

Towns And Schools Reason Together On Tax; Defer To Lawyers; Franklin In Squeeze

Wage tax situation and the practical problems of agreement between municipalities and school board were left up in the air this week, as a Monday night joint meeting adjourned on a legal note.

However, the Dallas Post is made to understand, the question of superceding Acts to be studied is not likely to have practical bearing on Wilkes-Barre's wage tax or on the one proposed as a defense in the Back Mountain.

Adjournment was on the note that four lawyers, for Dallas, Dallas Township, Kingston Township, and Dallas School District will examine what is essentially a recodification of the old "Tax Anything" law. However, and more important, the lawyers will decide on an approach to the city of Wilkes-Barre to determine whether or not, in fact, any municipality in the Back Mountain can pass a wage tax effective on residents who work in that city in 1966. Dallas Borough has expressed doubt on this; Dallas Township and Kingston Township say they can. Both admit room for dispute.

The real problems, even if there is no municipal wage

tax here until 1967, are these, as revealed in discussion Monday night:

- School Board succeeded in getting the three municipalities threatening a one per cent wage tax together with the School District, which can legally take half the tax receipts.

- School Board missed out on getting a fast, concrete answer from all municipalities, an answer it needs before School budget is made up in July.

- Left hanging: School Board's offer to withhold collection of its share for a few years, possibly, if the whole Back Mountain could agree on use of money for a common need.

- Borough of Dallas asserted it does not need the tax money really, but is passing levy as a defense against Valley tax. Borough questioned why school board needs to pass one too.

- Predominantly rural Franklin Township was caught in a squeeze as a member of the school district, because the municipality would not have passed its own wage tax. Only

a handful of its people work in Wilkes-Barre.

- Nobody suggested that a local tax would not be the only natural defense against the Wilkes-Barre wage tax. "Protective" Or "A Little More Service"

Meeting was called to order by School Board President Ann Vernon with the assumption that governing bodies in the Back Mountain were going to have "some extra funds available," an allusion to the almost certain wage tax which would be passed in the Back Mountain.

She immediately offered the floor to the three municipalities for comment as to whether they planned a tax and whether they needed it.

Harold Brobst, Chairman of Dallas Borough Council, said he did not think the Borough needed it, but was advertising intention to tax as a "protective" measure.

LaRoy Ziegler, Chairman of Kingston Township Supervisors, said the board felt the wage tax could provide "a little more service," and might permit the township to acquire recreational areas and would provide relief to pensioners by

allowing reduction of real estate tax.

Frank Townsend, solicitor for Dallas Township, observed that it was his understanding that the municipalities had been called to hear a school board proposal, but anticipated the proposal anyway by stating that he was of the opinion that a general tax would not be usable for a sewer system, that money for a sewer would have to come from those who would use it.

Franklin Township replied that it had come to the meeting to listen.

Mrs. Vernon then made the school board suggestion, to the effect that if all were agreed on passing wage tax, perhaps the School Board would not take its "share" initially if the revenue were used to solve what could be termed the most important problem in the Back Mountain, later referred to as a "larger need."

Brobst and Atty. Mitchell Jenkins concurred with Atty. Townsend that the sewage problem specifically, could not be solved by a general tax.

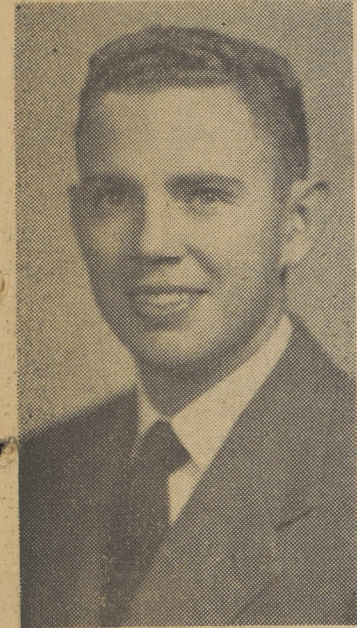
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Dr. John Blase To Head Kiwanis; Mitch Jenkins Feted For Service



DR. JOHN A. BLASE

Dr. John A. Blase was installed last night as President of the Kiwanis Club at impressive ceremonies held at the Irem Temple Country Club. Lieutenant Governor Robert Dempsey of Division 15 Kiwanis International conducted the ceremony in which Dr. Blase, Kingston optometrist, was seated as President of the Club. Blase succeeds retiring President Robert Dolbear.

