

Council Tables Mill Tax Issue; Resolves To Borrow Added \$5000

Halt Forest Fire On Schooley Mountain

Noxen Fire Company and about forty forestfire fighters battled a blaze which stretched over some fifteen acres of Schooley Mountain early Saturday afternoon, and subdued it within two hours.

Equipment used was mostly rakes and Indian tanks, although the company used around 200 gallons of water to protect several houses from heat and sparks.

A number of homes were threatened, but none damaged.

Fire Chief Calvin Strohl and Assistant Chief Ernest Teetsel directed the company, and Fire Warden Francis Schenck led the forest-fire fighters.

Board Says Home Must Shoulder Responsibility

Not Function Of Schools To Punish Moral Infractions

Lake-Lehman school directors 18 to 2, declined Tuesday evening to exact penalties for moral laxness among the students, holding that morals are the business of the homes and the churches, not of the school board.

To bar any student from receiving an award won in fair competition or to make provision for such a student to receive a diploma in private instead of with the remainder of the class, was unjust discrimination, according to Willard Sutton, chairman of the joint board, and could in fact be considered libelous, subject to redress by law.

Last month, a delegation of about thirty, including Rev. James Garrahan, pastor of Maple Grove Methodist Church, and Carl Swanson, appeared before the board, asking for action.

They were asked to return at a later date after inquiries had been made of other school systems to determine a standard State-wide policy approved by State Board of Education.

Seven of the original thirty confronted the school board Tuesday evening, to hear a six-point code of student conduct purportedly recommended by the Policy Committee headed by Charles Womer, Noxen Township, and proposed for adoption by Howard Piatt and Mr. Womer. Last month, Dean Shaver, a member of the policy committee, took exception to the statement that the code was recommended by the committee. It had been, he said, presented to the committee, which had met with only four members present, two for and two against the proposal, and had been referred to the school board for consideration, but not with the blessing of the policy committee.

On being asked to express their views, members of the delegation remained silent. Mr. Sutton then took the floor. He stated that inquiry had been made of various school districts in this area and of the Attorney General of the State of Pennsylvania, and in every instance the answer had been that adoption of such a code was not in the interests of the student or of the school.

He continued: "I do not feel that this is entirely a problem for school administrators, but rather a parental and church problem which should be dealt with at the home level."

He congratulated the board on voting down a proposal which might well have resulted in a court case and much laundering of soiled linen in public.

The problem is not a new one. It is a rare high school which does not have one or two cases of pregnancy during a school year. School directors felt there was little percentage in crying over spilled milk, heaping further humiliation and embarrassment upon the victims by singling them out and depriving them of normal companionship and contact.

A brisk business meeting followed the exodus of the delegation. Three teachers were hired, according to recommendation of Lester Squier, supervising principal; Mary Alice Hand, Florence Billings, and Geraldine Goodman.

April 19 was set for dedication of new band uniforms, at the annual spring band concert. Old band uniforms were donated to the Band Sponsors for disposal.

Refinancing of bonds was granted Lehman School Authority, if such a move would result in saving the school district money.

School calendar of 180 days was fixed, 185 teachers. Opening date for students, September 4; last day of school, June 11.

Will Suggest Jeter For Service Honor

On recommendation of solicitor to the effect that it would be a shame for the two municipalities to be fighting in a courtroom, borough council tabled the matter of \$4500 real estate transfer tax now disputed with Dallas township, at the meeting Tuesday night.

In other business, council awarded bids on road materials, and voted approval of a resolution to borrow an added \$5000.

Borough engineer John Jeter is council's unanimous recommendation for an award given by the Institute of Municipal Government, Wilkes College, in May, for outstanding, devoted, and unselfish service by a municipal official. Mr. Jeter remembers doing work for Dallas in 1917.

Council tabled a proposal brought up in a letter from the school district that the borough pay \$76, estimated fair share of a 1963 census to be taken throughout the district. Last census was in 1961.

Solicitor Robert Fleming continued to stress that he did not feel that the township wanted to go to court over the tax sum, derived from the sale of Natona Mills two years ago and sent by mistake to the township rather than the borough.

Township supervisors tabled the matter at their meeting last week, and the issue is now at somewhat of a stalemate.

According to solicitor, in the event of suit, proceedings would be initiated against the mill itself, which would then join township as added defendant.

