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TEN CENTS



Valiantly sustaining the weight of several feet of snow on its aged roof is this weathered shack in the Meeker area.

2 county unification is urged

The decade of the seventies may prove to be one of unprecedented growth in northeastern Pennsylvania predicts Robert Parker, public relations director of the greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. "However, we will have to get together or not get it done," he told Northeastern Newspapers Inc. recently. "There are no options," he stressed.

Speaking before a large audience of members of the communications media at the first annual Christmas party sponsored by professional news media of northeastern Pennsylvania, Mr. Parker pointed out that the gathering itself—consisting of radio, television and newspaper representatives from all over the region—was proof that the "barriers" between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre could be eliminated.

In an interview later with NNI, the Kingston native stressed that Wilkes-Barre and Scranton in particular should look ahead to working cooperatively in all fields of human endeavor.

"It doesn't make sense to think, for example, that Wilkes-Barre can clean up the Susquehanna River without the cooperation of Scranton," Mr. Parker continued.

"Regionally cleaning up the river and removal of mine waste as well as solid waste will entail a gigantic effort. The state and federal governments are going to insist upon regional undertaking before any money for these tasks will be allocated," the chamber representative added.

As an example of the rivalry that exist between the twin cities, Mr. Parker pointed out the paradox of the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport.

"If a story of the airport appears in a Scranton newspaper, it is called the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Airport. If in a Wilkes-Barre newspaper, it is called the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport," Mr. Parker pointed out. "Yet the commission that serves as the airport authority consist of members from both Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties."

Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Pittston area Chambers of Commerce, according to Mr. Parker, "have shown what good sense it made to work together when they jointly cooperated in bringing in Topps and Owens-Illinois. Those plants could have gone elsewhere," he continued.

Stressing that he was speaking only as an interested citizen and not as an official of the local chamber, Mr. Parker said that citizens of the region previously were concerned with "bread on the table, never mind fine arts."

Today that picture has changed drastically, the chamber official emphasized, pointing to the fact that ten years ago unemployment was at 12 percent. Today it is at an all-time low of 2.7 percent, according to Mr. Parker, which he said is even lower than the national average.

In recent months the three chambers have been cooperating in tourism and recreation. The Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is another organization moving rapidly to break down the invisible barriers.

The ski industry, promoted in part by the council, has added an estimated \$10 million to the area's economic well-being.

"Northeastern Pennsylvania," Mr. Parker told Northeastern Newspapers, "is in the center of a megalopolis, extending from Boston to Washington, D.C. The only two interstate highways in the nation—80 and 81—meet here," he continued.

Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, director of the Institute of Regional Affairs at Wilkes College, has also been instrumental in pointing toward joint undertakings on a local and regional basis.

For nearly 20 years meetings were held throughout Wyoming Valley to achieve regional cooperation toward solving the problem of providing sewage treatment plants, Dr. Mailey recently pointed out. Why this took so long to accomplish, Dr. Mailey explained, was due to a "lack of authority because of legal and geographical problems."

The regional planner said that "joint municipal facilities or services can usually provide economies and efficiencies that no individual community, particularly of small size can hope to provide."

As an example, he pointed out, the service area of the Wyoming Valley Joint Sanitary Authority which Dr. Mailey served as acting executive director, includes 30 communities, ranging in population from 250 to 64,000.

footnotes: memorandum on 1969

by HIX

NEW YEARS ISSUE (published December 30, 1968)

Three astronauts orbited the moon, splashed down safely in the Pacific. Frank Borman, James Lovell, William Anders, in Apollo 8.

Population boom was expected in Back Mountain, schools surveyed.

Dallas Post Office was due a citation for cooperation with LBJ's program for beautification of grounds.

Married: Joy Darlene Harris to John Christopher Cummings.

Died: Robert Bonham, 48, Hunlock Creek; Harry M. Osborn, native of Beaumont; George Fetchko, 58, Beaumont; John Leacacos, 87, Trucksville; Ruth Kroll, 68, Harveys Lake; Harry Rinis, Shavertown; Clarence Belles, Beaumont; William K. Faulls, 59, Shavertown; Elizabeth Delkanic, 53, Loyalville; Allen M. Kitchen, 72, Noxen; Sallie Piatt, Trucksville; Ruth Dorshefski, 57, Hunlock Creek; Bessie Mosier, 89, Dallas; Aldwin O. Culver, Broadway; Catherine Culver, 78, Wyoming RD 3; Mary Beuka, 79, Sweet Valley; Margaret Godek, 41, Oak Hill.

