

THE DALLAS POST

"Complete Back Mountain News"

VOL. 82 NO. 52

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1971

DALLAS, PA.

PHONE 675-5211

FIFTEEN CENTS

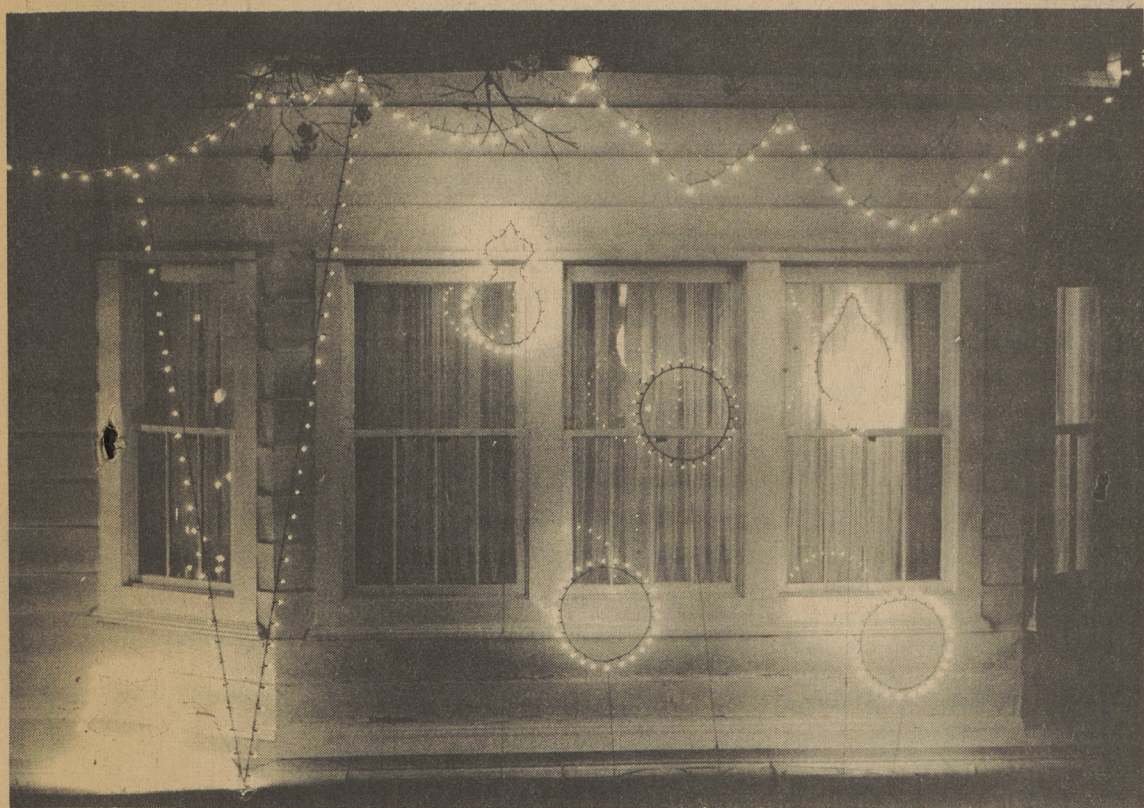


Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.



Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.

Perhaps the most innovative of all Christmas lighting displays was that which adorned the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Abrantes on Pioneer Avenue, Dallas (top photo). Whimsical Christmas or-

naments and a cubistic Christmas tree outlined with strands of lights. Children were delighted to find Santa's reindeer prancing across the lawn of S. Myak's Haddon Field Hills home—with Santa and Mrs. Claus close at hand (lower photo).

Hears Angry Consumers

Milk Price Board Argued

by J.R. Freeman

Consumers should be paying at least 19 cents a gallon less for milk in the Wilkes-Barre—Scranton region, with millions of consumer dollars at stake, according to testimony presented last week to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

During a one-day hearing in the Lackawanna County Courthouse in which consumer protection advocates played a key role perhaps unsurpassed in the region's history, local residents and businessmen paraded before the board to testify in protest against the illegally high price of milk, with some witnesses suggesting that the consumer would be better off with no milk price controls at all than with the high price arbitrarily levied by the independent state commission across the Commonwealth.

"I am prepared to lower the price of milk to 96 cents a gallon in my 28 retail outlets within the hour," Peter Sandfort Sr., president of Loudon Hill Farms, told the board in his sworn testimony. Represented by Loudon Hill legal counsel Morey Myers, Mr. Sandfort asked the board to give him an immediate ruling on the request. With little or no deliberation the board ruled that the price reduction request was denied.

In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Sandfort said that the inflationary high price of milk was costing consumers in the Wilkes-Barre—Scranton area at least \$1.5 million annually. He said the figure could run as high as \$100 million statewide.

PRICE APPEALED

The current regional price of \$1.15 for jug milk, plus deposit, was levied by the state milk board last July, after a brief hearing was conducted in Harrisburg. Later Mr. Sandfort appealed the six-cent-a-gallon price increase to the new Commonwealth Court, and last February the court ruled in his favor, stipulating that the board could not raise the price of milk arbitrarily without just cause which it had not shown. The court remanded

Bank Promotes Two Area Residents

Two Back Mountain men were among officials of The First National Bank of Eastern Pennsylvania to be promoted recently, Thomas H. Kiley, bank chairman, announced this week. They are John L. Owens and Robert C. Lawrence.

Mr. Owens, a resident of 47 East Center St., Shavertown, is a graduate of Kingston Township High School and attended Wilkes College. He holds a graduate certificate from the American Institute of Banking. The Shavertown resident served as a staff sergeant in the 8th Air Force in Europe during World War II.