Legal obligation, he said, is still on Natona to pay the tax and the accumulated interest up to point of notification of township of the error.

He will write to the company again, and apprise them of the borough's view of the situation.

Confusion stems from the deed of the mill when it changed hands, and a decision by the Superior Court in 1952 to the effect that henceforth the mill property was within borough boundaries, and permanently annexed to the borough.

Maps were never changed following that decision, and deed of the transfer followed the old deed which said the mill was in the township.

Contracts were awarded at the meeting as follows: bituminous materials, Dale Parry; stone and gravel, bituminous materials, Mathers Construction; patching, Dale Parry; stone and gravel, Airport Sand and Gravel; stone, American Asphalt; salt, International Salt; motor paver, Koon Concrete. No bids were received on pipe or street sweeper.

Jointure PTA Elects W. Frey

Group Enjoys Night Of Music And Art

William Frey, Oak Hill, was elected president of Lake-Lehman PTA Monday evening in the new high school.

Other officers are: 1st vice president from the high school, James Darling; area vice president from Lake township, Mrs. Taft Truska, Jr.; from Noxen, Mrs. J. Franklin Patton, Lehman, Mrs. Thomas G. Brown; Ross Township, Mrs. Burton Mingus; secretary, Mrs. Preston Mingus; and treasurer, Earl Crispell.

On the nominating committee were: Elwood Ruckle, chairman, Harry Edwards and Gilbert Tough. Richard Williams presided; Mrs. Myron Moss led in prayer; secretary's report was given by Mrs. Mingus and treasurer's report by Mr. Crispell. Mrs. Mingus announced that the Charter has been received.

The group voted to donate twenty five dollars to the Hannah Kent Schaff Memorial Scholarship Fund. Anthony Marchakitis reported that selection of courses for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students is in progress.

Mrs. Jonathan Valentine, program chairman, announced the topic for the evening's entertainment "Music and Art." The Reed Choir, made its first appearance before an audience. The Brass Choir was the second group to perform, both choirs under direction of John Miliauskas. The Dance Band, newly formed, student director Jay Ruckle, completed the musical program.

PTA members visited the Art Room to see the Art Exhibit. Judges Graydon Mayer, Mrs. Thomas Longmore and Mrs. Lester Hauck, announced the winners: 1st prize, Rita Zbick, for collage; 2nd prize, Douglas Ide, for his figure study in charcoal; 3rd prize, Richard Williams, for his oil painting entitled "Still Life." Honorable mention for a Paper Mosaic was given to Faye Brown, Esther Arendt, Peggy Clarke, Georgeann Adams and Diane Ide. Art Supervisor is Jane Cornell.

Caddie Wants A Vicious Ugly Dog

Caddie LaBar says he would be glad to take a vicious dog off the hands of anybody who wants to get rid of one, after being robbed again early yesterday morning.

As was the case several months ago, and many times before, his store and Orchard Farms Restaurant were broken into the same night, as was Parry's Gulf which was burglarized the week before last.

Caddie was the most seriously hit, losing two revolvers, four radios, two tape recorders and a spotting scope on a tripod.

Parry's, across and down the road, had a cigarette machine broken into, and telephone ripped off the wall, and an attempt was made to open a 4x4 safe.

Nothing seems to have been taken there, as happened the last time the restaurant was vandalized.

Thieves broke the same plate-glass window in the front of Caddie's as before, and the same plate of glass in the kitchen door at Orchard Farms.

Caddie says he thinks it must be the same group which hits his place every time, and intends to get either a dog or a burglar alarm.

Borough police officer Raymond Titus checked Parry's and Orchard Farm soon after the LaBar theft was discovered by state police at 2:20 a.m. At that time they had not been touched. On re-check at 4 a.m., the other's had been hit.

Three similar burglaries in Edwardsville shopping center and Kingston on Wyoming Avenue that night are also under investigation.

Ninety-Five Residents Get Chest X-Rays Made

Ninety five local residents had chest X-rays on Monday when the Wyoming Valley Mobile Unit visited the Back Mountain area.

George C. Mills manning the X-ray unit without assistance, reported congenial comers kept him occupied during the pleasant spring day.

