

# Along Memorial Highway: Business Is Awful, But Hopes Are High

Up the highway, down the highway — traffic is awful and business is worse. Or so it looks.

Curious as to just how much local businessmen were affected by construction of the new Memorial Highway, the Dallas Post inquired a little along the line. The question: With all the mayhem of a road being built on your front doorstep, how's business?

Optimism prevailed, as reflected by one businessman, left by the state with darned little else: Gavy (Ambrose Gavigan, whose Trucksville Supermarket unexpectedly fell late prey to the whims of state planning) says "It's got to get worse before it gets better."

Henry the Jeweler in Shavertown: "We hope things will be better when the road is finished. Up to now, inconvenience to my customers has been chiefly at night, when it's hard to find the small entranceways left during digging."

Across the road, Mrs. Willard Hoover at Back Mountain Lumber said that business in the section had definitely been off the last couple of weeks, but that customers were doing a valiant job defying the small entranceways to come shopping.

In general, the Post found, the merchants' evaluation of how bad things were varied directly with how recently

the men were working in front of their stores. If merchant X had been enjoying a widened four-lane highway for the last three weeks while his competitor a half mile down the road had to direct customers to park in a nearby two-lane canyon, then chances are X would be optimistic.

Some were pessimistic, like Harry Holak, whose Trucksville Pharmacy next to Gavy's also got swallowed by the roadway's infamous "fifth lane." "It's awful," he answered the big question, "business is cut right smack in half."

Up at the mangled intersection of the highways last week, Clyde Birth's service station was feeling the punch too. It was estimated that business had fallen off by about 75 per cent, with only one small entranceway to the plaza.

We asked Duke Isaacs how business was. "It stopped," he noted frankly. "We moved our used car lot to Kingston for the winter, until we can work out something with the state. People just won't bother to find their way in." Mr. Isaacs said he hoped to rebuild farther back on his lot eventually, noting he had been lucky so far that none of his windows had been damaged by construction.

Shel Evans and Gavy both brought attention to the fact that much regular trade had gone because customers

picked alternate routes to avoid the mayhem. "We lost some of our trade in papers," Shel observed, "and that means a fall-off in other sales such as bread, milk, film, and shaving stuff—almost anything that a customer remembers he needs while he's in the store."

At McCrory's Bob Boyer said the Shopping Center was definitely feeling the pinch—possibly as much as twenty per cent.

The rental business wasn't so hot either, according to Art Garinger, "Business is bound to be hurt a little," he said. "It knocked out my brother-in-law's Taste-Freez place a month early." Mr. Garinger said it was not the best season for renting things anyway, but that he did considerable fall trade in household improvement equipment.

Roy Elliott of Hall's Pharmacy said: "The new road construction has certainly hurt our business. This fifth lane wasn't necessary at all."

Ted Parrish, Ted's Barber Shop agreed: "With the road torn up at present, it has affected our business. There is only a narrow lane to drive in and no parking space."

Andy Roan, Beer Distributor, felt better about it: "Business is fine at our new location, better than this

time last year. It dropped off at the old location due to road construction."

In the center of Dallas, the effect of highway construction was less pronounced. "I don't notice any change," said Boyd White, appliance dealer. "Of course, I have a lot of customers from out toward Noxen and Sweet Valley who wouldn't be affected."

Bob Besecker, realtor, said there wasn't much change, if any for realty in Dallas area. "It isn't a particularly good season for real estate, anyway. And a lot of in-season business comes from the Valley." Thus, in the spring and summer, when kids are out of school and companies start shifting men, the highway could be a factor.

"Restaurant business has improved, if anything," Bob Grose noted. "At least we've got about seven new customers who work on the highway."

"No great change in business here," said Warren Reed, manager of Dallas' busy state liquor store. He replied: "If anything it should improve as people have to face those potholes and the dust." The door of the store flew open, and a man strode in and urged: "Warren, open one of them jugs and give it to me. I gotta drive down that highway to Wilkes-Barre."

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VOL. 75, NO. 44 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1963

### It's Hallowe'en; Parade Tonight

#### Forms In Front Of Commonwealth Bldg.

Annual Back Mountain Hallowe'en Parade forms this evening in Dallas, 6:30 in front of Commonwealth Telephone building.

