern at this time?

It could be established that some motion was given to recent discussion by the Economy League's study and an interesting interpretation of that study by a Wilkes-Barre newspaper. Budgets were recently drawn up for all townships and boroughs, and there too was stimulus for talk about inefficiency and amateurism in small government.

However, the degree of the paper's alarm over such inefficiency was somewhat disproportionate to the increase, if any, of such inefficiency over last year.

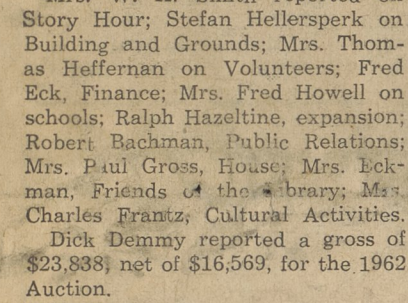
Similar clamor has been raised recently in Mountaintop for consolidation of townships, and the climate is such there that certain bodies eventually may well merge. Two have already collaborated on adjacent zoning, and the Economy League finds that a step in the right direction.

No evidence exists, however, to indicate that "consolidation" in any form is an issue related to present public concern except as an academic point.

A survey taken in the wake of recently revived discussion of the subject showed area political and civic leaders cautious about the idea without further elaboration. Time and study were popular factors. No one was against the idea if, in time, the issue became a reality.

In the meantime, many people expressed dissatisfaction, mostly unprintable, with some characteristics attributed last week to area volunteer fire organizations by a Wilkes-Barre newspaper in an endeavor to show how consolidation of companies would reduce inefficiency.

### Receives Promotion



**JOHN T. CALLAHAN**

Promoted from salesman to sales manager of Whitesell Brothers Building Supplies, West Dallas, is John T. Callahan, 35, Oak Hill, the firm announced today.

The new manager, who started with Whitesell Brothers September, 1953, is a former resident of Wilkes-Barre Township, and a graduate of St. Mary's High School. He has completed courses in estimating and selling given by Johns Manville and Pennsylvania State University.

A veteran, Callahan is married to the former Joan Pechkis, Edwardsville, and they have two children, Richard, 7, and Nancy, 5.

### Auxiliary Meeting

Harveys Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 967 will meet Tuesday, 8 p.m., at the home of president Mrs. Ethel Engelman, Noxen.

## Teams To Vie For Family's Benefit

### Noxen, Kunkle, Lake, Battle Noxen Blaze

Dallas and Lake-Lehman High Schools will meet Thursday, February 14 in a wrestling match for the benefit of ex-wrestler Freddie Hennebaul's family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hennebaul, Schoolhouse Road, Harveys Lake.

Aim, according to Dallas High School assistant principal Thomas Jenkins, is to make it a little easier for the Hennebauls to visit Fred at Johnstown Rehabilitation Center, where he is recovering from a paralyzing accident in a match with Tunkhannock January 4, 1961.

Sponsored by the Athletic Council, the meet between the teams, both of which are of equal standing, is intended as a separate token from the Freddie Hennebaul Fund, says Mr. Jenkins.

At present, there is no provision for family visits within the terms of the fund, all proceeds going directly to cover medical expenses.

An equally serious expense, the Council feels, is costs of transportation of family visitors, for the eighteen year old wrestler's morale. This match will try to fill that gap.

Fred returned home this Christmas for the first time since his injury.

At Johnstown Rehabilitation Center, where he was transferred this fall from Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, the boy is making notable progress. He gets therapy for the frayed nerves in his neck every day, and is keeping up with his school work.

The week after the injury, as Fred lay in Geisinger's Constant Care Ward, more than 100 students, friends and parents, including those of Gail Bedford, his opponent, met at Lehman High School to set up the Fred Hennebaul Recovery Trust Fund.

## Chimney Fire Destroys Home

### Flack Backs Block To School Bill

A chimney fire, the third in Noxen in a week, caused total destruction of a two-story frame home across from the Noxen Clinic early Thursday morning.

Wednesday evening at 8, three fire companies, Noxen, Kunkle and Harveys Lake, answered the first alarm, battling a blaze which started around a chimney in an upstairs bedroom.

At 10:30, the fire apparently out, firemen went home, and Mrs. Wilce Thompson, who lived alone in the house since the death last year of her husband, was taken to the home of her mother, Mrs. Sites, at Harveys Lake to spend the night.

At 1:30, John Lyons spotted a blaze again, and telephoned the three fire companies. Breaking of a window to gain entrance provided draft, and the entire house went up like a torch.

Hose-lines were strung along the main street to Bowman's Creek, and nearby homes wet down for protection. Battling the blaze itself was futile from the start. A little furniture was saved, all clothing was lost.

The two other chimney fires occurred during the daytime, one at the home of Lena Dotter, Main road, the other at the John Byrnes home on Island Road. Both were quickly extinguished by Noxen firemen.

## Flack Backs Block To School Bill

### Ever seen an albino red squirrel?

Senator Harold Flack has lined up with fellow Senators Stroup, Hawbaker, Scott, Propert, Keller and Bell in pushing for a moratorium on Act 561, concerning school district reorganization.