Director Candidates May Be Questioned

Citizens Committee for Better Schools invites candidates for Dallas School Director to state their case, their qualifications, their ideas about a good educational system, confining themselves to five minutes each, at a Town Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 8 p.m. at Dallas Senior High School.

Invitations were issued to these candidates: William E. Davis, Francis J. Dixon, Andrew Kozemchak, Charles H. Mannear, Donald A. Peterson, Rev. William W. Reid, L. L. Richardson and William Wright.

Questions to be answered are:
1. Why do you want to be a School Board member?
2. Why do you feel qualified to serve?
3. What do you think most needs to be accomplished and how do you propose to accomplish it?
4. What is the primary function of the School Board?
5. We all know that better education costs money. Are you willing to raise taxes in order to improve the quality of education?

Other points disputed by Winter concerning pipe purchased, building materials, and missing fire equipment, as well as a complaint about the incongruity of police salaries with income tax forms were all explained, according to Major.

Economy League said it had not yet been consulted, but that, if it were, some of the constructive suggestions it might make would be on budgeting, accounting control, and recommendations on approaches to purchasing.

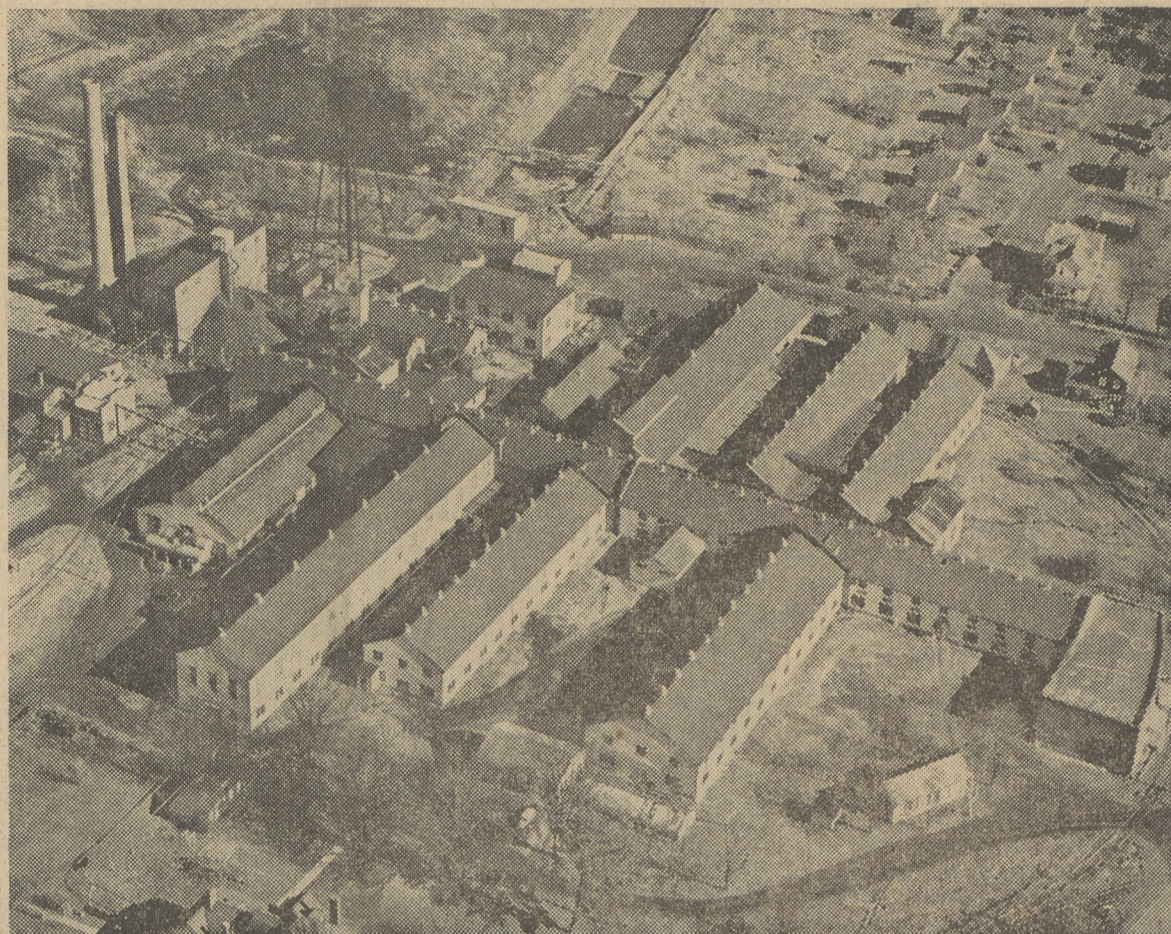
Winter said he had found more than \$4000 worth of "irregularities," although he did not itemize them. His signature, in any case, is affixed, with that of auditors Paul Doris and Jean Agnew in approval of the audit. In the space where his signature appears the second time, as the attest secretary, he refers to the exceptions made at the end of the audit.

