

THE DALLAS POST

VOL. 80 NO. 12 MARCH 27, 1969

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

TEN CENTS

Trucksville area

housewives tell of water problems

By SHAWN MURPHY

"It's a comic opera. What I once considered preposterous and absurd has become accepted and commonplace; it's incredible, absolutely incredible."

With these words a Trucksville housewife described the chronic water problems which have plagued residents of that area for over thirty years. Low water pressure, no water pressure, and dirty water have been facts of life for Trucksville citizens longer than most people can remember.

The housewives, though, may well be the real victims of this situation. Charged with maintaining modern homes, they find that they must do so without a dependable water supply, certainly a primitive condition.

Listening to these women tell of the problems they've encountered during the past several months, one is struck at first by their apparent good humor. And there are, of course, trivial and even amusing anecdotes which have come from having no water in the homes.

Mrs. Rita Laver of Warden Avenue recalls one hot summer day when "there was more water coming out of my dehumidifier than there was out of the faucets" and remember that one of her five children hit upon the idea of chipping ice from the freezer to slake his thirst.

Few of the problems encountered by these women are amusing, however, and one has the feeling that beneath the surface of their cheerfulness runs a deep streak of frustration and bitterness.

As another Warden Avenue resident says, "If I didn't laugh I know I'd cry, and I figure laughter is better for my family."

Perhaps the most often heard lament is that housekeeping and personal hygiene are virtually impossible tasks to perform without water.

"Can you imagine what it's like not to be able to shower, or shave, or shampoo, or brush your teeth, or even flush the commode?" asked Knob Hill resident Mrs. Peggy Rocco.

Another woman added that

her family had come to call brushing one's teeth without water "making a dry run."

Without water, even the simplest housekeeping tasks become monumental chores.

Trying to clean up spilled liquids, especially tacky substances like orange juice, is nearly impossible without a dampened sponge.

The very act of washing one's hands after housecleaning is impossible without water, and Mrs. Rocco tells of the time she had cleaned out her fireplace only to discover, sooty hands dangling at her side, that the water had been cut off.

Almost as bad as not having water, it would seem, is having dirty water, and much of the water which Trucksville residents were getting in their homes during the Fall months was dirty and foul-smelling.

One young mother on Lehigh Street tells of ruining her family's clothing and linen by laundering them in the cider-colored water. Her baby's diapers could not be properly washed and had to be taken to a laundromat, she reports, a costly procedure both in terms of money and time.

Far more serious than any complaints having to do with housekeeping chores are the health hazards noted by the Trucksville housewives.

Mothers were advised by the Health Department not to permit their female children to sit down in the water while bathing.

Mrs. Dot Johnson, a mother of four, was appalled to discover worm-like creatures in the water she was drawing for her child's bath.

With a doctor's prescription, Sitz baths three times a day for Mrs. Charles E. Rattigan, her husband was forced to transport huge quantities of water for the baths from a neighboring community.

Until just recently, any water which was to be used for drinking or cooking purposes had to be boiled for 25 minutes. This procedure was recommended by the Health Department after it had made extensive water purity tests in the area and

continued on PAGE 14

many file for office at Harveys Lake

Much interest in the forthcoming primary in May is evident in newly created Harveys Lake Borough where numerous candidates have filed for office.

Nine residents are entered in the Republican race for three council seats, namely Louise Zavy, teacher and housewife; Bernice Kocher, merchant, who has already served one term; William Purcell, petroleum dealer; Frederick Kohl, mason; Fred Merrill Jr., control supervisor, also seeking reelection; Floyd Whitebread, retired; Carl Swanson, contractor; Thomas Cadwallader, construction superintendent; William Hoblak, manager.

Nominations on the Democratic slate are already assured for William Sherknas, William Owens and Joseph Desiderio.

Herman Kern, incumbent, will be opposed by James McCaffrey on the Republican ticket for mayor of the Borough, while William Connolly, Democrat has no opposition.

Calvin McHose, tax collector for many years will have as his Republican opponent Elizabeth M. Maher, CPA. John Tobin, Democrat has no opposition.

Three have also filed for the

auditorship on the Republican slate, Betty Casterline, Thomas Cosgrove and Floyd Whitebread while Ann Crake will be the Democratic nominee for the post.