January 9, 1969

Elderly woman pedestrian struck by a car at Shavertown intersection, Elizabeth Turpin, 78, died two hours after admission to General Hospital.

LaRoy Ziegler headed Kingston Township supervisors.

Walter Hoover reelected by Lake Township supervisors, Fred Lamoreaux again heads Dallas Township.

Natona on strike.

Died: Irma G. Callender, 55, Sweet Valley; Lorraine Trumbower, 29, RD 1 Hunlock Creek; Bessie Grey Hummel, 59, Harveys Lake; Peter A. Kopiccki, 72, Harveys Lake; Arthur Smith, 68, Hunlock Creek; Charles Rosenthal, 59, Dallas; Alice Carkeek, 87, formerly of Hunlock Creek; Esther Vanderhoff, Lehman; John H. Engle, 66, Sweet Valley native; Ethel Atherton, 75, Hunlock.

Married: Alice Parsons to Staff Sgt. William Hartling.

Anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. George Bliss, 53rd; Olie Harvey, 87th birthday.

January 16, 1969

No settlement at Natona, still out on strike.

Hassle over the landfill at Harveys Lake goes on and on. Borough and Township at swords points. Water in Kingston Township school still unfit for drinking purposes.

Married: Martha Norris to James L. Goodwin. Marjorie Walp to Peter Blessing.

Died: Durelle T. Scott Jr., Dallas; Nellie Gregory, 84, Sweet Valley; Frank Boston, 56, Kunkle; Ruth Allen 75, former resident of Shavertown.

January 23, 1969

Distribution of property between Lake Township and Lake Borough still hanging fire.

Water problems still plague Trucksville.

Smelt catch excellent, fishing shacks abound on ice at Lake.

Union was urging Natona workers to return.

Died: Flora O'Brien, 88, Dallas; Johan A. Layaou, 74, RD 3 Dallas; Rosa Waters, RD 3 Dallas; Marion Powell, Sutton Creek Road; Dora Flynn, 75, Hunlock Creek; Floyd Evans, 66, Trucksville; Joseph Noveral, 49, Dallas; Charles Fine, Carverton native; Dorrance Reynolds, 87, Goodleigh Farm; Frances Harvey, Bethel Hill; Raymond Kitchen, 72, Lee Park; Harry W. Wilson, 52,

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mid-winter storm sweeps Back Mountain region

Dallas ambulance and two township trucks combined in a mercy mission during Friday's driving snow storm to rush an ailing man to General Hospital.

Ambulance attendants had to walk from their homes to the firehall because of the depth of the drifts, while township road crews mounted a snow removal project at the Lower Demunds Road home of Fred Hughey, 70, Fernbrook.

Robert Besecker and Jim Davies were at the firehall, and had just finished putting chains on the ambulance when the call came around 9:30. They were soon joined by crewmen Lynn Sheehan, who hitched a ride with a neighbor, and Wes Cave, who was able to drive.

The team found even main roads barely passable, and often one-lane traffic due to drifted

snow. When they arrived at the Hughey home, the township crews, under Fred Lamoreaux and Phil Walters, aided by neighbors, had snow cleared from around the house.

Road conditions into Wilkes-Barre during the near blizzard were described by one of the crewmen as "not good," but the ambulance was able to get Mr. Hughey to the hospital in good time, thanks to the coordinated efforts of township and emergency volunteers.

With only one loader and two trucks—one of them with a burned-out engine—Dallas Mayor Robert W. Brown praised the manner in which the borough's roads were opened during the snow storm.

A lot of praise goes to borough council president Harold Brobst and to councilman elect Bill

Berti," Mayor Brown said Sunday afternoon.

"These two men took over the snow removal project while the regular crew went home to sleep. You won't find many council presidents doing that, and without pay."

"Several people from out of the area had praise for Dallas Borough in comparison with other areas," the mayor said.

A meeting was planned for Monday night at which time the municipality planned to purchase a truck to replace the one with the burned-out engine. The mayor said the new truck was provided for in the budget adopted by the council this month.

The roof of the Lawn and Garden Center at Whitesell Bros. Building Supplies in Dallas collapsed Friday around 3 p.m. under the weight of about six feet of snow.