Senator Flack, states, "The act is set up as a hodge-podge bill with the identity of its various school districts being lost, is presenting a problem to many school districts of the state, particularly those located in the western sector.

"Many children must travel fifty to seventy five miles to reach their institutions of learning."

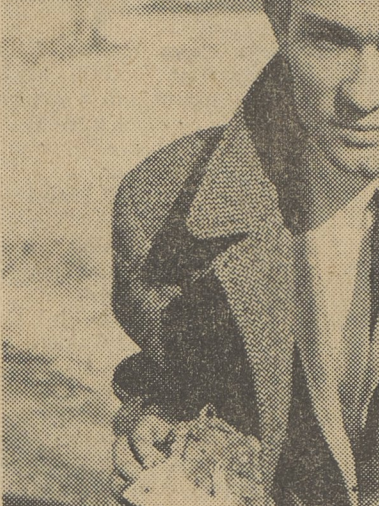
The bill may well present the biggest challenge of the current session to legislators. There is strong opposition from the Democratic bloc.

Enacted in 1961, Reorganization Act calls for consolidation of school districts into units of at least 4,000 pupils with some exceptions made to permit 2500 pupil units in rural areas. It would set up 350 districts instead of the present 2000.

The bill would become effective July 1, 1965. It does not apply to school districts of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Republican Floor Leader James S. Berger states, "The act was developed by theorists who have failed to convince the people of Pennsylvania that it is the answer to the educational problems of the state."

## Ugly Wreck, Yielding Four Hurt, One "Serious", Scars Route 309



On impact the Getz car caught fire, which would have spread over both hopeless wrecks but for quick-thinking of Edward Alusick, Chemical Leaman Truck Line, who stopped his rig as close as was safe and doused the blaze with his truck fire extinguisher. He said it surely would have consumed both cars in another minute. Alusick was behind Dr. Mokychie's car in the south-bound lane. Police have not determined the cause of the accident. The two cars were at rest against each other in the north-bound lane, Dallas and Kingston Township ambulances took all victims to the hospital, and were staffed by Ray Titus, Don Bulford, and Les Tinsley, and Marvin Yeast, William Pugh, William Kreischer, and Harry Smith respectively.

Investigating were Police Chief Frank Lange, Assistant Chief Stanley Gardiner, Patrolman William Hersh, and state police.

Mrs. May Getz is the wife of the late John "Jack" Getz, former owner of Mason's Villa, Kunkle. A son, John Chesney, Philadelphia, has come up to help the family.

On impact the Getz car caught fire, which would have spread over both hopeless wrecks but for quick-thinking of Edward Alusick, Chemical Leaman Truck Line, who stopped his rig as close as was safe and doused the blaze with his truck fire extinguisher. He said it surely would have consumed both cars in another minute. Alusick was behind Dr. Mokychie's car in the south-bound lane. Police have not determined the cause of the accident. The two cars were at rest against each other in the north-bound lane, Dallas and Kingston Township ambulances took all victims to the hospital, and were staffed by Ray Titus, Don Bulford, and Les Tinsley, and Marvin Yeast, William Pugh, William Kreischer, and Harry Smith respectively.

Investigating were Police Chief Frank Lange, Assistant Chief Stanley Gardiner, Patrolman William Hersh, and state police.

Mrs. May Getz is the wife of the late John "Jack" Getz, former owner of Mason's Villa, Kunkle. A son, John Chesney, Philadelphia, has come up to help the family.

## Steal Carverton Dog

A female beagle hound was stolen from the front yard of Russell Honeywell, Jr., Mt. Olivet Road, Carverton Saturday morning.

## Genel Prevails Despite Attack

### Board Threatens To Close Chase Road

Above and beyond a mysterious petition for his removal from office as Assistant Chief of Police of Jacksonville, Roland Genel prevailed to another term at the supervisors' meeting Tuesday night.

Genel called the move "spite," and attributed it to his petition to the court early last fall to reject his earlier application for appointment of an assistant constable. He was unanimously reappointed.

As his first chore of the year 1963, Genel was directed to advise the State Highway Department through the AAA that he would, as constable, close Huntsville-Chase Road unless a particularly vicious ice-clog were removed within 48 hours.

The ice was frozen in a perilous crust across the road in front of Arthur Houck's residence, near Huntsville Christian Church. It reportedly came from an overflow resulting from placement of concrete in a drain pipe.

Held over from the January meeting was a petition of 134 names, demanding the appointment of a new assistant police chief. No reason was given on the document, and no one appeared at the recent meeting to stand behind it.

Chief of Police Robert Cooper termed the petition "the silliest thing I ever heard of," and endorsed Genel as a "fine, upstanding officer."

The chief said he had talked to some of the signers of the paper, and they had admitted they did not know what they were signing.

Referring to the move as "spite," Genel pointed out that the petition was first offered at a meeting in which he was not present, but received thin support at the present session.

All bills were ordered paid, and all reports approved.

For the Back Mountain Police Association, Herbert Updyke invited supervisor's president Elmer Laskowski, Wesley Lamoreaux, and Hal Bertram, and secretary-treasurer Ed Jeffery to the next meeting of that group.

