

THE POST

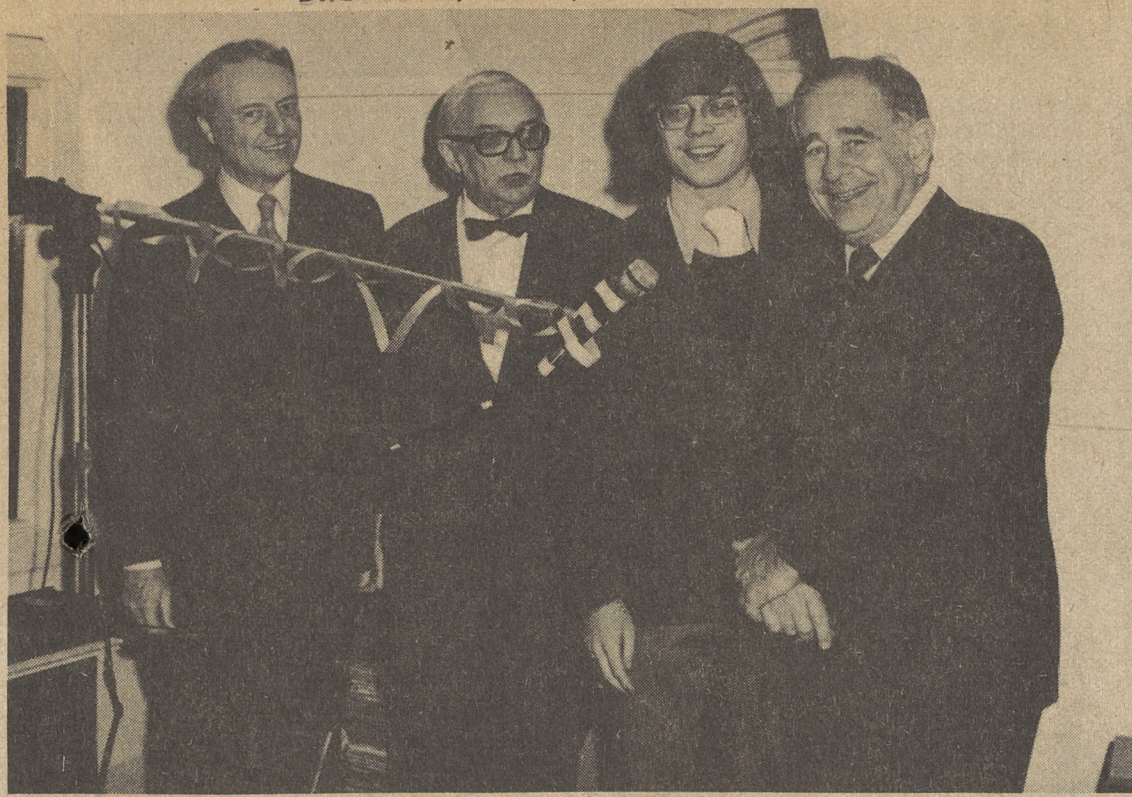
News of the Back Mountain Area, Luzerne, Swoyersville and Pringle

VOL. 85 NO. 46

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1974

DALLAS, PA.

TWENTY CENTS



Penn State president Dr. John W. Oswald delivered the dedication address for the local Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus WPSI-FM radio station in ceremonies held last Thursday afternoon. Other principals in the on-the-air ceremonies included, left to right: campus

director George Bierly; Roy Morgan, general manager of WILK radio and part time PSU broadcasting instructor; WPSI station manager student Clifton Eshbach; and Dr. Oswald. The new station is located on the FM dial at 89.1.

HUD Has Pay Checks; Still Seek Some Workers

The Wilkes-Barre office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has received 1300 checks to cover a retroactive pay increase granted in January 1973, and the agency is having a hard time trying to locate some of their former employees.

According to John Hylton, HUD's Assistant Director for Administration, all Federal employees who were working between October, 1972 and Jan. 7, 1973, are entitled to a retroactive increase for that period of time.

The reason is that congress passed a Federal employee pay raise late in 1972, making it retroactive to October 1. President Nixon impounded the funds, but congress eventually pried the money loose and HUD received their checks

about six weeks ago.

HUD's problem now is that many of the people who worked for them during that period have moved without leaving a forwarding address. Mr. Hylton has three employees working on tracking the people down, but they have their regular payrolls to make out and the three have been working on the job when they can get the time. Working alphabetically, they are now down to "T," and have mailed out about 800 checks.

