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TEN CENTS



Three year old Margaret Zaykauski, Dallas, is pictured with Mr. Bunny at the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday. Over 660 children attended the hunt which was a service project of the Dallas Junior Woman's Club.

volume down at post office

The wildcat postal workers' strikes in several major cities throughout the country have drastically reduced the volume of mail currently being delivered to Dallas households.

That's the word from Dallas postmaster Edward M. Buckley, who acknowledged that mail deliveries from Philadelphia, New York City, Long Island, Chicago and parts of Connecticut and northern New Jersey are nonexistent as a result of the postal strikes in those areas. In addition, he says, mail destined for these cities has been embargoed and is being held at the post office until the strikes are settled.

Mr. Buckley regards the disruption of mail service with a wary eye, commenting that although business is slow now, settlement of the strike will loose a flood of mail. "When we get hit," the Dallas postmaster predicts grimly, "we'll get hit hard."

He anticipates some difficulty in keeping up with mail deliveries at that time, noting that directives which arrive daily from the Postmaster General prescribe that first class mail be handled first, with parcel post and newspapers next, and third class materials last. Unless specifically authorized to do so, Mr. Buckley will not be permitted to hire extra workers to help deliver the mountains of mail.

According to the Dallas postmaster, the postal workers at the Dallas office "are not in favor of

a strike at the present time." He added that nobody out at this office has been contacted" by leaders of the three craft unions represented in the Dallas office, "but if a strike were called nationally, I don't know what the men here would do."

park depends on Governor

"All we need now is the governor's signature and we'll be in business." This was the optimistic prediction of George Thomas, Dallas Borough councilman and member of the Dallas Park and Recreation Authority, who earlier this week stated that plans for the long-awaited Dallas park were awaiting the governor's approval.

His statement was echoed less enthusiastically by Park Authority Board chairman George McCutcheon, who acknowledged that plans for the park had indeed been approved by the state planning board and that the budget for the \$29,524 facility is "on the governor's desk waiting for his approval."

Clearly annoyed by the long delay in getting the park plans off the drawing board, Mr. McCutcheon stated that the Park and Recreation

oil dealers charge abuse

AJ POST EAGLE oil dealers freeman htk jen 242

Recent protective action by the Public Utility Commission to grant the state's energy producing utilities even greater monopoly freedoms has indirectly, at least, affected every citizen in Pennsylvania. The recent five percent blanket rate increase was just one example. The most aware group of such action, however, is the small independent fuel oil dealers, who not only find themselves competing against each other, but with the powerful investor-owned utilities as well.

In their effort to compete in the mostly home heating market, these usually small, independent businessmen have found themselves not only hit by broadsides from the giant utilities, but government officials as well, both on local and state levels.

The recent blanket rate hike by virtually every utility in the state, granted by PUC so that utility coffers will not have to provide the added state taxes, did not apply to the fuel oil dealers, who have been paying their share of taxes for years.

nuclear reactor meets opposition

Almost at the same time that plans for a \$250 million nuclear power plant on the upper Susquehanna River were being announced by officials in Tunkhannock Thursday, a citizens group was preparing a statement in opposition to the plant in the same region. An apparent stalemate in the controversy appears to be forming, with a definite division among citizens of the area as to which side to join.

Plans for the sodium-cooled fast breeder nuclear power plant to be located just above Meshoppen, Wyoming County, was outlined for residents in a news conference in the Prince Hotel in Tunkhannock. The conference was called by officials of Pennsylvania Electric Company, a subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corp., which has already purchased about 13,000 acres of land for the site. The company is well along with its plans for the plant, with construction stages to begin late this year.

The next day a group of regional residents known as the Citizens Committee for Environmental Concern issued an opposition statement directed at GPU and Penelec in an attempt to let the parent company and its subsidiary know that they did not want the plant to be built in their area or any other inhabited locale. The statement was signed by Mrs. Sidney Daniels and Dr. Bryan Lee, both of Tunkhannock, co-chairmen of the five-month-old conservationist group.