Major says he is getting tired of people calling him up at night and accusing him of all kinds of things as a result of a report of the meeting last week. He feels everything is readily explicable.

For example, he says, all building material purchases made in 1962 were under the mandatory bid mark of \$1000. Discrepancy between police salary allotments and W2 forms comes from the old system before the cruiser was bought, in which some money was expenses on personal cars used in police work.

In the case of the strictly legal point of whether or not a police car could be bought out of road machinery funds, Major says the supervisors had it on authority of

Tannery Sold!



Armour Tannery in Noxen has been sold.

All of Noxen area is electric with anticipation this week, wondering if a new industry is to occupy the long-idle plant.

Williamsport office of Armour and Company has not issued a statement as to what will be the disposition of the tannery, or who has bought it.

Many Noxen villagers fear the plant has been sold for dismantling, although no concrete grounds for the belief exist.

Manager Raymond Evlan, at the Williamsport office, informed Foremen Elvin Bean and Leslie Koehner,

both of Noxen, that the plant and company houses nearby were sold.

Word from Williamsport has it that official declaration can not be expected until next week at the earliest.

And Noxen and the Back Mountain are waiting.

Supervisors To Consult League; Major Answers Winter's Charges

Lehman township supervisors have agreed to consult with representatives of the Pennsylvania Economy League on demand of secretary auditor Fred Winter.

Winter appended to the audit, filed at the courthouse, a statement of several "irregularities" in the management of funds by supervisors. This is not a surcharge, he points out, but simply a declaration of what he has seen wrong.

Winter says the statement of alleged "irregularities" has nothing to do with the fact that he is running for supervisor against Alan Major, in the May primaries.

Major says the board will consult with the Economy League to avoid "commotion," but stresses that there is no misappropriation of funds involved in this attack, but simply technicalities on whether, for example, a police car could be bought with funds slated for "road machinery."

It was all township money, he added, and bids and plans were openly advertised. The only problem is that money, not slated for any other use anyway, was used to buy a cruiser, for which a loan would have had to have been taken out otherwise.

Other points disputed by Winter concerning pipe purchased, building materials, and missing fire equipment, as well as a complaint about the incongruity of police salaries with income tax forms were all explained, according to Major.

Owls Stomily Decline Invitation To Hoot

Hurricane type winds howling through the area Thursday evening frustrated bird lovers on an owl-calling expedition.

Members of Back Mountain Bird Club had assembled at the home of Edwin Johnson, Midland Drive, to coax forth their nocturnal friends. Mr. Johnson, adept at hooting, has frequently brought the birds swooping about his home, but the restless night found the owls clinging to their favorite branches, unwilling to venture forth.

Possibility of presenting the Audubon Lecture Series in this region next year was discussed. William Evans presided.

A movie, "Protection of Southern Birds" was shown by Terry Balmore. Present were Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce, Jr., Mrs. Arnott Jones, Mrs. Chester Nesbitt, Ronald Naveen, the officers and the host and hostess.

