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FIFTEEN CENTS

Supervisors Don't Show For Announced Meeting

Jackson Township Supervisors Friday night failed to show up at a public meeting to appoint a third member to the governing body. But the Post learned later that the supervisors had met privately that evening and selected Felix Niedjaco, Huntsville Road.

Niedjaco will fill the post vacated last month by Harold Bertram, who resigned as supervisor and roadmaster. The supervisors still have not appointed a new roadmaster.

There is some doubt, however, that the appointment is legally binding, since it was not made at a public meeting.

Supervisor Frank Elenchick last week called the special meeting for Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the township fire house, for the announced purpose of selecting a third member to the governing body.

Several township residents waited at the fire house until after 8:15 p.m., but neither Mr. Elenchick nor Supervisor

Henry Zbiek made an appearance.

Some residents said they had come to the meeting to inspect the township budget, which, according to a local ordinance, must be available for public inspection for 20 days after it is advertised. The budget was advertised Dec. 13.

They noted that Mr. Bertram left his post as roadmaster because he was not satisfied with his salary and said they attended the meeting to ask that wages for the road crew be increased in 1974.

The supervisors' secret meeting, an informed source revealed, took place at Mr. Zbiek's home on Chase Road Friday night. Mr. Elenchick reportedly nominated a Democrat, Lois Malak, to fill Mr. Bertram's post as supervisor, and Fred Fielding (Republican who will replace Mr. Zbiek on the board in 1974) named Millie Hogoboom, a Republican.

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Four Residents of Dallas Promoted by First National

Four Back Mountain residents were among those receiving promotions at The First National Bank of Eastern Pennsylvania, it was announced by Thomas H. Kiley, chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

John T. Lyons was promoted from vice president and trust officer to vice president and senior trust officer, and assumed full responsibility for administration of the bank's trust department. He succeeds Atty. Charles E. Miner Jr., who retired at the end of the year.

Robert C. Lawrence, who heads the estate planning and business development division of the trust department, was promoted from assistant vice president and trust officer to vice president and trust officer; while Thomas J. O'Malia, credit department, was promot-

ed to vice president, and Robert D. Richardson, manager of the Dallas Village Office, also was advanced to vice president.

Mr. Lyons came to this area in 1970. Prior to assuming his responsibilities at First National, he served as vice president and trust officer of Schroder Trust Company and vice president of J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation, both of New York City, after having served with the trust department of The First National City Bank of New York.

He attended St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C. where he earned an A.B. in psychology and an M.A. in philosophy. In 1955 Mr. Lyons received a J.D. from St. John's University and was admitted to the New York state Bar.

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Photo by Dave Kozemchak

A few dozen of the thousands of candles which lined Back Mountain streets this Christmas Eve, add a warm, holiday glow to this Lehman-Machell Avenue, Dallas, neighborhood.

Chief Calls Officer Uncontrollable; Patrolman Seeks Legal Assistance

Responding to a Dallas Post editorial taking him to task for not making use of one of his two part-time patrolmen, Jackson Township's part-time police chief Robert Cooper told the Post this week that patrolman Don Jones has been a source of "friction in the township", and that he has issued false incident reports, failed to make other reports and refused to answer some police calls. Mr. Jones has denied each charge, and indicated to the Post that he has contacted a lawyer concerning these and other Cooper allegations.

The patrolman is especially upset about some specific, personal remarks that his chief is making about him.

The chief also stated that, "Since they put that gold badge on Don Jones his head has swelled. He goes over my head. He's been uncontrollable."

Chief Cooper doesn't deny that he is not making use of the salaried patrolman. He says that for the reasons he mentioned he has made a point of not calling the man in on a case in the past seven or more months.

The part-time chief said that the false reports, turned into township supervisors, had to do with a "haystack fire" and "the Banks bomb scare". He told the Post that he knows Mr. Jones did not investigate the incidents because the chief himself had remained at the fire site until it was taken care of, and because his other patrolman, Andrew Kasko, remained at the bomb scare scene. Neither of them, the chief said, saw Mr. Jones at

the scene.