The Dallas Kiwanians also paid tribute last evening to Attorney Mitchell Jenkins who has completed 30 years of outstanding service to the Club. Jenkins, a past Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania Kiwanians, was presented with a 30 year pin and honored for his loyal service to Kiwanis International by Dr. Blase.

Also installed at last night's installation ceremonies were the following: First Vice President, Harry Lefko; Second Vice President, Robert W. Parry; Treasurer, James B. Huston, Sr.; and Secretary, Vincent D. Roman.

Directors of the Back Mountain Club are Carl Goeringer, George Thomas, Edwin L. Thompson, Paul J. Laux, Edward J. Wilson, Thomas Kreidler, Donald S. Anthony, William H. Baker, Jr., and Leo A. Corbett.

The installation program opened with singing of America and the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by John Henninger, Sr.

The new Dallas Kiwanis President has been a member of Kiwanis for the past ten years and has achieved eight years of perfect attendance. He is a resident of Highland Drive, Dallas, where he resides with his wife, Dorothy, and

children, Scotty, Judy and Robbie. He is a Shavertown native and following his graduation from Kingston Township High School attended Penn State College of Optometry. He maintains offices at 289 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston.

Blase has served the Dallas Kiwanis Club with distinction having preceded his election to President with terms of office of Treasurer, Second Vice President and First Vice President. He has also served on numerous Club committees, including several terms as a Committee Chairman and has been a delegate to both the National and State Conventions.

George McCutcheon announced that reservations can still be made for the February 5 bus trip to Baltimore to see the University of North Carolina versus the University of Maryland basketball game. Former Back Mountain basketball star, Tommy Gauntlett, is a member of the North Carolina team. Buses will depart from Dallas at 8:00 a.m., February 5. Game time is 2:00 p.m.

President Blase noted that Al Ackerson, Pennsylvania District Chairman of Circle K, has been busily engaged in Circle K activities. Recently he extended greetings from Kiwanis at the Temple University Circle K Club Annual Banquet, and was also in Newton, Pa., for the chartering of the Circle K Club at Lower Bucks County Community College.

Is Intra-corporate

Realty transfer of Natona Mills property deed is within the corporate structure of the Indian Head Mills, says Jack Stanley, president, and does not change anything in the existing set-up in Dallas.

This corroborates the Dallas Post story of last week which said that "the deal for transfer may be within the corporate complex of present ownership," but Mr. Stanley said that some people derived from the headline the idea that the plant had been sold to a buyer outside the organization.

DALLAS DOWNS SEMINARY
With Roy Supulski scoring 26 points and Mike Wilkes, 21, Dallas High School basketball team beat Wyoming Seminary 93-63, yesterday, Dallas controlling in all but the third quarter.

Finishes AF Course

Airman Third Class Judith A. Rother, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Rother, of 83 Maplewood Avenue, Dallas, has been graduated at Amarillo AFB, Tex., from the training course for U.S. Air Force supply inventory specialists.

Back Mountain Area Ambulance Logbook

Dallas Community

Dallas Community ambulance took Mrs. Mary Anderson, Pioneer Avenue, Shavertown, from Nesbitt Hospital to Carpenter Convalescent Home, Friday, Lynn Sheehan and Jim Davies as crew.

George Bechtold, 99 Franklin Street, was taken to General Hospital on Friday, Sheehan and Davies attending.

Dr. John Doan, Idetown, was taken to Vets Hospital on Friday, Davies and Sheehan as crew.

Mrs. Arthur Edwards, 207 Church Street, was taken to General Hospital on Sunday, Davies, Gilbert Morris, Leighton Scott, and Ed Roth as crew.