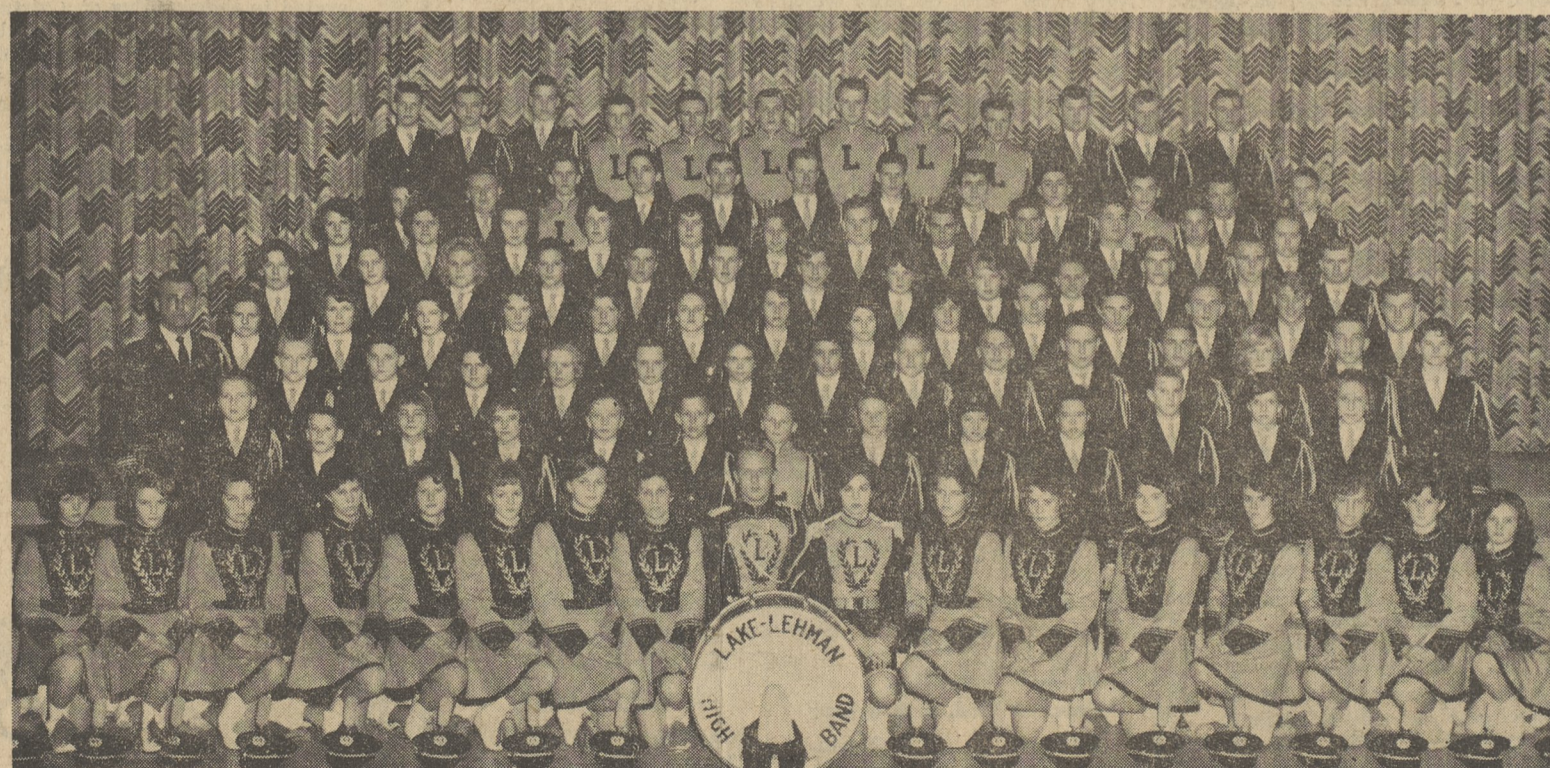
The editor of Township News magazine that such appropriation was permissible.

Winter replies that the board should consult with solicitor more carefully before making such decisions.

Major adds that it was indeed Winter who cost the township money by holding on to the account books, so that supervisors were unable to apply to Harrisburg for their usual allotment of funds, thus necessitating an expensive loan.

Both parties, in any case, seem satisfied with invoking the Economy League.

Prize Winning Band Schedules Annual Concert



Prize-winning Lake-Lehman Band will hold its annual Spring Concert for the first time in the new high school auditorium April 19 and 20. The 114 members of the senior band will make their first appearance in new concert uniforms of black and gold.

Well-known throughout the Back Mountain Area and much of Wyoming Valley, the group has won championships at New York State for the past two years. They were broadcast over WNAK radio from the Idetown Festival last summer and the Brass Choir section appeared on Sunday Serenade, seen on WBRE-TV in December.