(continued on PAGE TWELVE)

Took Hold Dec. 22

UGI Rate Increase Becomes Effective With Next Billing

Forthcoming electric bills of some 52,000 customers of Luzerne Electric Division of UGI Corporation will reflect the new rate increases, which became effective Dec. 22.

Richard Demmy, vice president and general manager of the electric division, reported Monday that in line with an order from Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the utility company filed a revised application with the commission Dec. 17, and the approval of the increased rates became effective five days later or on Dec. 22.

In its original application to PUC, the utility asked for \$2,400,000, but the revised application only sought \$2,100,000. Mr. Demmy said that the rate hike would amount to about 17 percent in the average customer's bill.

The rate to municipalities and other tax-free institutions will increase by about eight and one-half percent, according to Mr. Demmy. He noted that the rate increase to municipalities will not become effective until July 1, 1972, giving municipalities an opportunity to budget the increase in their next year's taxes.

Atty. James Brown, who has led the opposition to the rate increase, declared Monday that a PUC order, dated Dec. 14, which indicated approval of the rate hike, was received in his office Dec. 24, and so marked.

"The commission certainly did not give us time to work on this," said Atty. Brown, who is solicitor for Back Mountain Protective Association, one of the organization's which filed a formal complaint with PUC.

On Dec. 23, one day before PUC's order was received on the 24th, Atty. Brown wrote to Edward Muncie, acting counsel for PUC. His letter states in part: "Thank

you very much for your telephone call of Wednesday, Dec. 22. However, to date, Dec. 23, 1971, nothing has been received from the Public Utility Commission pertaining to this case.

"...Of course, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission can do whatever they want regardless of the law, custom, court rules or procedure, and I presume in due course someone opposed to the UGI's increase will receive a copy of the order

purportedly dated Dec. 15, 1971, and mentioned on various occasions in the local newspapers. However, I cannot agree that said receipt will waive any rights of the protestants.

"I further disagree with you in your conclusion that this is an order from the commission affecting the consumers in

(continued on PAGE TWO)

Johnston Named Director Of Prison Industries

Frank C. Johnston, superintendent of State Correctional Institution, Chase, for the last 12 years, will become State Director of Correctional Industries, according to an announcement last week from the office of Allyn R. Sialaff, Pennsylvania's Commissioner of Corrections.

Mr. Johnston resigned as superintendent of the local facility in November when he expected to receive a formal appointment as corrections director for the state of Oklahoma. However, Mr. Johnston did not receive that particular appointment, and a suitable position was sought for him within the Commonwealth. Mr. Johnston stated he would not return to his job as superintendent of Chase institution, as he had already recommended his successor.

Thomas D. Carter, State Director of Community Relations, confirmed that Mr. Johnston would take the new job as head of correctional industries, replacing

Kenneth Reed, who will serve as his assistant.

His new duties will be assumed by Mr. Johnston in January. His resignation from the Chase institution is effective Dec. 29. He and Mrs. Johnston will be moving from the superintendent's home on the institution grounds to Harrisburg.

Correctional industries, within the state penal system, is a vast enterprise of industries, comprising the manufacture of mattresses, soap, boxes, license plates and other items; plus operation of dairies, etc.

According to one state official, profits were at back the additional industries in the past. Under Commissioner Sialaff, correctional industries will be of "benefit to the resident population," and offer residents (inmates) job opportunities. The agency is a part of the state corrections system, and not a separate entity.

Townships Crack Down On Illegal Parkers

Two Back Mountain municipalities, Dallas Township and Kingston Township, have issued notices that no more warnings will be given residents who park cars or vehicles illegally from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. on all roads, including the berm, in both the townships. Henceforth, police will immediately ticket all illegally parked cars.

Dallas Borough ordinance concerning illegally parked cars was enacted Dec. 10, 1963, and is worded differently. The borough ordinance prohibits parking of vehicles during and following periods of

snowfall. "It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle . . . to remain wholly or partially upon the paved portion of any public street during or within three days following snowfall . . . in excess of one inch in depth." The violator is subject to \$5 plus cost, or in default of payment may be imprisoned in Luzerne County Prison for a period not in excess of five days.

Officials of both townships state the stricter enforcement of their ordinances is as a result of the heavy snowfall at

(continued on PAGE TWO)

Hearings Held Behind Prison Gates

District Magistrate Leonard D. Harvey presided at hearings held last Tuesday for two inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas.

Gary P. Bates was remanded to his quarters at the prison in default of \$10,000 bail following establishment of a prima facie case on charges of assault and battery and assault by a prisoner.

The charges stem from an incident at the prison Nov. 20, when Bates allegedly hurled a tray at Sgt. Joseph Carmody of 21 Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

According to Sgt. Carmody, he had accompanied the defendant to breakfast at 6:05 a.m. the morning of Nov. 20 and had seen him packing doughnuts in a wrapper to take with him from the dining hall. Because this practice is prohibited, Car-

(continued on PAGE THREE)

No Post Next Week!

In order to the staff a vacation after a busy holiday season, The Dallas Post will not publish the week of Jan. 6, 1972. The next issue will appear Jan. 13, 1972. The business office will be open every week day except New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1971.



Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.

"Happy New Year to Everyone for 1972" is the wish Susan Luksic seems to be expressing. Susan, the first infant to be born in Wyoming Valley in 1971, greeted the year just 15 seconds after midnight, Jan. 1, 1971. The young beauty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Luksic, Overbrook Avenue, Dallas.