Mrs. Milton Perrego was taken home to Fernbrook from General Hospital on Tuesday, Scott and Wayne Harvey attending.

Blanche Thompson, New Goss Manor, was taken to Mercy Hospital and returned on Tuesday, Scott and Harvey as crew.

Franklin-Northmoreland

Franklin - Northmoreland ambulance brought D. C. Bishop, Sutton Creek Road, home from Pittsboro Hospital on January 11, Bill James and Mickey Koscelansky attending.

Noxen Ambulance

Noxen ambulance took John Cook, Beaumont, to Lane's Convalescent Home, Lemon, recently, Bob Crispell, Al Goble, and Elmer Lyons attending.

Lake Township

Lake ambulance took George Renard, Ruggles, to General Hospital on Saturday, John Stenger and Jim McCaffrey as crew.

Edward Mickalus, Shawanese, was taken to General Hospital yesterday, Stenger and McCaffrey.

Lehman Township

Lehman ambulance took Mrs. Iva Humphries, RD 5 Shavertown, to General Hospital on Thursday, Lee Wentzel and Pete Hospodar attending.

Kingston Township

On Friday, Sister Gregory, College Misericordia, was taken to Mercy Hospital, Andrew Roan and William Marrow, S. Pioneer Avenue, was admitted to General Hospital on Saturday, Harold Heidel, William Kreisler and Harry Smith attending.

Mrs. Helen Swingle, Holcomb's Road, was taken to General Hospital on Sunday, Frederick and Jack Lasher as crew.

Monday, Mrs. Betty Lauderbaugh, Hillside Road, was admitted to General Hospital, William Roberts and H. Smith attending.

Wednesday morning, Edward Wojtowicz, Follies Road, was taken to Nesbitt Hospital following a fall at his home, Vought Long and Robert Shoemaker attending.

Library Assoc. To Hold Annual Meeting Jan. 27

Friends Of Library Eligible To Vote For Six Directors

Back Mountain Memorial Library Association annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, at 8 p.m. in the Library Annex.

All persons who have contributed to Friends of the Library are entitled to vote for the six directors to be elected. Officers are elected by the Board, in separate sessions, on a yearly basis.

Eighteen directors serve, each for a term of three years, with staggered dates of termination.

Nominating committee this year is headed by David Schooley, with Robert Bachman and Mrs. Thomas Heffernan as members.

Richard Demmy, president for the past two years, will preside.

Mrs. Richard Dale will give the librarian's report.

Merrill Faegenburg, Library Auction chairman for 1965, will report on results. He already has received written reports from all Auction Committee chairmen.

Mrs. George Montgomery will report for the Book Club.

The Book Club will have charge of refreshments.

Residents who wish to have a voice in election of directors are reminded that their donation of \$1 or more as Friends of the Library, is due on or before the date of the annual meeting. Any librarian at the desk will accept the donation and make out a receipt.

According to Mrs. Fred Howell, secretary of the board, response has already been exceptionally good. Mrs. Thomas Heffernan is in charge of the annual appeal.

The regular monthly meeting of Library Directors was held Tuesday evening.

F. Dingle Heads Planning Board

Fred Dingle, Trucksville was elected chairman of Kingston Township Planning Commission at a meeting of that board last week.

Mr. Dingle succeeds Jack Porter in the executive office. Chosen vice chairman was Jack Dana. George Jacobs was named secretary. Board members are Porter, and Richard Mathers.

Also present was William Ireland, of the Luzerne County Planning Commission, who is a frequent visitor.

Ambulance Seeks New Membership

With the opening of the 1966 season, L. R. Scott of Dallas ambulance membership committee urges able-bodied men in the Borough and Dallas Township to join one of the fastest-moving organizations in the Back Mountain.

Regular crews have been set up for the coming year, but many of the men who give time and effort to ambulance service cannot serve around the clock. Extra men are welcome. No experience is necessary. . . training, on the job.