1st. Row—Left to Right—Vicky Gennetts, Wendy Allen, Mary Lou Castlerine, Debbie Reish, Gail Kelley, Linda Minor, Pam Rukiewicz, Joyce Spencer, Richard Williams, Helen Dugan, Ruth Adamshick, Judy Stortz, Beverly Bonning, Mary Ann Jeffery, Barbara Sebolka, Karla Ray, Emily Minckler.

2nd. Row—Sheldon Ehret, Bob Piatt, Diane Ungvasky, Marion Perkins, Charles Murphy, Fred Valentine, Steve Kenyon, Kathy Price, Kathy Mingus, Joy Agnew, Joe Marchakitis, Roberta Ide, Lillian Schlosser.

3rd. Row—Mr. John Miliauskas, Richard Mazonkey, Curt Swanson, Donna Wesley, Sandra Agnew, Judy Koehner, Dawn Covert, Carl Neman-

czyk, Edward Jones, Gary VanScoy, Gene Bertram, Darrell Loomis, Linda Conner, Joe Zbick, Rebecca Montross.

4th. Row—Marlene Patton, Shirley Disque, Joy Johnson, Jane Delkanic, Eunice Oney, Marguerite Hackling, Joanne Wesloski, Karlen Jones, Cathy Newberry, Howard Ellsworth, Dorne White, David Sutton, Alan Landis, Homer Baker.

5th. Row—Lillie Ferrey, Susan Fielding, Eileen Crane, Joyce Delcanic, Bruce Anderson, David Bates, Ruth Shoultice, Kathy Stroud, Marjorie Evans, Douglas Gentile, Lee Johnson, Renald Davenport, Roy Squirer.

6th. Row—Eileen Miers, Pat Kutz,

Marsha Thomas, Wilma Long, Gale Harrison, Phyllis Ross, Richard Sarmonis, Tony Stefanowicz, David Dersheimer, Gary Hackling, Jay Ruckle, Cheryl Thomas.

7th. Row—Elizabeth Shaver, Robert Rood, David Kenyon, Foster Bulford, Joseph Kernag, Bill Ehret, Gary Miers, Kris Miller, Doug Ide, Barry Ray, Bill Baer, John Fielding.

8th. Row—Ronald Culver, Keith Swanson, Blair Newberry, Gary Hopfer, John MacMillan, David Arendt, Thomas Shalata, Lewis Hopfer, Stanley Palmer, James Wallace, Ken Ellsworth.

Absent—John Balavage, Jerry Balavage, Barbara Ross, Donna Parrish, Kathy McFose, Richard Maye.

Name Date For Kick-off Dinner

The seventeenth annual Back Mountain Library Auction will take place this year on July 11, 12, and 13 with Atty. Robert Fleming serving as general chairman and Frank Huttman co-chairman. As usual the scene of the Auction will be the barn and surrounding grounds of the late Howard Risley whose guidance and enthusiasm will be sorely missed this year.

Starting off the Auction season on Thursday May 16 will be the kick-off dinner, fast becoming an annual institution like the Auction itself. John N. Conyngham III, who served as general co-chairman last year, will be in charge of the dinner. Held in the main dining room of Irem Temple Country Club at 6:30, it will be attended by all auction personnel, the three local service clubs—Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions as well as other interested residents of the community. Tickets will be available soon.

Mr. Huttman is new to the Auction scene but not to the community, having lived here for six years. He is an active member of the Dallas Methodist Church where he serves on the Board of Trustees and Official Board. He is also a member of the George M. Dallas Lodge F. & A.M. and the Irem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. His wife is the former Edna Martin of Long Island, New York where Mr. Huttman was also raised and educated. The couple have two children, Robert and John. Mr. Huttman is with the Boston Store as merchandise manager for women's apparel.

Other chairmen of the Action booths and activities will be announced at the kick-off dinner.

Dallas Directors Adopt Tentative Budget For Year

Spiralling Costs Mandate Increase Of Real Estate Tax

With Mrs. Ann Vernon pressing for a review of the proposed budget for the school year 1963-64, Dallas Area School Board will restudy several items.

Tentative budget of \$1,203,810.00 was approved Tuesday evening with Richardson, Davis and Mitchell, dissenting.

Efforts to forestall any tax increase failed when spiraling school costs necessitated a proposed 4 mill increase in real estate taxes. Per capita assessment remained at the previous level.

