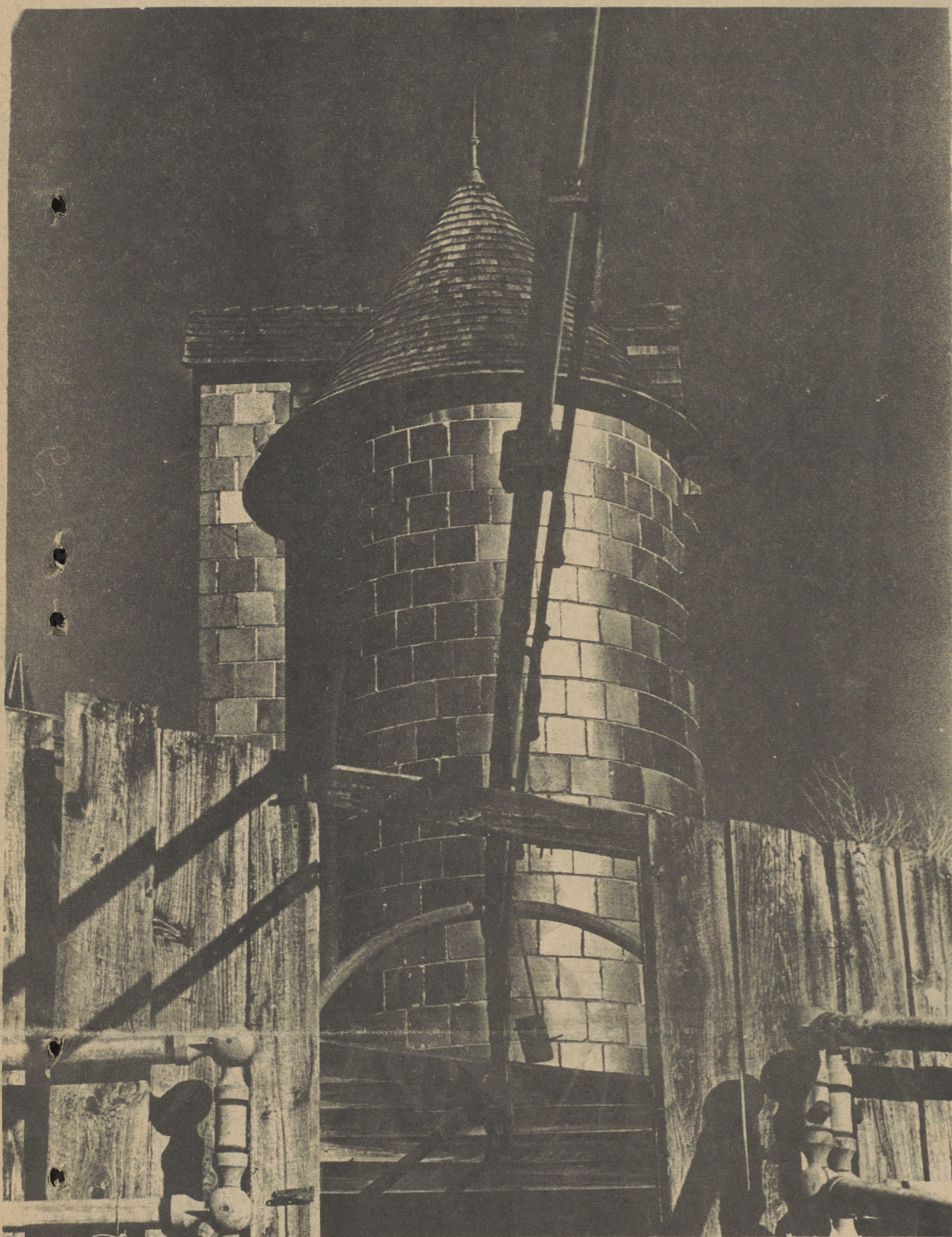


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TEN CENTS



A picturesque silo towers over the Newberry estate on Pioneer Avenue, Dallas.

Troop Fund drops inn plan

In a surprise move at the hearing conducted March 3 by Dallas Township supervisors, Paul Orson, attorney for the Troup Fund Inc., announced the temporary withdrawal of plans to convert the main house on the Newberry Estate into a public inn.

The announcement came in the face of threatened opposition from Township solicitor Frank Townend, who had researched the legal implications of the "spot zoning" requested by the Troup brothers and concluded that such zoning was in fact illegal.

In a letter directed to the supervisors, Mr. Townend cited several cases in which such zoning had been held improper and noted that the decision in the case of Putney vs. Abington Township read: "A singling out of one lot or small area for different treatment from that accorded to

similar surrounding land indistinguishable from it in character, for the economic benefit of the owner of that lot or to his economic detriment, is invalid 'spot zoning'."

John Troup, however, speaking later to The Dallas Post on behalf of the Troup Fund, indicated that plans to convert the home to a public eating place have not been abandoned.

"We have learned," said Mr. Troup, "that there is another method of achieving this end than seeking a zoning change."

The supervisors' hearing moved smoothly, due in large part to an informal gathering of approximately 25 Pioneer Avenue residents hosted by John and Oliver Troup the previous Sunday. Meeting with architect Peter Bohlin of Bohlin and Powell Architects, the neighbors were invited to ask questions about the proposed development and recommend desired changes in the existing plans.