## Baby Badly Burned When Fryer Upsets

### Area Falls Prey To Garbage Litter-Bug

Faith Jean Besteder, sixteen-month old granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Besteder, Sr., Center Moreland, was seriously burned January 7 when an electric french-fryer overturned in the kitchen of her parents' home in Birmingham, Alabama. She is in fair condition at Caraway Methodist Hospital, Birmingham, suffering from second and third degree burns over 75 percent of her body.

Karl Besteder, Jr., is employed as a ticket agent by United Airlines, transferred from Harrisburg in December.

## Area Falls Prey To Garbage Litter-Bug

### Four Victims of Head-On Improving at Hospital: Endangered Eye Saved

All four Dallas area victims of a head-on crash on Tunkhannock Highway Thursday night are improving at Nesbitt Hospital, according to Dr. Lester Saldman, including Mrs. May Getz, originally "critical," and the doctor's colleague, Dr. Walter Mokychie.

Both were drivers of cars which collided in the north-bound lane.

Mrs. Getz is now listed "serious," Dr. Mokychie — "fair," Mrs. Fred Getz — "fair," and Elizabeth Robinson — "good."

The doctor said the sight of Mrs. Getz's eye, cut on impact with the windshield, will be restored.

## Release Big Rabbit-Catch On Open Land

### Bags Albino Squirrel Near Mooretown

With possibility of promoting a limitless number of rabbit-races if they get bored, Game Warden Ed Gdosky and Conservation Committeeman Malcolm Nelson release two more of the impressive live-trap catch.

Three hundred more animals than last year were caught in the Back Mountain area by ten area trappers. Traps were provided by the state, in an endeavor to clear urban and suburban lands of rabbits who would rather be in the country anyway.

## Spearhead Plan For Community Center In Area

### Dallas Club Invites Service Groups To Consider Proposal



Dallas Woman's Club, senior and junior divisions, spearheaded a proposal for a community building to serve all organizations in the Back Mountain, meeting with representatives from service club groups Thursday night at Irem Country Club.

At the council table in the sun-room, gathered delegates from Dallas Rotary, Dallas Lions, Dallas Kiwanis, American Legion, PTA Council, Architects Association, YMCA, Dallas Women of Rotary, Women of Kiwanis, Back Mountain Protective Association, Dallas Junior High School PTA, Eastern Star.

Chairman of the community project, Mrs. Francis Ambrose, in drafting the need felt by many organizations for more adequate housing for their meetings and activities, launched a trial balloon suggesting the possibility of an indoor swimming pool; a clinic for first aid and well babies; a kitchen for serving of meals to service clubs; meeting rooms of varying sizes.

Organizations must now pay for meeting space. The library is no longer practical for a large group, though small groups are still meeting in the Annex.

The library itself, said Mrs. Ambrose, might well join with a community effort, throwing annual auction receipts toward a larger project while gaining for itself a more modern home.

Dallas Lions, represented by Richard Myers and Russell DeRemer, the smallest group organized in the Back Mountain, went on record as heartily in favor of the project, citing an instance where a club of only twenty members had sponsored a project, with other organizations getting on the band wagon. It could be done, they agreed.

A number of men, including Paul Rodda, said that in their opinion, a consolidation of municipal entities would have to be the first step, before merging an activity program.

Congratulations were extended to the American Legion for starting a program of teenage dances, a barrier against troubles experienced in many communities where young folks get their kicks out of rumbles.

Merrill Faegenburg asked if in actuality each organization was considering erecting a building, or was it wishful thinking? "I'm a salesman," he explained, "and sooner or later, in any sales talk, the ugly question of cost rears its head. What is it going to cost?"

Until each organization stated its needs, it was explained, nobody would have any idea what a community building would cost.

Mrs. George McCutcheon said young folks need activities and equipment.

Mr. Rodda suggested a poll of organizations. Mrs. Ambrose replied that this was already in the making, that each organization could report back February 28, when another meeting would be held to discuss the project.

There are 300 Eastern Star members, Mrs. Mildred Lutes contributed. What meeting room could be large enough for that membership and for Rainbow Girls? William Cutten said the school auditorium was not used to capacity, that the tax-payers are paying for the new school. Mrs. Ambrose said on the contrary, the new high school is already outgrown.

James Alexander: What plans could be made for maintenance?

Dr. Budd Schooley: for needs of future citizens, you can't estimate in terms simply of a price tag.

Dr. Schooley sketched the beginnings of the community Building project. Proposal to embark on the program came almost simultaneously with Pearl Harbor Day, which effectively sidetracked any such idea. After the War, the proposition was again considered, failed to win support.

Many sites had been considered: Castle Inn; the former Broom Factory; now Regina Hall; a section of Goss Manor; the plot of land recently acquired by Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Schooley offered an acreage a little way beyond Kunkle, far from the present center of population, but conceivably centrally located with population increase.

Transportation was seen to be a problem by Mr. Faegenburg.

Mr. Rodda said two questions had to be answered by each group before any estimate of cost, or practicality could be made: What are the needs for each individual organization; and what other needs for the community at large does each (Continued on Page 2 A)