Patrolman Jones told the Post that he was alerted of the "Chase fire" by a captain at State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID), and that Bernard Banks, vice president of American Asphalt, called him from the bomb scare scene. "I did investigate them, and turned written reports into Chief Cooper," he said.

Capt. Alfred Jones, the SCID duty officer at the time of the "haystack fire", told the Post that "I believe it was Officer Jones that I talked to. I only reported the matter to him." Asked if another patrolman could have been at the scene of the fire, the captain said that he "couldn't

say", because he himself was not at the scene.

Mr. Banks, speaking about the bomb scare, told the Post that he "called the local police, and they got the State Police in...The State Police did the actual investigation." He couldn't remember whether it was Chief Cooper or Mr. Jones that he had called.

Patrolman Kasko said that he got a call on the bomb scare from Mrs. Cooper, and arrived at the scene at about the same time as the State Police. He said that he remained at the scene for two hours, and did not see Mr. Jones. He said that he and

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Both Yanoshak and Tirpak Claim Luzerne County Post

There may be a traffic jam in the Luzerne County Controller's office Jan. 7.

That is the day Democrat Joseph Tirpak, who defeated incumbent Stephen Yanoshak in the November election, says he will move into the office.

But Mr. Yanoshak claims Mr. Tirpak is not legally qualified for the post and says he will remain in office "until the court certifies that my successor is qualified."

The dispute stems from an 1895 state statute which prohibits a county row officer from assuming the controller's post until at least two years after he has left his other county position.

According to this law, Mr. Yanoshak claims, Mr. Tirpak (as chief deputy to the county recorder of deeds) cannot serve as controller until 1976.

But at his swearing-in ceremony last Wednesday, Mr. Tirpak vowed to take

office Jan. 7.

"On Nov. 6," he said, "53,000 votes were cast on my behalf for the office of controller. This was a 5,000 plurality which unseated a three-term incumbent."

"I was issued a certificate of election by the board of election of Luzerne County...for a term of four years. On Dec. 19 I filed the required statutory bond for the office of controller, which was approved by the Luzerne County Court. The oath of office which I have just taken will immediately be filed with the prothonotary."

"...if anyone, including Stephen Yanoshak, has any legitimate objection to me commencing my term as county controller Jan. 7, they should raise these objections in the appropriate court and not in the press and on television."

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Hundreds of Candles Line Back Mt. Streets

Candles, at least 600 dozen of them, lined several streets in Dallas and Shavertown Christmas Eve, "Lighting the Way for the Christ Child". The long rows of candles were impressive, and attracted many interested people to the area.

The custom, according to Joe Muldoon, president of the New Goss Manor Taxpayers Association, was brought to New Goss Manor from Mexico about five years ago by Dorothy Morrissey, a former resident. A few years ago, Katherine Disque, of Dallas, was visiting her son, Dick, in Orchard View Terrace, and was deeply moved by the rows of candles in front of his neighbors' homes. She talked of her experience to a friend and neighbor, Mrs. George Krashkevich, Machell Avenue, Dallas, and last year, the two women set about encouraging residents of Machell Avenue and adjoining streets

to "Light the Way for the Christ Child". This year, the strings of white candle lights has been extended through many more streets in Dallas, and some in Shavertown.

The lighting of the candles begins soon after dark Christmas Eve, and the friendly exchanges between neighbors, well wishes of strollers, and the slow, steady stream of cars passing through the calmly lit streets arouses the peaceful, true meaning of Christmas in all.

Mrs. Disque told the Post that at least 600 dozen candles had been distributed this year, most of them in Dallas, and this year, as in the past five years, the weather was fair, and the lights could be seen for miles. Some residents, who were lighting candles in front of their homes, expressed the hope that, with outdoor Christmas lighting almost extinct, the candle lights might have a deeper meaning this season.

