

Dallas Boro. balks at police merger

What appeared to be a deliberate boycott by representatives of Dallas Borough Council of the final joint police meeting held May 20, was actually, according to councilman William Berti, a conflict of dates. Said police committee chairman Berti, "by the time I found out that a meeting had been called for Wednesday, I already had made other personal plans."

Announcement by Dr. Hugo Mailey of the final meeting with Dallas Township, Kingston Township and Dallas Borough to discuss the details of a joint police force was made in a letter to council at a special meeting May 18.

The final draft of the proposed merger of the three police departments was reviewed by representatives of Dallas Township and Kingston Township, but Dallas Borough—whose representatives at previous meetings were customarily Mr. Berti and Mayor Stephen Hartman Jr.—was not represented.

In explaining his absence, Mr. Hartman also pleaded a previous engagement, but added that "I had no intention of going to the meeting anyway." He did not inform Dr. Mailey that he would not attend, he said, but did "talk with each one of the councilmen individually and told them I wouldn't be going."

Mr. Hartman is opposed to the police merger and argues that it "would be of no benefit to the borough." He explained that he had attended the previous meetings because he was "sticking it out and hoping that something could be worked out beneficial to the borough." Such was not the case,

he said, and it was his "whole impression that things were going too fast."

What the police merger would mean, he insisted, was that "Dallas Borough would receive less coverage for more money."

Dr. Hugo Mailey, director of the Institute of Regional Affairs at Wilkes College and coordinator of efforts to form a joint Back Mountain police force, disagrees sharply with Mr. Hartman's views.

"The fact of the matter," Dr. Mailey pointed out to The Dallas Post recently, "is that Dallas Borough would be paying less money than it is currently paying for its own police operations and receiving more police protection. Instead of \$19,600 budgeted in 1969 by Dallas Borough for police services, the cost of police service under a joint force would be only \$14,290.40."

The lower figure, he said, is based on a formula which would apportion combined police expenditures for a merged police department on a basis of 50 percent population and 50 percent assessed valuation. The formula was agreed upon by representatives of the three communities at an earlier meeting, Dr. Mailey said.

"If any community stands to gain in this merger," Dr. Mailey added, "it's Dallas Borough."

When asked if he was opposed to a merged police force, Mr. Berti said that he would "rather not say until after a police committee meeting" scheduled for last night. Earlier this year, however, Mr. Berti visited The Dallas Post and

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long Natona strike predicted

If the scuttlebutt making the rounds among Natona picketers is to be believed, the strike at the Dallas plant will be a long one. This was the sentiment expressed by several Natona workers with whom The Dallas Post spoke recently, with one picketer suggesting that "as long as we're out now we'll stay out and get what we want."

The strike began May 23 following the collapse of negotiation talks between Natona's new union, the Textile Workers Union of America, and Natona's management. According to Robert Graham, plant manager, midnight of May 22 had been set by Natona employees as the deadline for a new contract with the textile company after a union meeting at the Gate of Heaven Church May 16. When a final offer from management was turned down at an evening meeting May 22, Mr. Graham said, no union employees reported for work and picketers with placards reading "No contract, no work" lined the drive to the plant shortly after noon on May 23.

The previous labor contract was held by the

Michigan balloon lands in Dallas

A little bit of Michigan landed in Dallas last week in the form of a helium filled balloon that drifted over 600 miles across the continental United States and then settled in the quiet back yard of the Robert Cartier home on Upper Demunds Road.

Carol Cartier 12, and her sister Barbara 9, found the dark green balloon about 7 p.m., May 28, laying on the ground behind their house. Inside was a note "Visit Beautiful Michigan. Released May 23, find it send to Mrs. Duane Miller, Route 2, Hastings, Michigan."

The two sisters, both students at Gate of Heaven School, excitedly told their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cartier, and their four sisters and one brother about their incredible discovery. The girls themselves, sat down and wrote an answer "Dear Mrs. Miller, We found your balloon on the ground in our back yard May 28, 1970. We live in

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United Textile Workers Union following a power-grab Nov. 8, 1969, that many employees considered illegal. When the contract expired Feb. 23, a scramble ensued among several unions jockeying for position as bargaining agent for Natona's workers. The question was settled by a National Labor Relations Board election held March 5 which resulted in a runaway victory for TWUA with 147 votes. Other contenders in the election were the Communications Workers of America, 81 votes; the UTW, 26 votes; and District 50 of the Mine Workers Union, 10 votes.