Marchers will proceed down Lake Street to Main through Mill to Memorial Highway and back to the judges stand.

Many prizes will be awarded to the best dressed, most original, funniest, best group and historic with special prizes going to many others. Every participant will receive candy.

Robert Dolbear will head the judges, twenty teachers from Dallas School District.

In case of rain, the parade will be held tomorrow evening at the same time.

#### TEMPERATURE DROPS FIFTY DEGREES AS DRIEST MONTH ENDS

The driest October on record is ending with a spectacular drop in temperature, from 80 degrees over the weekend, to near-freezing Wednesday night, with a forecast of possible snow.

Hopes for precipitation to relieve the drought were dashed when a cold front moved into the area, and Hurricane Ginny veered off to the North Atlantic, taking with it any possibility of fringe benefits.

Many shallow wells are dry, and people with deep drilled wells are wondering when their submersible pumps will start stuttering. A brief shower Sunday night was over in five minutes. Old-timers say that if we don't get a soaking rain before the ground freezes, we are in for real trouble next summer.

### 14,722 Take Polio Vaccine

#### Make-Up Clinic Sunday, 12 To 4

All three Back Mountain Polio inoculation centers worked Sunday afternoon with well oiled efficiency, applicants for Sabin Oral Vaccine passing through the gymnasiums even more quickly than they did September 15. As soon as church services were over, Dallas Junior High School, Westmoreland elementary, and Lake-Lehman High School saw the rush begin, in one door and out the other, in a steady stream.

Make-up date, for those who missed the vaccine on Sunday, is this coming Sunday, November 3, noon to 4 p.m. at Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre.

Reports from Dallas Junior High School center show 5,871 recipients of the vaccine; from Lake-Lehman, 4,818; Westmoreland, 4,033, for a total of 14,722. Final figures show a slight drop in response, 63 people who now lack protection unless they get their oral vaccine on Sunday or from their doctors.

A completely unfounded rumor of bad results from the September 15 inoculation had less effect than expected.

#### Police Association

Back Mountain Police Association Auxiliary will meet tonight at 7:30 in Lehman Fire Hall. A merchandise and card party is planned for Wednesday, November 6, at the Fire Hall, Chairman Mrs. James Davenport.

#### Ban On Burning Leaves, Rubbish

Do not burn leaves until the current drought is over. High winds spread the fire. Volunteer firemen are being run ragged.

A blaze uncontrolled can destroy YOUR house, YOUR barn, YOUR life.

### Back Mountain Area Ambulance Logbook

Dallas ambulance made only one call this week, an emergency at Demunds, when Mrs. Elizabeth Sisco was injured by stove explosion at the Sisco's tavern early Sunday morning. A door blew off when she tried to light the gas. Lane Jarrett, Bill Berti, and Ed Roth attended.

#### Kingston Township

Mrs. W. L. Lemmon, Carverton Road, Carverton, to Nesbitt Hospital Sunday afternoon, by Harry Smith, William Frederick and Walter Davis.

Tommie Parker James Street, Shavertown, to Nesbitt Hospital for removal of body cast and new cast applied to right leg on Monday afternoon, Marvin Yeust and William Pugh attending.

#### Noxen

Mrs. Sadie Mullen to General Hospital Tuesday, Walter Galka, Warren Dymond, and Dave Fritz attending. Other calls in October: Alexander Finlayson (Nesbitt-home); Florence Ruff (General-home); William Gensel (to General).

#### Lehman Township

Willard Sutton, Outlet Road, to General Hospital Sunday, Lee Wentzel attending.

Mrs. Frank Moznik, Dallas RD2, to Nesbitt Sunday night, Wentzel and Pete Hospodar attending.

#### Franklin Township

Franklin - Northmoreland ambulance was called to Orange Creek Sunday morning, when Fred Risch fell faint there, but transportation was not needed. Stacey Schoover drove.

#### Route 118 Collision

No injuries resulted when two cars collided on Route 118 at Yurko's road at 5 Tuesday evening. Vehicle driven by Michael Castellani, Hunlock Creek RD 1, hit the rear of one driven by Clarence Newberry, Hunlock Creek RD 2, which was turning left.

### Hot Political Scene For 1963: School Board Race To Be Close

Election week draws near in Dallas and Dallas school district, with hard scraps slated for positions of school director at large. Somewhat less of a contest is expected for four seats on Dallas Borough council, where three out of four members are bidding again.