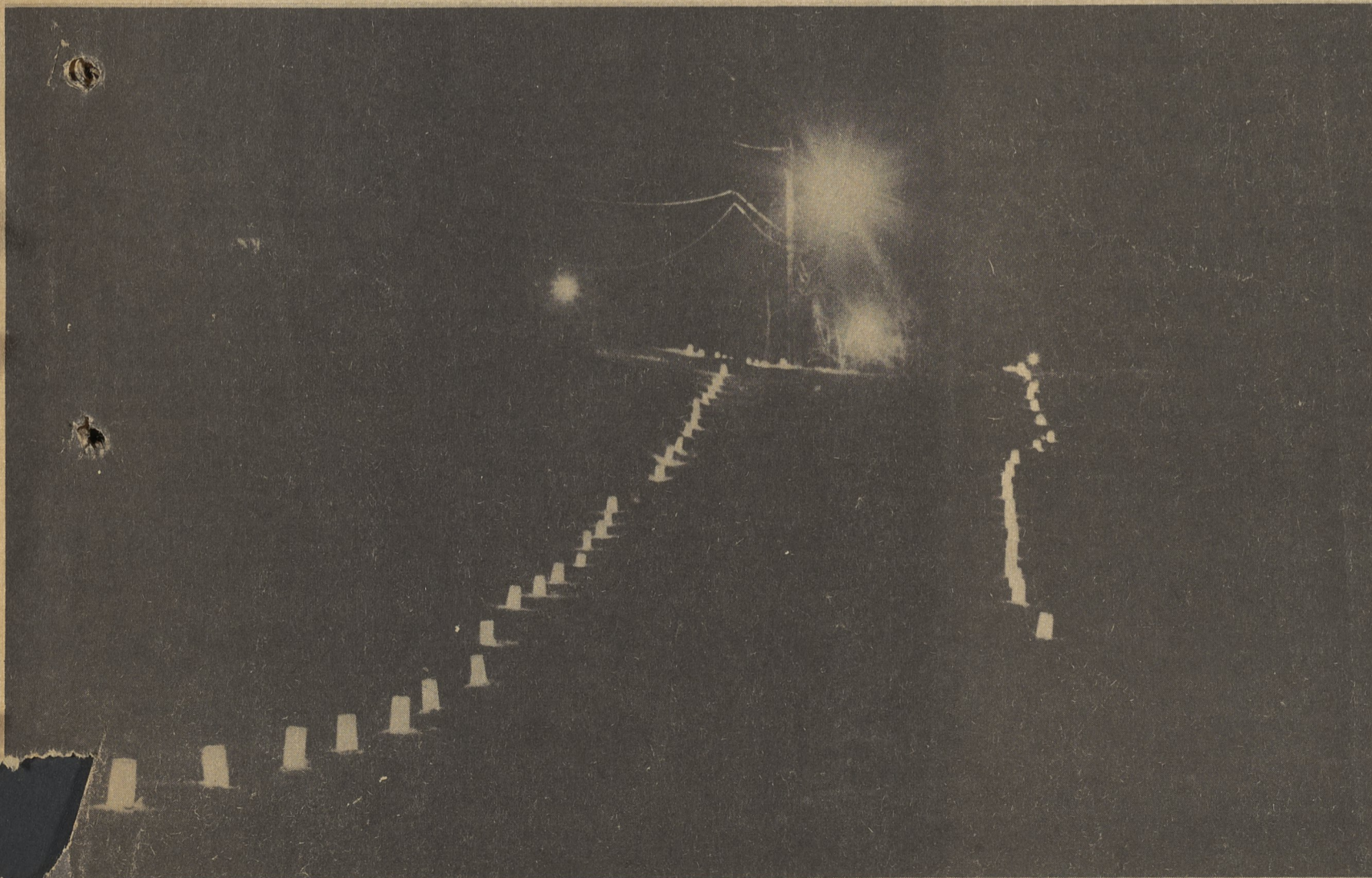


Photo by Dave Kozemchak

These candles, lining Sterling Avenue, Dallas, on Christmas Eve, according to Mexican custom, are "Lighting the Way for the Christ Child."