Morris Slater, representing Citizens for Better Schools, stated that an increased quality of education was worth paying for and that his group would accelerate its program.

School term was set at 181 days. An estimated 2,862 students will enroll in September, an increase of 122 over the present figure. Average cost per pupil was set at \$420.62.

A letter from Attorney Bernard Kotulak, representing Luzerne County Housing Authority, revealed that accumulated deficiencies of that body represent a total of \$104,998.45 and that no payment in lieu of taxes can be made in the foreseeable future.

Disclosure followed a conference between Housing Authority members and local officials, Dr. Robert Mellman, Lester Hauck, William Johnson, Atty. Jonathan Valentine.

Mrs. Vernon noted the local Housing Authority was the only one in the state not making payment. Dr. Mellman proposed that state representatives directly contact Department of Public Instruction.

Resignation of Mrs. Gloria Bronson was accepted, effective May 10, with Mrs. Raymond Goeringer replacing her as Home Economics instructor for the balance of the year.

Resignation of Jeannine Hoover, clerk stenographer, was accepted. Mrs. George Voorhees, Shavertown, was placed on the substitute teachers list.

Mrs. Helen Michaels and Mrs. Marian Katakinski were approved as part time cafeteria workers, replacing Mrs. Albert Cook and Mrs. Joanna Phillips.

Joseph Chisko was added to list of substitute custodians, Mrs. Joseph Noon to substitute cafeteria workers.

Mabel Jenkins was appointed instructor in girls' hockey field. William Price was approved as track coach at junior high school, following resignation of John Cathrall.

Sister M. Catherine Elizabeth, studying for her doctorate at Temple University was granted permission to conduct an experimental study of fourth grade reading.

Key Club was responsible for packing many cartons of clothing for 50,000 homeless in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia floods recently.

Dallas School District was granted permission to participate in North-eastern Pennsylvania Educational Television Association activities.

Director Earl Phillips urged recognition of teachers doing extra study on their own time.

Train Company received order for a unit ventilator at their low bid of \$447.00.

Purchase of a Water Softener Unit was awarded to Dacar Chemical Company at low bid of \$634.75 delivered.

Contracts for purchase of Art Supplies totaled \$1,765.34, custodial needs, \$1,309.92, general supplies, \$8,613.38, medical equipment, \$297.45.

Four Fires Keep Firemen On Jump

Shavertown firemen were busy Saturday afternoon when four fires broke out within a two hour period.

First call was from Shagbark Drive where a spark from the Richard Rudy incinerator flew into the dry grass threatening the wooded area of the near hill traveling up to Summit Street.

Firemen were next called to Mt. Airy Road where an unidentified person had started a grass fire and then left the scene. Area ignited was in the rear of the Walter Karl property and nearby involved sheds and other buildings nearby.

Volunteers were just loading equipment when the Shagbark Drive blaze re-ignited. While directing his men behind Lehigh Street, Chief Arnold Yeust spotted smoke and flames on the railway trestle along Shaver Avenue.

Youngsters had started a blaze there which would have threatened heavily populated Shaver Avenue had not firemen been immediately on the alert.

Major Barn Damaged

Thursday evening's high winds caused extensive damage to Burton Major's barn at Lehman, when the side and door ripped loose.

Family Homeless After Noxen Fire

Harveys Lake and Kunkle Fire Companies joined the Noxen crew in a three-hour battle to restrain a fire which gutted a house in the middle of Noxen Tuesday night.

Made homeless by the four-hour blaze Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hubbell and son were given shelter by neighbor Don Meeker. The Hubbell home, one of the oldest in the village, is located between Market Street and the railroad tracks.

Alarm was turned in by Al Gobel, who lives nearby.

Three companies were comprised of about 50 men, and they used tanks of all trucks in addition to running three lines from Bowman's Creek.

The home was partially covered by insurance. Family escaped with only the clothing they were wearing and a few articles of furniture.

The fire, which probably started in an adjoining garage, shot thirty foot flames through the house at one point, and eyewitnesses said smoke pouring from the building was of many colors and very thick.

Mrs. Hubbell was the only one in the house when the fire broke out in the garage, and she was not aware of it until she heard the siren. Son Richard was at a neighbor's house at the outbreak, and Mr. Hubbell was still at work.

Assistant Chief Ernest Teetsel, Noxen Fire Company, directed the operation.