For the past two months, first in Florida and now in her comfortable Waverly farmhouse, Mrs. Lowrie has been working on her latest book, "Sew Like the Experts," which, she expects, will be released

a salute to ...



DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER

Beaumont native is successful author

When Drucella Lutes Lowrie was a young girl in Beaumont she would miss meals for a chance to watch her mother sewing on her new machine and later, when she was 12 years old, she thought she was "the end of the world" when she learned to make her first embroidery stitches. She never dreamed that a few years later she would be making a career as an advisor to one of the country's better known sewing machine companies and writing numerous books on the art of sewing.

For the past two months, first in Florida and now in her comfortable Waverly farmhouse, Mrs. Lowrie has been working on her latest book, "Sew Like the Experts," which, she expects, will be released

this summer.

Mrs. Lowrie didn't start out to write books about sewing, or anything else for that matter.

Her interest in sewing began when she was a young girl, one of five children of Mr. and Mrs. William Lutes, who lived on a farm near Beaumont, a small town near Dallas, Pa. Her mother was skillful with a needle and made most of her children's clothing. Drucella helped with the farm chores and as she grew older she did some of the sewing.

It was not until she was older, though, that she became really interested. She was working at the Women's Institute in Scranton and decided to take a few courses there herself. She studied sewing, millinery and cooking and later took some

specialized courses at Bucknell University.

She and her husband, Cecil, were living in New York City, when her career as an author began. A friend, who knew she was an expert at sewing, asked her to pinch hit for a lecture she was unable to give. Mrs. Lowrie was taken aback when she walked into the room filled with over 1000 people, but she knew her subject well and once she began talking, her fears disappeared.

Following the speech, two men approached her and asked if she would be interested in writing a book about sewing.

"I knew they could see the corn coming right out of my ears and I was sure they were

continued on PAGE 14

hush-hush highway proposed in Back Mt

A mantle of secrecy surrounds the route which a limited access highway would take in coming through the Dallas area.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Highways the route is part of a proposed network of highways outlined in the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study.

Dallas mayor Robert W. Brown stated that the proposed

route had not been made public because the plans for the highway "are not off the drawing board yet."

The possibility of land speculation was given as another reason for the hush-hush status accorded the route.

An aerial photograph of the area which would be affected by such a highway was studied by the Dallas Planning Commission in a closed session re-

cently.

The local Commission had been asked by the County Planning Commission to give its opinion of such a route but did not do so, stating that there was not enough information available with the photo to make any decision or give any opinion.

It is Dallas Planning Commission member Thomas Reese's understanding that the proposed highway might begin near Harter's Dairy and cross an area near the Space farm. It would then cut across Eckert's peat bog and Sterling Avenue, cross Route 415 near Natona Mills, and end near the Carney Trailer Park in Tunhannock.

The route would not cross Irem Temple Country Club property, he said.

consumers protest water meter cost

A group of residents from the Lehigh Street sector of Kingston Township filed a complaint with the PUC late last week protesting the cost of a hookup for water meters and asking for a hearing.

Action followed a meeting of Kingston Township Water Commission who recommended the procedure after a group of citizens appeared to state their views on the new meters to be installed by Shavertown Water Company.

No one protested the installation of the meters but felt that since they had paid for a connection once, the new cost was not fair. The high cost of plumbing was also stressed.

Russell Lahr, a consumer, asked Rev. Charles Gommer, to whom he had reported the matter what could be done.

Rev. Gommer, chairman of the Water Commission reported 790 consumers of Shavertown Water Company have received notification that a program of metering will be installed, beginning at the end of the system which encompasses Shagbark and Lehigh Streets.

No rates will be changed until one half of the meters are installed, he said a directive from the PUC states metering is an equitable way of charging.

Mr. Lahr asked how officials of utilities interpret the law and how they get away with "highway robbery." "They are following a decision handed down in 1919 which is ancient history and they sent me a copy of a decision which relates to citizens asking for the meters. We are not," he said.

Mr. Lahr then asked Special Counsel Merton Jones if they (the utilities) could invade a

man's home and was told, "No one can force their way into your home but they can shut the water off."

"They are only getting meters in now because the sewage system is coming," Mr. Lahr said.

Eugene Goffin suggested that the only way to change the laws was to go to the State legislators.