During the press conference, Penelec's Charles J. Smith and William Hirst told newsmen that they were not aware of any opposition to the proposed experimental facility, but that it would take some rather strong opposition from regional citizens before the company would consider other alternatives.

The officials strongly defended the safety of the proposed 300- to 500- megawatt plant which was announced in the fall of 1967 to service not only Penelec customers, but those of three other power companies in the GPU service area.

continued on PAGE 11

"We are trying to compete at the market place. The utilities have a "golden fleece and continue to pluck it," Norman H. Cruse, executive director of the Pennsylvania Petroleum & Fuels Association, told Northeastern Newspapers in summation of the problems his industry faces.

"My idea of the PUC is to protect the consumer, but it looks like the utilities have made it the other way around," Mr. Cruse continued. And he did not hesitate to point to examples.

With charges against the natural gas and electrical power utilities ranging from tax loopholes to highway cuts and from promotional allowances to direct subsidies, the fuel oil dealers explain their plight in no uncertain terms.

P. H. Arnaud, who operates the Mahaffey Oil Co. in a Luzerne County area, told NNI that even at the local borough level of government the deck appeared to be stacked against him.

In Dallas Borough, Mr. Arnaud said, building permits must be issued for almost any type of construction, but a utility can put poles on both sides of a road, string wire, and get a blanket permit to cut roadways anywhere without securing permits. "They have only to patch a place they have torn up, he added, and do not have to repair damage caused in bad weather because of the cut they made." Additionally, he added, the utilities pay no fees.

The fuel oil dealer said that his greatest

continued on PAGE 5

inquiry set in fatality

A Luzerne County Coroner's inquest will be held to determine the cause of death of George Thomas Stoneham, 21 year old Kingston youth who met death in an accident at Routes 415 and 118, Dallas, March 22.

It was reported by Dallas Township police that Mr. Stoneham, 434 Warren Ave., Kingston, accompanied by his fiancée, Sharan Kay Wehner, 20, 91 N. Landon Ave., Kingston, was traveling north on Route 415 when the accident occurred.

According to the police, a 1967 Chrysler sedan, driven east on Route 118 by Phillip John Krasner 16, Pole 139, Harveys Lake, failed to halt at the stop sign and continued through the intersection, hitting the Stoneham vehicle broadside on the driver's side. The force of impact ripped the side and the back seat from the car.

The Krasner vehicle continued through the guard rails and on down the embankment, coming to rest on its roof 60 feet from the point of impact. The Krasner automobile skidded 143 feet before colliding with the Stoneham car. The Krasner youth claimed that his brakes failed. Passengers in his car were his brother, Kim Krasner 15, and Robert Stevens 16, Harveys Lake.

Dallas Township patrolman Carl Miers, arriving on the accident scene, summoned the Dallas Township ambulance and Deputy Coroner Richard Disque. The coroner pronounced George Stoneham dead on the scene, cause of death being attributed to a massive cerebral hemorrhage, broken neck, crushed left chest and lacerations.

Dallas Township ambulance took Sharan Wehner to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital where her injuries were said to be lacerations of the forehead and face, fractured ribs and a cervical injury of the spine. Her condition is reported as fair. Phillip Krasner was taken to the hospital with injuries of the mouth and jaw and loss of teeth. His brother, Kim, was treated for a bloody nose. Both Krasner boys were treated and released.

Dallas police are charging Philip Krasner with failure to stop at a stop sign. Investigation is being made of physical evidence at the scene and reports of witnesses of the accident.

Patrolman Miers was assisted at the scene by Dallas Township police chief Frank Lange; township special patrolman Frank Gelsleichter; Dallas Borough patrolman Ray Titus; borough special patrolman Jack Bertini and Ted Montross; Kingston Township patrolman Cliff Culver; Lehman Township police chief Lionel Bulford and Lehman Township special patrolman Paul Goodwin.

continued on PAGE 5