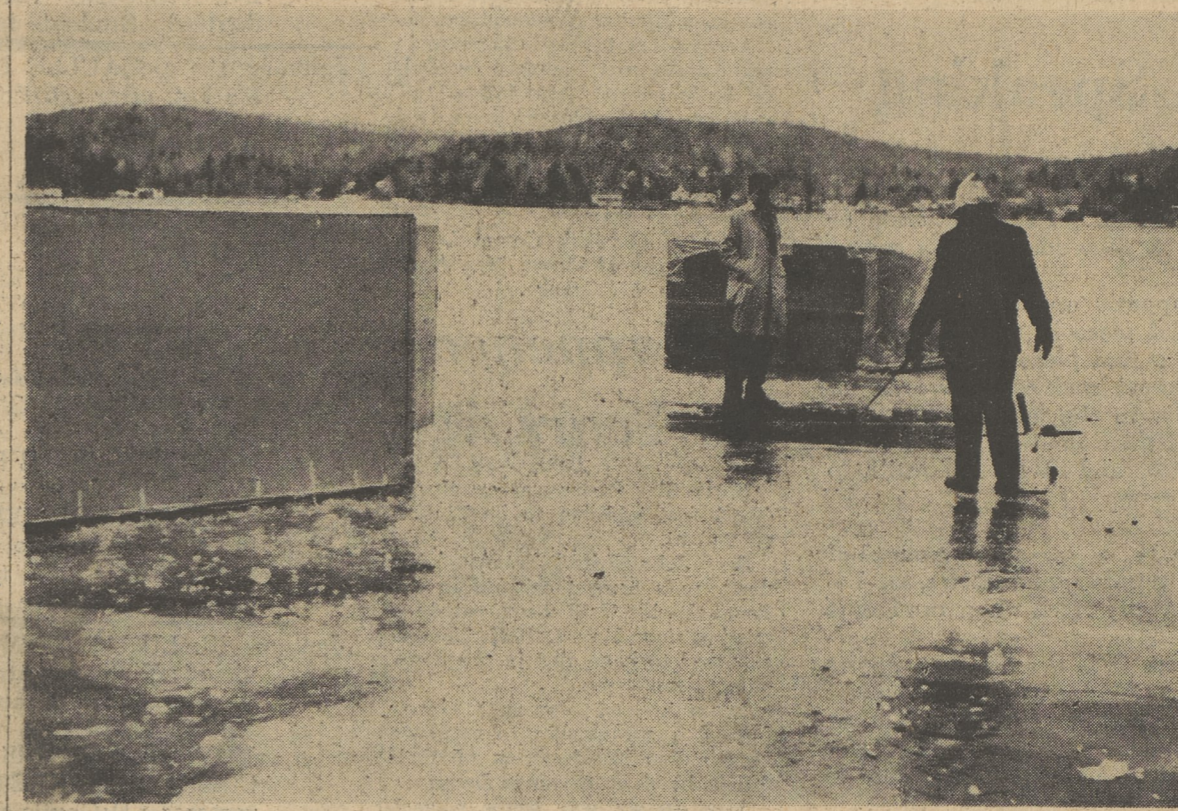
If you have trouble sleeping nights, Dallas ambulance emergency night calls may be right up your alley, figuratively speaking. Put your insomnia to work helping people. Your work will be truly appreciated.

Regular first-aid training is scheduled every year, and all men are taught to drive the ambulance.

Particularly in demand are men who are regularly employed on night shift and are available for ambulance service during the day, says Scott. Since a majority of calls are in daytime, the ambulance runs into a perennial problem at that time of big demand and not too much help.

Enlistees should contact Scott at the Dallas Post.

Ice Fishing Season Opens At Harveys Lake; Smelts Big



The past week saw a good steady freeze-over at Harveys Lake, not long after residents jokingly began to wonder if it was going to be the first freezeless winter.

Ice fishing boomed ever before the ice had formed all over, and at

this particular spot fishermen clustered on 3 to 4 inch ice when there were none elsewhere.

Ice fishing was good from the beginning, with fine smelts reported in early catches.

Seen here talking to a trout fisherman is Assistant Sports Editor Red Carr. Ice was about six inches thick at this point on the outlet, enough to support even Red's ponderous weight.