According to John Troup, the residents appeared pleased by the consideration extended to them. He added that many expressed satisfaction that the plans to build nearly 275 condominium apartments on the 85-acre estate represent the best of all possible solutions to developing the site.

Mr. Troup pointed out, as did his brother Oliver at the hearing Tuesday evening, that the S-1 zoning presently in effect would permit individual houses to be scattered over the property with an equal number of water wells and septic tanks.

Such indiscriminate use of wells, Mr. Bohlin suggested, would jeopardize the water supply of neighboring families far more seriously than would the Troup Fund's plan to locate wells at carefully considered intervals throughout the acreage.

The plans for development of a self-contained sewage disposal plant were outlined by Mr. Bohlin at the request of Andrew Hourigan, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. John Sicher, Pioneer Avenue residents whose property adjoins the Newberry estate. "Because the Sicher property

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police partiality charged in tow calls

Complaints that police departments in the Back Mountain are favoring one tow service over another are being made to Wyoming Valley Motor Club, The Dallas Post learned this week.

The complaints have come from persons involved in auto accidents in which towing was required and in which club members have specified AAA towing service, but did not receive it.

According to Tom Heck, co-owner with Jack Vino, of Dallas Sunoco, police may be telling accident victims that AAA doesn't want their business.

"We don't know how many people have called for our services, but in the past week four or five have come here looking for their car and we didn't even know anything about it," Mr. Vino said.

As an example, Mr. Vino continued, a woman involved in an auto accident last week in Kingston Township came into his station over the weekend and asked for her car. The car was not there, although she claimed she had directed police at the scene of the Friday accident to call AAA for service.

Dallas Sunoco is the AAA representative station in the Back Mountain.

According to Mr. Vino, the woman later located her car at Wesley's Gulf Station, Dallas. He said this might be attributed to the fact that Wesley's has a two-way radio and can monitor police calls, but he said he believes the reason

was that police just favor Wesley over other stations.

Another Dallas resident who recently had an accident on Memorial Highway told The Post that he distinctly recalls telling police at the scene to have Dallas Sunoco pick up his car, because, as he explained, "they service my car and I knew it would be watched over there."

However, "when I came for my car it wasn't there. I finally located it at Wesley's Gulf. This means I have to pay them. I not only told the police, but also showed them my AAA card," he pointed out.

The resident, who said he had to "live here" and didn't want to get into trouble with the police, said there were a couple of policemen from both Dallas Township and Dallas Borough at the scene of the accident.

The accident victim said when he told the police he wanted AAA service, he was informed in an off-handed manner that Wesley's Gulf was the AAA representative. The Gulf dealer, however, is not, club officials said.

According to Mr. Heck, police may be telling accident victims that AAA doesn't want towing customers. He said he was told by one person who happened to be at an accident that a policeman had informed an accident victim to this effect.

"We're not too concerned about picking up wrecked cars," Mr. Heck said. "because we

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Commonwealth, UGI may hike rates

The possibility of rate hikes by both the telephone company and the electric utility appeared almost certain this week, in the face of a recent tax package directed at the utilities and passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Commonwealth Telephone and UGI are ready to petition the Public Utility Commission for rate increases, the Dallas Post has learned.

The utilities indicated they would probably wait a few days to determine if the legislature repealed the tax law which went into effect at midnight Monday—a measure Gov. Raymond Shafer neither supported nor would sign into law.

Commonwealth announced Friday that it would seek approval of the PUC to add a surcharge to its customer statements beginning in April to cover the new taxes.

John B. Hibbard, president of the company told The Post that it is impossible to absorb the unexpected tax liabilities and that the company has no other recourse except to raise its charges in an amount sufficient to cover the taxes. He said that

the exact amount of the surcharge will be determined after supporting data is furnished the PUC, but he estimated that it will be about five or six percent.

Pennsylvania Bell Telephone has already petitioned the PUC for a five percent rate hike.

Had the tax been levied directly on the customer, the investor-owned utility president pointed out, it would not have been necessary to also collect the six percent sales tax and the 10 percent federal excise tax on top of the new surcharge. As it is, the customer will pay those taxes on the additional amount, Mr. Hibbard continued.

The last general rate hike for Commonwealth was in 1953, company spokesman said.

Richard Demmy, UGI vice president, a Dallas resident, told The Post that his company was definitely looking at a rate increase now, associated with the tax situation.

Mr. Demmy said that the company had tremendous increased operating expenses, and now

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Lake borough approves new taxpayers association

Chairman David Price conducted an unusually amicable meeting of the Harveys Lake Borough Council Tuesday which lasted for less than one hour Tuesday night. Only four councilmen were present, majority members David Price, Fred Kohl, Arthur Gosart and Francis Fisher. The three minority councilmen, Thomas J. Cadwalader, William Hoblak and Carl Swanson, were absent.

Mr. Price expressed himself as being "heartily in favor" of a newly-formed tax-payers group. A spokesman for the new group announced that over 30 people had met last week and would continue to conduct regular meetings about borough problems. The next taxpayers' meeting is tentatively set for March 31 at 7:30 p.m. They have requested permission to use the Lake Elementary School building for the meeting. Members of the group expressed the desire to offer names of nominees to be appointed to the sewerage authority.

A motion to change the regular meeting night was tabled because of the absence of the three



Stacked fireplace logs lean toward the barn and slaughterhouse on the Newberry estate.