

Extortion ...P. 4

Social ...Pp. 5,6

Dallas Borough Council ...P. 16

Rambling Riders ...P. 10

# THE DALLAS POST



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TWENTY CENTS

## Parents see Back Mountain "not bad place to raise kids"

by Terry Bonifanti

This is the third in a series of four articles dealing with the structure of the family in the Back Mountain. Article appearing in Newsweek, Sept. 22, 1975 and U.S. News and World Report Oct. 27, 1975 raised interesting questions on the family in this country. This series will review questions on family life in the Back Mountain. This article allows several parents from the area to give their views on raising children in this area.)

Speaking with parents in the Back Mountain, one is almost forced into believing this area is not undergoing the same changes in its family structure felt by the rest of the country.

"I don't honestly know the cultural change has hit the Back Mountain yet," Mrs. Carol Hessions, a mother of five from the Oak Hill section of Lehman Township, said.

Dennis Dobinick, a father of five from the same area when asked about the cultural and social change problems facing our youth agreed with Mrs. Hessions, "I don't think we have the problems here."

Agreeing "the cultural climate is different here," was Mrs. Irene Crawford, a mother of five who has lived in new Goss Manor for 12 years (coming from the suburbs of Philadelphia. Mrs. Crawford said, "it hasn't been a bad place to raise kids."

However, Mrs. Crawford whose youngest child is 16 and oldest 24 sees, the change arriving quickly. "I'm glad I'm finished raising my children... it's becoming a whole different world," she said.

Mrs. Bessie Mead, a divorcee from Idetown who has raised three sons, one now 32, one 24, and the last (whome she raised alone) 16, agrees with Mrs. Crawford. Mrs. Mead, unlike Mrs. Crawford, raised her children almost entirely in the Back Mountain. Yet she still sees the world changing around her lifetime.

"It is definitely more serious, more dangerous to raise a child today. I wouldn't want to be a teenager now," Mrs. Mead said.

Society has reached a point where, "Good and bad are blending together," according to Mrs. Mead.

Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell, a Kingston Township mother of seven children who range in age from 3 1/2 to 11, finds the changing society placing more burden on the children. "Kids are allowed to have more responsibility today. They are learning more, learning faster than we did. They have more independence. They have to make up their minds," according to Mrs. O'Donnell.

Mrs. George Bittenbender, a lifelong Back Mountain resident, said she sees her children "definitely facing more pressures," than she as a child in the Back Mountain faced some 30 years ago. However, Mrs. Bittenbender said she does not see that

much of a change from the time her 24 year-old was growing up to now as her 13-year-old enters high school.

"I know it's hard keeping close family these days," Mrs. Bittenbender said. She also said she believes it is not the social pressures or changes that make the difference, it is the families.

Ed Lyons, a father of two who came to the Back Mountain four years ago from South Dakota agrees. "We've been able to maintain a close family. It doesn't depend on society, it depends on how much attention parents want to give their children."

There are problems in growing up here in the Back Mountain. Mrs. Bittenbender cited the problems of the consolidated schools--the elimination of the average child from competition, the large geographic area to find friends in.

Mrs. Crawford mentioned peer pressure, materialism and the increased use of alcoholic beverages by teenagers.

Mrs. Mead is worried about the lack of protection for the child--"people aren't ashamed of things anymore so the child is exposed to almost anything."

Mrs. O'Donnell wonders about the pressure and responsibility placed on the child growing up here and now.

"The advantages of living here far outweigh the disadvantages," according to Mrs. Hessions. Everyone seems to agree with her.

(Continued on Page sixteen)



**HOT DOG**--There has to be a better way to cook a hot dog...but maybe not, as the faces of Bill Senjick's classmates show as they eat some of his specially cooked treats at the Lake-Lehman senior activities night, last week at the school.

## School board races to provide contests in Back Mountain

by Terry Bonifanti

With 18 days left until the election, Back Mountain school board candidates are preparing for real fights at the polls for the three vacant Dallas seats and the three openings out in Lake-Lehman.

What makes this election different from most school board elections in the Back Mountain's past is the political diversity of the candidates.

For the first time in many years, both Lake-Lehman and Dallas have Democratic candidates in the general election and in all cases the primary has not decided any seats.

Paul Crockett, in Lake-Lehman Region II, although running unopposed in the primary and picking up both nominations will face a write-in opponent in Keith "Skip" Bonham.