In Lehman township, the Republicans will probably garner one supervisor seat, two school directorships, a justice of the peace, and an auditorship, without a fight.

Former Superintendent of Schools

#### Republicans Offer Four For Reelection

Republican party, always a strong contender in the Back Mountain, offers: L. L. Richardson for reelection and Andrew Kozemchak, both to school board, as directors at large. Only one new candidate, George Thomas, is trying for the Council seat vacated by Steve Hartman. Returning lettermen are Harold Brobst, Robert Parry, and Robert Post, all very qualified candidates.

### Children's Theatre At Misericordia Will Present Beauty And The Beast



MARYANN HOMNACK



PAT WALTERS

Featured players in College Misericordia's coming production "Beauty and the Beast" are Maryann Homnack and Pat Walters. In cooperation with Wilkes-Barre's Junior League, Misericordia Players will present this play for the young people at Walsh Auditorium weekends of November 8 and 15.

"Beauty and the Beast" is the first presentation of the community Children's Theatre, which will become an annual cooperative undertaking of the Wilkes-Barre Junior League, College Misericordia, King's College and Wilkes College. Each college producing one play for children every year.

The Misericordia Players will present Jesse Beers' children's play, "Beauty and the Beast" November 8 - 10 and November 15 - 17. An evening performance each Friday; matinees at 2:30 Saturday and Sunday afternoons; and a performance each Saturday morning at 10. Friday evening performances were considered by the planning committee as a possible convenience for adult Back Mountain residents who would want to accompany their children.

Director is Gerald Godwin, head of the department of speech and drama, assisted by George Roberts, faculty member of the mathematics department.

### Idetown Fears A Cat Poisoner

#### Two Pets Stricken; Another Is Missing

Parents in the Idetown area have been worried the past week, with the poisoning of several cats and the disappearance of two others.

One cat, belonging to the W. H. Wrights, Forty-Second Street, was subsequently found killed on the highway, but two belonging to the Louis Laning family got into some poison, and another, owned by David Barr, Forty-Second Street has been missing for several days.

One of the Laning cats died, and the other, a mother, with kittens staggered home after several days and recovered.

Mrs. Laning says parents are concerned that, if there is a poisoner, their children might be endangered.

#### Leaves Iron Lung For Short Periods

Edward Stredney, Harveyville, is making good progress at General Hospital, where he is taken from the iron lung several times each day, spending more and more time with no aid to breathing. Polio quarantine has been lifted, and he is permitted visitors.

#### Lake South District Polls At Loyalville

Voters of Lake Township South District, will cast their ballots at Swire's garage in Loyalville instead of at Joe Weller's service station at Pikes Creek.

The Democratic Party is pushing with surprising vigor this election, presenting a formidable front for both School Board and Council. Welton Farrar and George Cave are both giving the G.O.P. something to worry about.

A large segment of Republicans bolted from party endorsement of Andrew Kozemchak, and is now backing Professor Farrar and Francis Dixon.

Drafted for the slot by popular demand, Farrar is Professor of Economics and Business Administration at Wilkes College. His teammate is Francis Dixon, Manager of Proctor and Gamble local sales division.

Recently made Commander of the American Legion Post, George Cave will get a lot of votes on personal appeal, as will Stephen Chisarick. Cave is manager of Percy A. Brown Luncheonette, and Chisarick a silk mill mechanic.

They are expected to capture a very large vote.

### Mother, Three Tots, Escape From Flaming Home



"It must have been the chimney," Jack Covert mused as the remains of the old frame house, from which his daughter and three little children had just escaped with their lives, sizzled and smoked under the efforts of five fire companies.

Mrs. Jacqueline Hendricks, living in the old Covert home near Loyalville just down the road from her parents, had just heard on the 6 p. m. Tuesday news of a mother and child burning to death in a home near Laceyville, when she smelled smoke.

The roof upstairs was in flames. "I said to myself 'That's it!'" she noted, looking at the empyrean remains, "grabbed the kids and anything else I could get a hold of, and ran up to my dad's."

The six-room, two story building, that had been standing for over eighty years, was a red ball of fire when the volunteer companies arrived.