(Photo by James Kozemchak)

Kingston Township Supervisors May Hold Town Meeting On Tax

The Wage Tax, better street lighting, clean-up week, accelerated police action and municipal building sewage highlighted the recent meeting of Kingston Township supervisors.

No action was taken on the Wage Tax as Mr. Funke said the board would like to know the feelings of the populace before making a decision. A notice of intention was filed prior to the passing of the Wilkes-Barre City Wage Tax of 1% which entitled the municipality to counteract that of the city if they so desire.

The Kingston Township Board is interested in keeping funds thus derived for the benefit of its own citizens. Mr. Funke suggested that revenue, which could amount to \$81,000 if levied, could be used in part for the establishment of a sewage disposal plant, a problem which continues to mount in lieu of the increase in homes in the area.

Chairman Roy Ziegler stated this could not be done as all would not benefit but there is support for Mr. Funke's proposal.

Fred Dingle, chairman of Kingston Township Planning and Zoning Commission reported one third of the township's residents are employed in Wilkes-Barre City and that a survey taken in 1960 showed the average salary to be \$6,000. He said only 35 to 40 persons were employed in the township at that time.

A town meeting was suggested by Mr. Funke to arrive at a conclusion to the matter. Mrs. Pat Baird added a humorous note to the discussion when she suggested that coffee and refreshments would probably be conducive to drawing out the crowd. The Board voted to attend the meeting with Dallas School Board Monday evening to hash over the problem of the wage tax. A member of the audience said he preferred the township to levy the tax as the school board received state aid.

Stanley Cashmark gave a detailed resume of wage taxation as practiced in Duryea and Scranton and said the tax had been collected there for some years.

Kingston Township's new municipal building which has had plumbing problems since its erection produced the answer to the backing up of sewage recently in that structure when the township crew under direction of Lawton Culver uncovered pipes last Saturday and found specifications were not carried out.

Requirements of terra cotta pipe were substituted with cheap plastic lines which had broken apart. Drain field was found to be laid improperly also. Jacob Harrison said he

was happy the trouble had been found as the engine room was plagued with the existing condition. Mr. Ziegler said the contractor had been notified and that costs would be deducted from the plumbing bill.

Mr. Funke also promised spectators that some action would be taken to improve the present lighting system, that brighter illumination and better distribution of lighting was of importance. He said study of the UGI survey would continue. Lou Moses stated he wanted a light near his home at Bunker Hill and that as long as lights were going to be replaced, that the township might as well pay for private lights as well.

Mid Winter Clean Up

A Mid-Winter Clean Up of Christmas trees and burnable material was proposed by Mr. Funke to be held the weeks of January 17 and 24, with collections staggered in the three areas of the township. Trucksville will have a collection Monday, Shavertown, Tuesday, and Carverton, Wednesday. Articles are to be placed near road for pick up. Township crews will dispose of the refuse.

Vought Long asked that care be exercised in the burning of such material as fields were dry as tinder boxes and that Trucksville Fire Company would be glad to stand by while the material was burned.

Mrs. Pat Gregory had reported to Mr. Ziegler on fires flaring up after crews had extinguished them. Long asked the ruling for no burning after 5 p.m., he followed.

Jacob Harrison requested that the state be contacted and asked to remedy the water and sewage allowed to form hazardous ice patches in front of residences on Carverton Road. The secretary was instructed to write such a note. Mr. Ziegler mentioned that little help was expected as guard rails still remain to be installed on the precipice edge of the new piece of highway laid near Frances Slocum State Park, although long promised by several officials.

The real estate transfer tax and per capita tax were reenacted. Supervisor Edward Hall moved that four gallons of anti-freeze be purchased for the civil defense weasel and duck.

Mr. Ziegler noted that the police report showed an increase in arrests, 27 being made in December, which was considerably more than in the past months. He also reported that the feasibility report on a sewage disposal system is being updated and a meeting planned with Dallas Borough and Dallas Township officials in the near future.