Anyone who worked for HUD from October 1, 1972 to January 7, 1973 and has not received a check for their increase should mail a note to HUD listing their name, present address, and social security number.

The note should be sent to HUD Disaster Field Office, Attention Personnel Payroll, 116 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 18701.

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Labor Claim Effects Swoyersville Sewers

by Kurt Weidner

Grants totaling about \$600,000 are being withheld from the Swoyersville Sewer Authority by the Economic Development Administration and Housing and Urban Development primarily because four men have claimed wage violations under the Davis-Bacon Act.

As of an adjourned meeting Monday night the authority had about \$275,000 in its accounts with approved claims totaling around \$400,000, most of it due Insana Construction Co., prime contractors on the job.

The dispute involves four truck drivers for the Nutche Trucking Co., Bennett Street, Luzerne. John Nutche Jr., who owns the firm, said he did not pay his men the prevailing rate because he was not a sub-contractor. He said neither the contractor nor the engineers told him he had to pay his men the prevailing rate.

Spokesmen at the U.S. Labor Department office in Wilkes-Barre said the Davis-Bacon Act states all persons working on Federal jobs must be paid the prevailing rate plus time and a half after each eight hours of work. The prevailing rate is the rate the contractor agrees to pay at the start of the job.

Lawyers for the Insana Co. also maintain that Nutche was a material hauler and not a sub-contractor. But the Labor Department spokesmen said it was the prime contractor's responsibility to post the prevailing rates on a bulletin board at the job site and to inform all companies working for him of the prevailing rates - material haulers included.

The Insana Co. is presently holding about \$50,000 of Mr. Nutche's money until the problem is cleared up. Nutche started on the job last December and pulled out several weeks ago.

Ron Black, spokesman for Insana, said his company had asked Mr. Nutche for his payroll records but Mr. Nutche had refused to supply them. He felt it was unfair of HUD to cut off all grants particularly since he had Mr. Nutche's \$50,000 and wasn't about to give it to him

until the dispute was settled.

The engineers are supposed to keep copies of all payroll records but all they have are Insana's records. Accordingly, they should have kept records of all Evans Asphalt workers, and anyone else who ever worked on the job. Northeastern spokesmen said this simply was not feasible.

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City Coalition Urges Broad Advisory Group

by Kurt Weidner

Wilkes-Barre City Council, at last Thursday's meeting, took under advisement a batch of recommendations from the Citizens Choice Coalition on procedures they think the city should follow in spending roughly \$24 million in Federal block grants over the next three years.

Kingston Twp. Gives Away Mercy Vehicle

Kingston Township Ambulance Association has donated their old ambulance to the Kunkle Fire Company. The vehicle was turned over to Kunkle officials at a special ceremony Nov. 8 at the fire hall.

Present for Kingston Township were Ed Carey, president; Nancy Buss, auxiliary president; Allan Nichols, secretary-treasurer; E.J. Brown, captain and vice president. Receiving the ambulance in behalf of Kunkle were Ted King, fire company president; Conrad Higgins, vice president; Jack Dodson, fire chief.

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The funds, which will total about \$8 million per year over the next three years, are available because the Federal government eliminated programs such as Open Spaces and Urban Renewal.

H. Meritt Hughes, spokesman for the coalition, said the group is keeping an eye on council to see what kind of committee council sets up to advise them on how to spend the funds. They want council to pick a broad base of representatives from each section of the city.

"We want to see a sufficient number of people on the advisory committee so there is adequate representation from all sectors of the community," Mr. Hughes said.

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Suicide Victim Called 'Great Imposter' Type

William Thomas Orr, 48, who died in a family suicide pact along with his 13-year old daughter in the New Mexico wilderness near Almagordo last week, taught at College Misericordia during the second semester in 1964-65.

Mr. Orr taught a course in speech and

one in general psychology. He claimed to have received his doctorate in psychology from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1957 but college officials determined otherwise and Mr. Orr was let go after one semester.

One college official said Mr. Orr once claimed to be a professional baseball player among other things. "He was something akin to The Great Imposter, only not very good at it," the official said.

Mr. Orr, his wife Lillian, 44, their three sons, William Jr., 12, Joseph, 11, Gregory, 7, and their daughter Annette, 13, left their home in Exeter last May and took to the road to live in a van.