He suggested that a combining of all companies would probably be to the consumers advantage and that in rural areas where homes were far apart and served by small companies, rates were bound to be higher.

On the situation in Trucksville, Rev. Gommer stated that the June 1 deadline had been accepted by the PUC at which time the first and second phases of pipe installation should be completed with centrifugal pumps in place. An eight inch main would cross the highway with a "Y" at Oak Street going to Lehigh and Maple Streets. He said the two inch trans-highway piping now in place has probably corroded to one inch.

Mr. Goffin jokingly referred to the thought that with increased pressure there would probably be geysers spurting here and there. Rev. Gommer said repercussions were expected where old piping could not stand the pressure.

Jacob Harrison said, "I can't see why the increase in rates before the work is done. Why should Rulison Evans (owner of Trucksville Water Co.) be so sure of his money?" Rev. Gommer said, "He is allowed 4 to 6 percent return on his

continued on PAGE 14

fires continue despite warnings

Despite warnings by Back Mountain Fire Companies for residents to use extreme caution while burning outside, brush fires continued over the weekend in several areas.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Company, Dallas, was called out three times on Sunday, the first to College Manor, where dead leaves being burned in the Umphred yard and fanned by the wind traveled to within four feet of the residence.

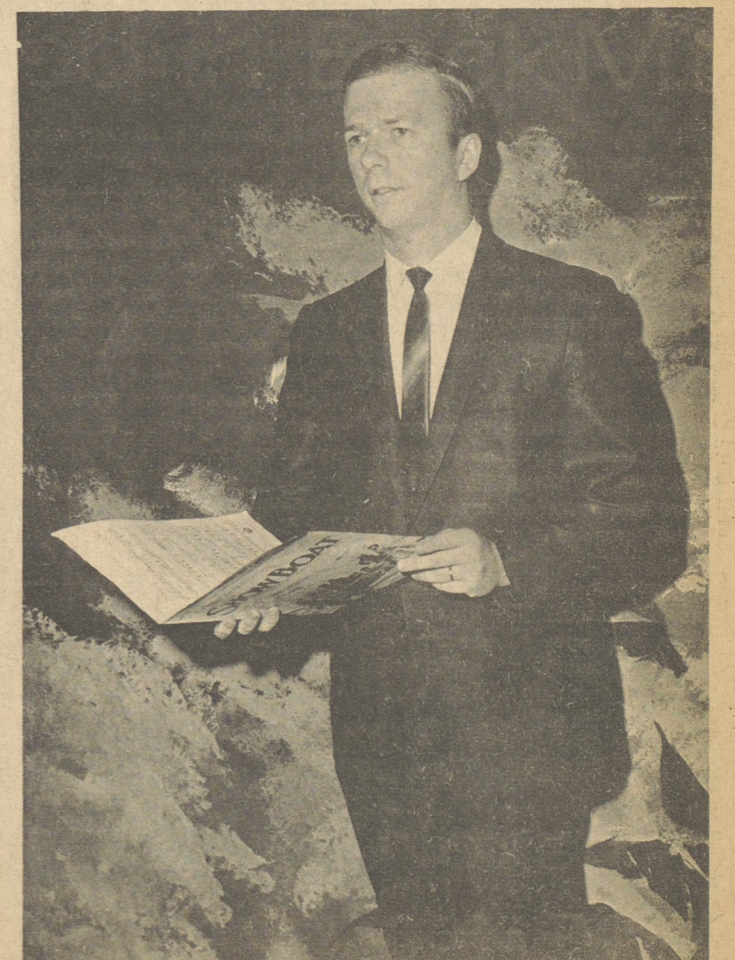
Firemen responded at 12:30 p.m.

Three hours later they were called to Hemlock Street, Fernbrook for another brush blaze and while there the third call came in from Maplewood Avenue, Dallas Borough. The new truck was used on the latter call.

A threat to Schooley Mountain in Noxen also brought out firemen and forest fighters Sunday at noon when several members of the John Jones family were clearing brush from their new home. A capricious wind drove the fire toward the wooded area and men worked swiftly to erase the threat.