Safe-Crackers Solve L-I Vault Problem

It was a ten-day struggle, but the vault door at Lake-Lehman High School is now open, as of last Thursday.

Stubborn resistance to attempts of a safe-cracker from Acme Locksmith Co. January 5, left the vault still impervious, with its records, keys, and small amount of cash lying doggo within.

On Thursday, the vault clicked open under the assault of special tool dreamed up by the locksmith.

With Anthony Marchakitus, high school principal, waiting anxiously without, Custodian Varner offered to be the guinea-pig. He stepped inside and swung the door shut.

Seconds later, he was out again, proving that the vault has a safety device on the inside, no first cousin to the refrigerators which annually smother dozens of small children.

Reason for installing a vault for records instead of a locked filing case, says Mr. Marchakitus, is that the vault is guaranteed to withstand the heat of an ordinary fire. Files kept in an ordinary steel cabinet would be charred in a matter of seconds.

No lead has yet been discovered by local or State police in the attempted robbery of Lake-Lehman vault over the New Year weekend.

The dial, pried off with a tool from the school shop, afforded the would-be thieves no entrance to the vault.

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Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert A. Mellman reported on his consultation with the office of the Department of Internal Affairs, who informed him of the mechanics of passing a wage tax ordinance. Including waiting period after adoption of ordinance, the time elapsed from start to finish could be 50 days. Department also suggested that a non-political, non-profit highly confidential tax collection agency be employed. Tax should be registered by May 31.

Brobst questioned what the School Board's interest in passing a wage tax was? He said it should be a municipality's proposition.

John C. LaBerge, School Director, originally proposed that the School District as the only unified overall entity eliminate the confusion by passing the first wage tax. He repeated now that Wilkes-Barre was passing a wage tax, that Back Mountain communities had better do it as a defense, that the School Board has the power to levy a one per cent tax, and that the municipalities have the option to take half.

"Because someone has forced us into it," he said, we should accept it as a source of income.

Mrs. Vernon responded that self-defense was not an adequate motive, and that the money should be slated to fill a community need.

Too Late This Year?
Lawyers then began to discuss the problem of the time limit—described in last week's Dallas Post.

Attorney Robert Fleming, Borough Solicitor, told the meeting he did not think any municipality could effectively tax its residents who work in Wilkes-Barre this year.

He said the Third Class City Code made it mandatory that Wilkes-Barre budget be adopted by December 21 of last year, that other areas would have to have announced their intention of passing a similar tax 45 days before that date. He said, in reply to Atty. Townsend, he did not think that because Wilkes-Barre did not actually set their budget by December 21 the other municipalities were not subject to the city's legal time limit.

Dr. Mellman said "We have to get some direction here," stating that the School District had to know whether the municipalities were going to pass a duplicating wage tax in 1966 and thus take half the District's expected revenue. No answer was immediately forthcoming.

Attorneys agreed to work together to approach the city of Wilkes-Barre on the matter, which would save the taxpayers some expense.