In addition to the 250 textile workers, the strike is being supported by teamsters employed at the Dallas plant. According to one member of the TWUA, the teamsters' support "was guaranteed because we observed their picket lines when they were out on strike a year ago January."

Although representatives of both management and the TWUA have agreed not to discuss terms of contract negotiation with the press, The Dallas Post learned that wording of the contract was nearly completed before the talks were discontinued. The impasse which finally disrupted the talks resulted from an inability of management and labor to come to terms on "the economics of the contract and certain fringe benefits pertaining to these same economics." Additionally, another Natona employee stated that "out International (union) feels that we are underpaid and is trying to get us up to minimum national standards."

The picket line is being maintained by striking workers in four hour shifts, 24 hours a day. Following the first two weeks of picketing, the TWUA will pay picketers \$12 per week. Back pay for the strikers—including pay for the Memorial Day holiday—will be among the issues TWUA representatives will bring to the bargaining table when talks resume, one picketer said. No date has yet been set for resumption of talks.

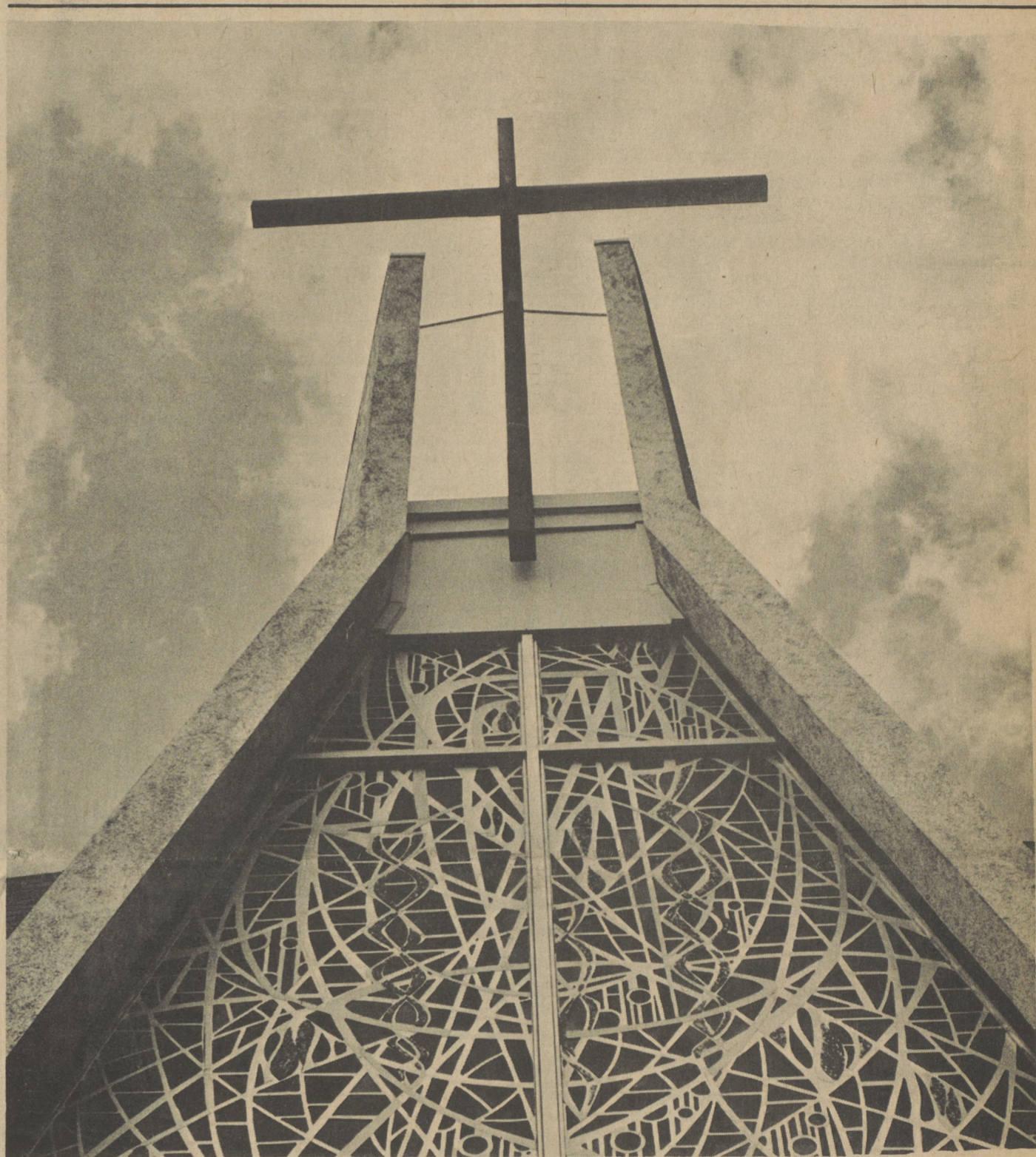
Chief negotiator for Natona is Gerald L. Butler, director of personnel and industrial relations of Native Laces and Textiles Co. The TWUA's bargaining force is headed by the union's assistant regional director, Joseph Coponi.