The Orr family had lived at 105 Belles St., Exeter. After they left in May on what neighbors described as a religious pilgrimage, their home was discovered in livable condition with food in the refrigerator and clothes in the closet. Neighbors found nothing unusual about this; they said the family had made religious pilgrimages in the past, sometimes lasting as long as a year.

Last Wednesday afternoon a rancher investigated the 1969 Chevrolet van which had been parked in the same spot for six or seven days. Other Otero County residents saw the woman and boys in and around the van and thought they were camping. The rancher found Mr. Orr dead in the driver's seat. His daughter was wrapped in a blanket in the rear of the van. Both had died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a burning bag of charcoal on the front seat.

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October council meeting by tax collector Calvin McHose. At that time he recommended council and the school board use the same collector because some residents were getting delinquent notices from one agency when their employers had paid all their taxes to the other.

Council took no action on the recommendation at that time, except to refer the matter to the finance committee. But the finance committee did not meet, and even if it had the contract could not have been terminated unless a special meeting were held and the matter brought to a vote.

Mr. Merrill, said he realized if the borough did not take action within 60 days prior to Dec. 31, the date the contract was to expire, the contract would automatically be renewed. He then took it upon himself to terminate the contract.

Even so, the telegram arrived on Nov. 2, one day too late. Mr. Merrill also said he had not polled council to find out their

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Guild Strike In 2nd Week

Striking Newspaper Guild workers at the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co. will meet with state mediator Anthony Andreoli and company spokesmen this Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Gus Genetti Hotel, Wilkes-Barre.

According to spokesmen at strike headquarters the latest company offer would bring some reporters salaries up to \$291 a week. Secretaries would get something less than the company-stated figure of \$170 per week.

A. DeWitt Smith, vice president of the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co., stated the latest company offer would push reporters salaries to better than \$300 per week.

The striking Guildsmen have been without a contract since Dec. 1, 1973. International Typographical Union employees have worked without a contract since last month.

Wages are the only issue to be resolved at this time. Spokesmen at strike headquarters claim the latest company offer is inconsistent with the present rise in the cost of living.

Management officials of the Publishing Company met last Friday with leaders of the mechanical union. According to reports, the company issued statements showing the company was in a declining financial position. Company officials refused comment on the meeting as did mechanical union representatives.

Some mechanical union workers tried to go to work a number of times since the strike began. They were kept out by Guild pickets blocking all entrances to the building.

No Recount Seen Likely On Charters

The Luzerne County Board of Elections official tabulation for the Kingston Borough Home Rule Charter showed the charter winning 2,517 to 2,342. News reports had indicated the charter won by a mere 80 votes.

The official tabulation was made Friday at the Luzerne County Court House. Chester Kurkowski of the board of elections was in charge.

The final counting started at 9 a.m. and was completed by 12:30 p.m. Daniel F. Ripa, director of the Luzerne County Board of Elections, said there was virtually no possibility anyone would challenge the Kingston Borough charter count. A recount would have to be called within seven days after the final tally is posted.

The board hires official counters from throughout the county from both political parties. The count is supervised by the board, and is tabulated ward by ward and district by district.

Bulletin

Cross Valley Out?

At press time Tuesday, the Dallas Post learned from unconfirmed reports that the Back Mountain portion of the proposed North Cross Valley Expressway may be deferred for another six years.

The project, long overdue, has remained a high priority with PennDot for years, and portions of the major artery are in construction stages. The new highway would link the Back Mountain area with Interstate 81 near the Veterans Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Sources close to the planning of the greater highway network in Northeastern Pennsylvania told the Post that during a Tuesday meeting in Wilkes-Barre's Gus Genetti Hotel, representatives of the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton Chambers of Commerce, the Wyoming Valley and Scranton Motor Clubs, PennDOT, and the Luzerne County Planning Commission discussed

shuffling highway priorities in the two-county area, and placing at least the Back Mountain portion of the North Cross Valley Expressway in less than a high priority status.

Further discussion of the expressway is on the agenda of a meeting scheduled today (Wednesday) at the Treadway Inn, Wilkes-Barre. Following a meeting of the Pennsylvania Transportation Commission at 10 a.m., the Commission will meet with county commissioners, county planning directors, and Chambers of Commerce representatives from 12:15 to 3 p.m.

According to news from the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Commission is in the area at the invitation of the EDCNP and David Schooley, regional representative on the Transportation Commission, which is responsible for establishing highway priorities throughout the Commonwealth.