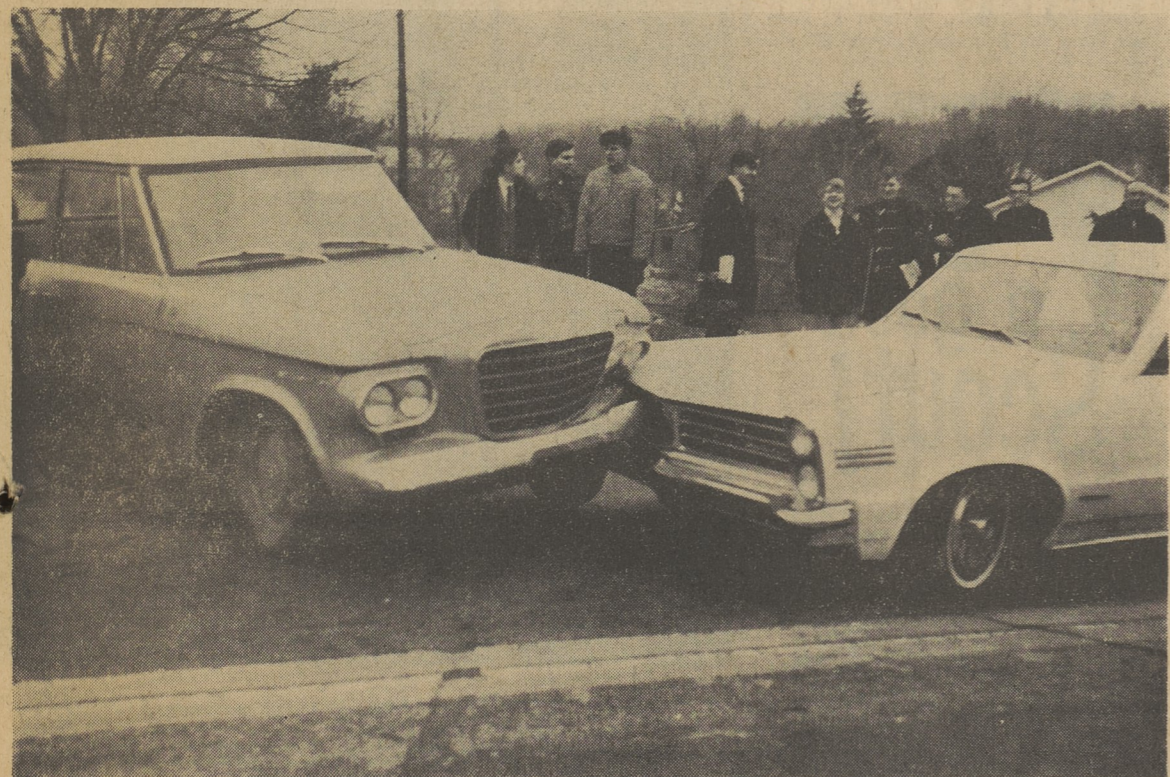
Some Make Money, Some Don't
Franklin Township's predicament was discussed, with the final assertion by LaBerge that, despite protests to the contrary from Dallas Township and Borough, Franklin Township would actually benefit from the school wage tax because School District could lower their property millage and their wage tax, as farmers, would certainly be lower than others.

A Franklin Township supervisor summed up the plight of the farmer: "Some of them make money, and some don't." Franklin probably will not pass its own wage tax.

On Atty. Jenkins' suggestion, the meeting adjourned with the idea that solicitors would study the legal intricacies of the matter, including what is known as Senate Bill 425, recently enacted, which may have effectively repealed Act 481, under which a wage tax can be levied.

Another solicitor told the Dallas Post that the new law would probably not change the practical application of the wage tax.

Drivers Uninjured In Wreck On Slippery Pavement



Two cars crashed on the slippery surface of Memorial Highway just below the new postoffice building in Dallas on Thursday, but neither driver was injured.

Studebaker at left was driven by Alex Shelpack, 60, of Dallas RD 4, northbound, when car was

struck toward the rear by 1965 Pontiac driven by Mrs. Betty Moran, 44, of 520 Hamilton Avenue, Kingston, who was emerging from the parking lot behind the Brothers Four Restaurant.

Studebaker spun on impact, and

the two cars meshed grills as seen here. Dallas police investigated. Shelpack car was driven away. Mrs. Moran's car, owned by Al Johns, Pontiac dealer, was towed away by Wesley's, and from Dallas by Al Johns' wrecker.

—photo by Kozemchak

Trailer-fire Burns At The Steak

This steak launched a fire-truck and fifteen men, and lunched the Assistant Fire Chief.

Not a case of Mary overcooking the steak, says the chief, Clifford Foss, investigating here, it was merely a case of the grease catching fire in the stove at his trailer home on Lackwanna Avenue at 4:30 Tuesday afternoon.

Fire went out when the grease burned up, but Foss took no chances and when the flames erupted, he called the Dallas Fire Company which responded quickly, but was not needed.

The steak remained intact, no extinguishers being needed, and Cliff ate it for supper, right on schedule. Fire Chief Donald Buford was in charge of the company.