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FIFTEEN CENTS



College Misericordia's stained glass window on new chapel taken from interesting angle by Vincent Maier, assistant professor of physics at the college.

ed. group picks leader

The public has been invited to join a large group of Back Mountain citizens at a meeting tonight at 8 o'clock in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 196 N. Main St., Shavertown, to discuss plans for the betterment of education in the Dallas School District.

Over 45 concerned citizens attended a meeting last month in the Dallas American Legion Hall and agreed to formally organize to improve the quality of education in the public schools. A committee appointed at the first meeting will present a slate of officers at this meeting will present a slate of

officers at this meeting and nominations from the floor will also be entertained. The official title of "The Back Mountain Association for Better Education" will be proposed and by-laws drawn up. report from the six member committee who met with the Dallas School Board Director, May 17, to discuss the proposed \$2,925,000 budget for the 1970-1971 school year. This meeting was requested in an effort to establish better communications between the school board and the people.

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'mini-recession' hits greater metro region

by J. R. Freeman

With predictions of doom running rampant over the American economy, while the stock market slid to the lowest point since the 1929 crash, Northeastern Newspapers Inc. went in search of a depression in the Luzerne-Lackawanna County area this week, but found no more than perhaps a "mini-recession."

During interviews with bankers, labor analysts, retailers, industrialist, utility officials and statisticians, NNI found a general healthy sign for the regional economy with the indication that if indeed the economic prosperity of the area is to lag in coming months, it would probably be because of national trends more than because of anything within the two-county metropolitan region.

After all, the market is a criteria to businessmen, big business is paying its bills slower, the war effort in Indo-China is shaky at best, and

President Nixon appears unable to halt inflationary spending. This could mean that small businesses may suffer the brunt of any unstable economy first.

But all is not lost, at least not yet.

Retailer Optimistic

A Boston Store executive, David Schooley, said absolutely "no" when asked if he thought a recession had hit the area. "I have extreme confidence in our economy which we have built up on a building block approach," he explained to NNI. "We have experienced no booms like other metropolitan areas, but have steadily progressed from a one-industry area to a multi-industry area in the last 25 years. People are being more selective, perhaps," Mr. Schooley conceded, "but they have improved in paying their bills." He added that he saw a two to three percent real growth for the area for each of the next few years, "over and above inflationary figures."

Edgar Lashford, a Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce executive, said that he had seen and

heard of some "mild signs of recession in the retail trade." But he hastened to add that because most industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania is not tied to defense work, this factor will help keep any recession down. "There are no big lay-offs expected anywhere in the area," he concluded.

Employment Steady

Kenneth Jones, a labor analyst with the Bureau of Employment Security of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, preferred not to prophesy what lies ahead in terms of unemployment in the area. But he pointed to rather strong signs that unemployment has remained stable over a period at least since 1968.

April's 4.2 percent unemployed, for example, in Luzerne County, was compared by Mr. Jones with March's 4.6 percent and February's 5.2 percent for three months this year. Last year at the same time, April showed 3.7 percent, March 4.2 percent, and February up slightly with 4.9 percent.

In 1968, Mr. Jones said, April showed 4.1 per-

cent unemployed, March 4.1 percent and February 4.8 percent.

Lackawanna County figures indicated about the same sort of situation with last April showing 5.2 percent unemployed, March 6.1 percent and February 5.4 percent.

As compared with 1969, the best year ever for the entire area, the trend did not vary extensively. In April 1969 unemployment was 4.4 percent, March was 5 percent and February was 4.9 percent, indicating only a slight increase currently. But as one bank executive in Lackawanna County pointed out, these figures do not take into consideration the 600 or more new jobs that will be created with the location of Metropolitan Life's new South Abington Township data processing plant, and the new Sandvik Steel Co. plant now under construction, also in South Abington Township.

Mr. Jones said that the primary loss in employ-

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