Sunday evening, noting the pink glow of Aurora Borealis, another Noxen resident called to say there was a fire in the same area but it was soon

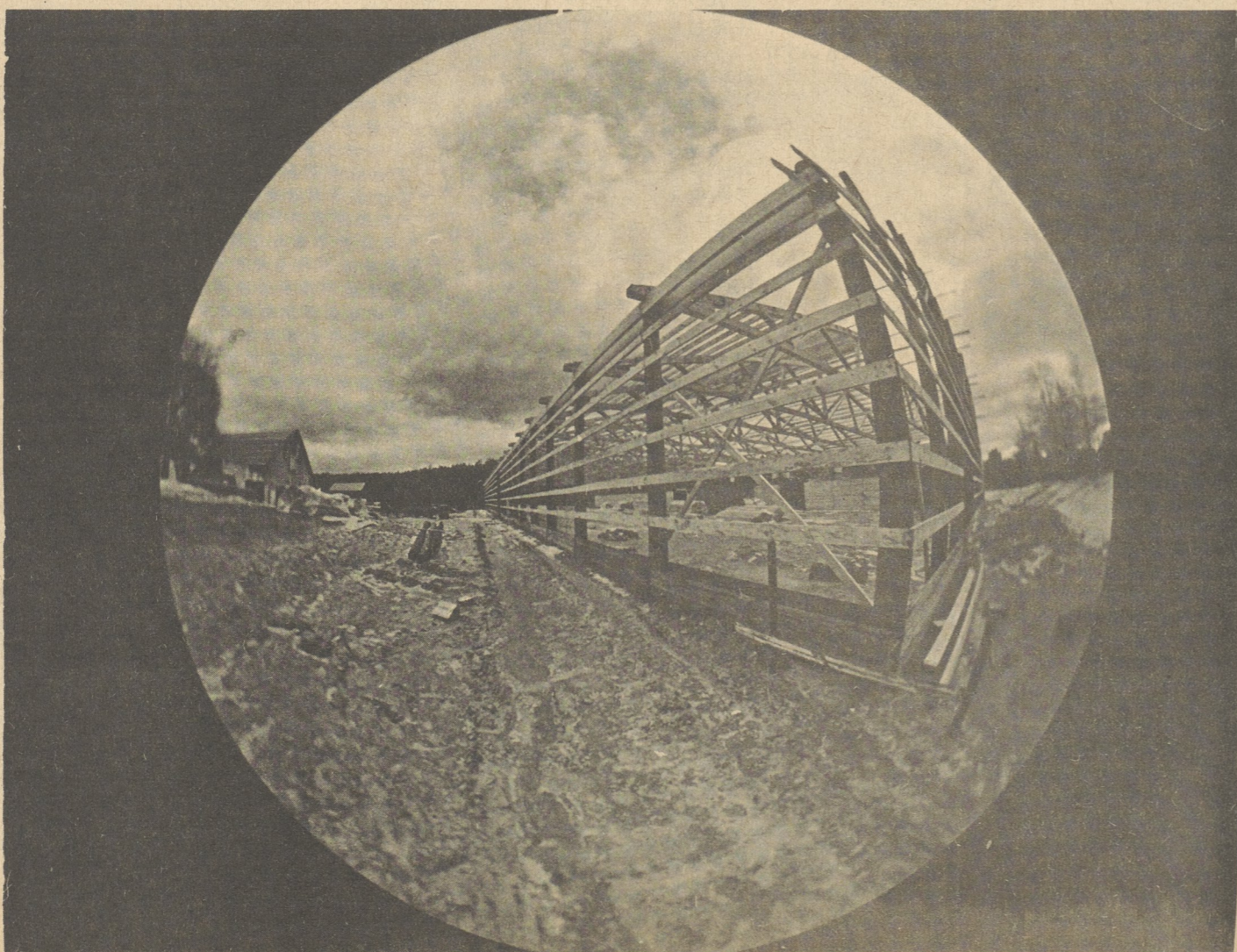
determined that the glow in the sky was due to natural phenomenon.



John C. Wise of Dallas holds the score of Show-Boat, as he prepares for his baritone solo in the finals of Kiwanis Festival of Music, scheduled for March 29 at Irem Temple.

Easter egg hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Dallas Junior Woman's Club will be held at the Dallas Senior High School athletic field Saturday, March 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. In case of rain the hunt will be held as scheduled in the high school gymnasium. All children must be registered.



the Bogden farm, Dallas