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FIFTEEN CENTS



The two small children of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson Jr. imagine they see the pilgrims as Mrs. T. M. B. Hicks reads the story of that first Thanksgiving.

Charge Harassment

Six Prisoners File Suit Against Harvey, Johnston

Six prisoners at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas have named a district magistrate, institution superintendent and assistant superintendent, and three correctional officers as defendants in a civil rights action filed Nov. 8 in the United States District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Named in the action are District Magistrate Leonard D. Harvey, Frank C. Johnston, institution superintendent; Leonard J. Mack, assistant superintendent; Correctional Sgt. Balchunas, and Correctional Officers Conrad and

Gennett. No given names were supplied in the suit for the correctional officers, and when contacted by the Post, superintendent Johnston refused to identify them, observing that "it is Ronald Williams' obligation to identify the defendants properly, and I'm not going to help him out by assuming that responsibility."

The suit, which was filed by Ronald Williams as chief plaintiff, charges that the defendants "are proceeding to use the color custom, usage, and protection of their offices" to perpetrate a conspiracy

to commit murder which "has already led to our being charged falsely and currently awaiting trial after being held in bad faith."

Other plaintiffs include John James Keen Jr., Harold A. Brooks, Joseph Woodruff, Gary P. Bates and Eugene Walker. All are prisoners at the Dallas Correctional Institution.

The civil action alleges that the plaintiffs "were capable of unfoiling a conspiracy to commit murder perpetrated Aug. 16 against their lives on the same day at the state correctional institution at Dallas."

Since Aug. 16, the plaintiffs charge, they have been subject to "continual harassment, violence, both actual and implied, mace, human waste amid their food stuffs, no proper clothing and even continued confinement under cruel and unusual circumstances—no water—windows opened for 24 hours per day, no mattresses nor beds."

The prisoners insist that they are "victims of a campaign of the state justice department to suppress and actually get re-committed many more active men at these levels politically and legally."

As explained by Atty. John F. O'Malley legal counsel for the Luzerne County Magistrates Association, the defendants may choose either to answer the suit or, as is "much more likely," may file a motion to dismiss the suit. Atty. O'Malley indicated that he would most probably seek a dismissal of the suit against Magistrate Harvey on the grounds that it fails to state any cause of action to be taken inasmuch as Harvey was acting in his judicial capacity. Atty.

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Child Day Care Center Opens in Back Mountain

The "new look" in child care services has reached the Back Mountain, and one of its proponents anticipates "a good deal of success" with the innovative program.

The program is a child day care center established at the Dallas United Methodist Church last Friday which will care eventually for 15 children aged 3 to 6. Funded by both state and federal agencies, the day care center is one of nine such facilities presently in operation throughout Luzerne County.

Richard Walsh, who is with the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley, is optimistic about the quality of care each child will receive at the center. "Our experience has been that oftentimes the youngsters may be a bit emotionally immature, or may not have had fully adequate day care before coming to one of our centers. We provide the children with opportunities to socialize with other children, to work with adults on a one-to-one basis, and to obtain educational experiences necessary for pre-school youngsters."

A typical day at the center begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m., although provisions are made for children whose parents leave for work earlier or arrive home later than these hours. Breakfast, a hot lunch and snack are provided at the center, and a rest time is included in the day's busy schedule of activities.

In addition to the educational and recreational activities included in the center's program, a number of field trips are also scheduled. "Trips to the local police station or fire house, for example, are often new experiences for pre-school youngsters," Mr. Walsh observes, "and such trips allow them to travel together and learn about their communities."

Back Mountain resident Mary Segal is supervisor at the Dallas center, and she will have two other adults working with her when the full roster of 15 children is enrolled. State law mandates that the child care centers maintain a ratio of two

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Zoning Termed Inadequate As Planning, Development Continue

Is it possible that Dallas Borough is facing a mini-building boom? With its 2.5 square miles of heavily residential area, such a suggestion might seem ludicrous at first glance, but there are several facts which tend to support just that contention.

During the past year, Dallas Borough Council has had thrust into its lap plans for three apartment complexes, and although it has not approved any of them, the building contractors are impatiently waiting in the wings for council's nod.

In addition to these apartment-type dwellings—each of which are proposed for fairly developed neighborhoods there are a number of other undeveloped properties presently being eyed by builders. Included in this number are parcels of land along Huntsville Road and Center Hill Road, areas in the borough where development has been at least until now minimal.

Add to these areas a number of smaller lots where construction has been prohibited because of inadequate septic system drainage space—but which will be "opened up" with the completion of the new sewers—and there would appear to be considerable choice acreage for building right in Dallas Borough.