Shown in this Post photo are Lake and Sweet Valley firemen. Also helping were Lehman, Jackson, and Lake Silkworth companies, and

Lake police. Lake fire chief Richard Williams directed the operation, in which seven lines were fed by tank truck from neighbor Ed Heltzel's pond.

Mr. Covert pulled as much furniture and belongings out of the house as possible before the heat got too much. Heavy wind fanned the flames. The Hendricks children, two boys and a girl, are three months, eighteen months and three years old. Mr. Hendricks, not at home at the time, is employed in New Jersey.

### Editorially Speaking: THE POST ENDORSES FARRAR

Howard Risley would have endorsed the candidacy of Welton Farrar in his fight for election to the Dallas Union District School Board. Howard was in favor of what he considered the best man for the job, regardless of party affiliation.

In line with Howard's feelings that the Back Mountain must forge steadily ahead in education, looking to the future and not to the past, offering to the rising generation the advantages which older generations were denied, the Dallas Post goes on record as endorsing Welton Farrar.

Mr. Farrar did not seek the candidacy. He was drafted because many forward-looking residents view with alarm possible down-grading of education on grounds of economy.

Education costs money. It will continue to cost money. Nobody can turn back the clock.

Consumers pay more for food than they did thirty years ago. They pay more for rent, and for clothing.

They will pay increasingly for teachers' salaries, as the State puts pressure on school districts for mandated increases, and operating costs mount.

These things are facts, which no amount of wishful thinking can deny.

#### Know Your Neighbor

### Chief Pete Lange Keeps Township Crooks Advise Steering Clear Of

The Grand Jury returned 150 true bills and ignored 57 last week, and among those charges they thought worthy of bringing to trial were several from Dallas Township.

Four officers, meeting at the dairy bar Friday night for a concentrated Hallowe'en patrol, turned as the door opened all the way, a huge figure in blue settled slowly into a seat and rumbled in a bearish voice: "I got me three true bills today."

This came as little surprise, because the chief is a very successful policeman, whose awesome record reflects the enthusiasm he puts into the job. Although a grand jury true bill is not always a conviction, Pete (actual name: Frank) Lange likes to muse: "Most of them tell each other to stay out of my territory."

Two of the true bills were on charges of larceny, with statements by defendants attesting to the fact that the one group had stolen money and cigarettes from Art's,

a hamburger and pizza truck at Shady Side, and the other had taken gas from construction equipment at 42nd Street and cars and equipment at the Country Club and the College. In the first instance the accused were Rodney Decker, 22, Mehoopany R.D. 1, John J. Dulsky, 19, Falls, Harry Lavelle, 23, Tunkhannock, and Fred Dymond, 18, Tunkhannock RD 1. Accused of gas theft were James R. Walko, Swoyer-ville and Richard Hoover, Luzerne.

In the case of the theft at Art's, Pete had it easy. Lavelle later decided to drive off with Decker's car, was on his way to Binghamton when Tunkhannock State Police picked him up on Decker's complaint which was embellished with an account of the goings on in Kunkle. Dallas Township police were immediately called.

The second arrest resulted from a tip-off — the name "Mousie." Pete has a mental library of potential informants, all of whom

#### One Year Old Wins Sutilff's Top Prize

Little Charles W. Glasser, one year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Glasser, W. Center Street, Shavertown, was awarded the lovely Early American living room suite donated by Sutilff's new furniture store in Dallas Shopping Center at the end of its opening week Saturday evening.

The child's name on the winning ticket was placed in the contest by his parents. The prize was delivered to the Glasser home on Tuesday.

Twelve hundred shoppers visited the new store during the week, stimulating interest in the entire shopping center.

James Goodwin, Trucksville, was awarded the second prize, matching mattress and springs.

Other winners were Rita Cutler, Mrs. H. R. Thompson, Mrs. Charles Lasher, Richard Owens, Jessie Roger, Harold Brobst, Mrs. E. J. Roberts, Ruth King, Mrs. Warren Stanton, Dallas; Dorothy Steinruck, Mrs. Bertha Traver, Tunkhannock; Mary Wahlgren, Shavertown.

#### Supervisors To Meet

Franklin Township Supervisors will meet Monday evening at the home of Herman Coons, Carverton.

have a healthy respect for the chief, if not for the law. It was only a matter of time till the name was traced, through a few more informants, to two caddies at the Country Club.