There is apparently little question that the borough will eventually be developed even more completely than it is now.

As Edward Heiselberg, chairman of the Luzerne County Planning Commission sees it, one of the best ways to insure that property in Dallas Borough is not devalued is to revise the Borough's 24-year old zoning ordinance. That ordinance, which was adopted in 1948, lists only two types of districts—residential and residential-commercial—and, in Mr. Heiselberg's words, "just doesn't fit the times anymore."

The borough's planning commission which has wrestled with the inadequate zoning ordinance for longer than it cares to remember, met with Mr Heiselberg

earlier this month and agreed to ask council for permission to revise the zoning code with the aid of the county planning commissioner. Council readily approved the request, and Mr. Heiselberg was retained as a private consultant to help with the revision. The maximum cost to the borough will be \$600.

Mr. Heiselberg is convinced that a revised zoning ordinance will help Dallas Borough maintain its property values. "As things are now," said the planning expert, "the borough is wide open—in a residential-commercial zone, it's possible to build a garage or a hot dog stand right next to several attractive

homes. An updated zoning ordinance would serve not only to prevent this type of harmful land use, but would protect property values, avoid nuisances, improve the environment and help to maintain the tax base."

As he envisions the new ordinance, it would not include all of the districts outlined in the county's zoning code simply because not all would be applicable in the borough. The county's ordinance includes several types of residential and commercial districts as well as a conservation district and agricultural district.

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Economic Profile

Study Scores Area Growth

An economic profile of the Back Mountain area, including its two boroughs and six townships, comprised of 11.2 square miles and 22,686 inhabitants, has been compiled by the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, showing population and area, personal income, wholesale and retail trade, selected services, recreational sites, labor force, and transportation facilities. The document was released this week by Secretary of Commerce Walter G. Arader.

Calling the report a "guide and a tool for building the future," Sec. Arader said, "Our goal is to make these reports useful to those seeking locations for new industry; to government in analyzing the economic health of the county and state; to planners in developing useful and needed programs; to students seeking knowledge about the state and its political subdivisions, and to business

and industry in maintaining a profitable and expanding enterprise."

In the Luzerne County study entitled "Pennsylvania Industrial Census Series," the bulletin points out that the county is 887.7 square miles in area ranking 17th in the state. Population wise, with 342,301 residents, the county ranks sixth in the state, according to the bulletin, with 81.1 percent urban population and 18.9 percent rural.

In per capita income comparisons, Luzerne County was shown ninth in the state using 1968 figures, with per capita income at \$2,687 in the county, as compared to \$3,413 on a state-wide average. Lackawanna County, by comparison, was slightly higher with a per capita income of \$2,923.

From a recreational standpoint, Luzerne County showed two state parks totaling 21.96 square miles in area, 2.21 square miles of state forest lands, and

57.10 square miles of state game lands. Recreational facilities available listed boating, camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming, and riding.

In terms of educational facilities, the county spent \$721 per pupil average, with enrollment in the 1968-69 school year of 58,180 students in public school and 16,405 students in non-public schools. The study listed six colleges or universities, with a combined enrollment of 9,054 students in 1971.

1970 figures in the study indicate that the total civilian work force was 144,900 ranking 2.87 percent of the state, with unemployment at 7,500, or 3.71 percent of the state's 202,100 unemployed workers.

In the wholesale and retail trade area, using 1967 figures, the county numbered 4,632 business establishments with total sales of \$882,945,000, with \$190,619 per establishment average. Employees in the

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Area Budgets Will Rise for Coming Year

Back Mountain municipalities are in the process of finalizing 1972 budgets, which most governing bodies expect to adopt at their respective December meetings.

Dallas Borough Council hopes to hold its tax rate steady in the coming year and has indicated it will adopt a tentative budget of \$112,720 for 1972.

Although this budget represents an 8.14 percent increase over last year's budget of \$104,240, Councilman Robert Parry, chairman of the finance committee, expressed confidence that there would be no increase in millage.

As explained by Mr. Parry, the anticipated \$8,400 expenditure increase will be used "mostly for wages of police and road laborers." Approximately \$4,000 has been added to the figure budgeted last year for salaries of these borough employees.

Sewer expenses, too, have been considered in the 1971 budget. Dallas Borough, which owns the borough building on Main Street as well as property on Pinecrest and Lackawanna Avenues, is not exempt from front foot assessments in the new municipal sewer system and estimates that its total assessment will run close to \$8,000. The first installment of this assessment fee, plus hook up and rental fees, account for close to \$3,100 of the budget increase.

Finally, Dallas Borough has earmarked \$2,000 for Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefits for three of its policemen and two roadmen. This is the first time these benefits have been provided the borough.

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