More than any other Back Mountain police chief, Pete Lange, 56, has working knowledge of Luzerne County underworld paths, essential because much of whatever serious crime occurs in the Back Mountain is not always locally contrived. He has this knowledge because, since about age 22, he has been a law enforcement officer. He was even an MP in the army.

His career began as a deputy sheriff for Luther Kniffen, when rival coal mining unions were throwing bombs at each other by bouncing them off deputies. When Pete came home at night, his mother would beg him not to go out on the job again the next day. Later on, he spent eighteen years as a railroad detective, trouble-shooting

### Back Mountain Growth By 1980 No. 1 In County

#### 3300 Acres Needed For Homes, College, Industry And Roads

The Back Mountain is, and will continue to be, the fastest growing section of Luzerne County in total numbers of people in the foreseeable future, according to recent report of the County Planning Commission.

Second only to Hazleton area in the amount of land which will have to be "developed" to cope with area growth, this area is estimated to need 3,300 additional acres between 1960 and 1980.

To determine how much land will be needed, and what for, the Commission, in its report, divided the county into areas similar to those covered by chambers of commerce.

Boiling it down to types of land needed, the commission says: 1000 acres more for residential, mostly between Trucksville and Oak Hill; 56 additional acres for "manufacturing," suggested behind Linear, and possibly as "industrial reserve" in Kunkle.

Sixteen more acres will be needed for semi-public use, which is primarily College Misericordia, now occupying much of the 400 acres classed as "institutional."

Land for public use (schools and municipal sites) will have to grow by 130 acres. Although the Back Mountain now has over 1500 acres of roads, streets, and alleys in service, it is estimated another 400 will be needed.

For "commercial" development (chiefly highway service use), particularly in Dallas and Kingston townships and Dallas Borough, we will need, according to the commission, thirty more acres.

Residential Suggestions Commission suggests "that urban development stop at the ridge to the west so that sewage will not drain towards the Rulison Evans Reservoir (Huntsville Dam-ed.)—"

Next largest residential development, it is conjectured, will be in the south portion of Harvey's Lake.

As for recreational needs for 1980, what parks and public recreation areas we now have will be adequate.

#### Kennel Club Show Has 541 Entries

Back Mountain Kennel Club, scheduled for Saturday at the 109th Field Artillery Armory at Kingston, has a banner registration of 451 dogs. Doors will open at 8 a.m. close at 7 p.m.

Judging will begin promptly at noon. Dogs not required for further judging will be excused at 3 p.m. All dogs must arrive by noon. Rules are according to AKC, chapter 18.

Entries range from Great Danes to toy breeds.

Novice obedience class is scheduled for 11 a.m. and novice B at 12:30.

Junior showmanship competition is at 2 p.m.

from county to county. He became Township assistant chief in 1959.

The chief cuts an unmistakable figure. He weighs, and proudly admits, to weighing, 300 pounds. He weighed 210 pounds in his twenties. Quitting cigarettes in 1946 helped add the extra pounds, but most of it muscle. "I pull a deer or a bear down off the mountain every year," he shrugs.

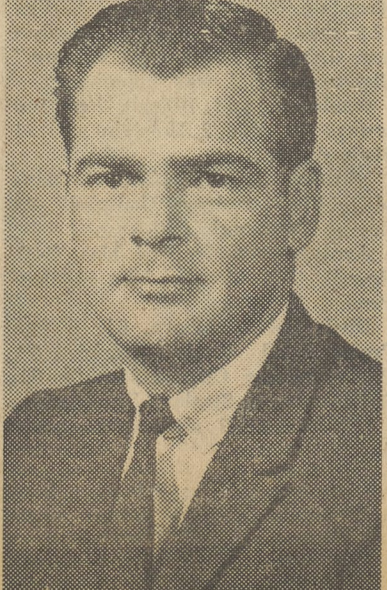
Only slightly less famous than Pete's girth is his laugh, generally following on the heels of a really funny story about his day's work, which makes the whole room tremble.

His honest, explosively god-natured approach to life, combined with a doggedly-determined, twenty-four hour approach to his job makes him one of the most highly esteemed officers in the Back Mountain, both by local and state police.

"There isn't anything Pete wouldn't do for you," says a fellow (Continued on Page 6 A)



Prof. Welton Farrar



Francis Dixon