Bonham has publically asked Crockett to meet him in a debate at the Lake-Lehman High School. At press time Crockett had not responded to the letter.

In Dallas, with three board vacancies left by the retirements of Ted Dymond and Hanford Eckman and the primary defeat of William Cutten, the race will be between two candidates with both nominations, and one republican and one democrat.

Both Richard "Dick" Hislop, RD 3, Orange, and Earl Fritzges, Trucks-ville, picked up nominations from both parties in May.

Fritzges is the only Dallas candidate running who has previously held a position on the school board. He was on the Dallas board from 1969 to 1972 and chose not to run for the last term. Fritzges is employed by Dunn and Bradstreet and has six children, three of whom still attend the Dallas schools.

In commenting on some of the problems facing the school board during its next term, he said he believed the transportation system in Dallas to be "very good." He said he felt the same way about the school's curriculum and athletics, although he also believed there was room for improvement in the latter two.

In curriculum, Fritzges said he would like to see more emphasis placed on vocational training in the district. "I'd like to see more students advised to take advantage of the West Side Vocational School if it's meant for them," he said.

He also said he would like to see an expansion of the female athletic

program and a little more publicity for woman's sports.

As far as tax investment in the Dallas schools, Fritzges said he feels "overall, the taxpayer is getting a fair return for his tax dollar." He added that he felt the system has to be constantly improved and the board must keep up with it."

Hislop, a tool and dye maker at Diamond Manufacturing Company, West Wyoming, has three children all attending Dallas Schools. He said he also believes the taxpayer is, "getting what he pays for," in the Dallas School District.

"The millage isn't real high, and it isn't real low, we're getting real education for what we're paying," he said.

Hislop agreed that the transportation system in the Dallas schools was "more adequate than most districts."

He said he felt the quality of education in the Dallas schools was some-

thing to be "proud" of and added "there is always room for improvement here and there."

In athletics Hislop said the varsity program was "more than adequate," but the intramural system "could stand improvement" to allow more students to participate.

The Republican candidate in Dallas, Gloria (Mrs. Joseph) Brennan, from Dallas borough, is a housewife with five children, two of whom are still going to Dallas schools.

She has a different idea about school athletic participation, Mrs. Brennan said, "People should get over the idea sports are just for those who participate. They are just as good for spectators. They bring the whole school together." Mrs. Brennan added she is impressed and pleased with the athletic program at Dallas.

She also expressed her belief the transportation and educational systems at Dallas are good, adding, "Different things keep coming up.

Quality education is an ongoing thing. It can't be allowed to slip backward; the board must stay active in all aspects of the system."

Mrs. Brennan also said she would like to see more community involvement in the district, more parent teacher groups represented at board meetings.

As for taxation, Mrs. Brennan said she believes the Dallas schools are presently producing a dollar's worth of education for each tax dollar collected and added, "You can't know what the future will bring. Spending is another ongoing thing that has to be supervised."

Completing the Dallas slate, Mark Umphred, a color separator for Offset Paperback is running for a Dallas seat on the Democratic ticket.

Umphred said he was "really not dissatisfied with any of the system." He said he felt the transportation system in Dallas was "very adequate" and the educational system

## 'Up with People' comes to town

One of the nine casts of "Up With People" international organization will appear Oct. 28 at the Dallas Junior High School, sponsored by the Dallas Jr. Woman's Club.

Elaine Pickett, Houston, Texas, and Beth Shortsleeve, Vermont, advance representatives of the group, are in the area, making arrangements for housing and planning meals for the cast.

In a recent interview with the Post, the young women stated that their work has been made unusually easy for them through the cooperation of the Woman's Club.

Elaine also performs with the group, which in addition to their performance on Oct. 28 will appear at State Correctional Institution.

"Up With People" is an educational organization which has become known around the world through the international casts of people representing 28 countries.

They have appeared in countries around the world but this year the casts are focusing on the United States in honor of the Bicentennial.

They performed at the Bicentennial opening and have been invited to appear for the Olympics in Canada. They will also appear at the Superbowl, Astrodome, Mardi Gras,

and Indianapolis 500. They will climax their Bicentennial performances with a program in Philadelphia July 4, 1976.

"Up With People" has established a framework for communication and interaction between people of varied backgrounds including age, class,

race, nationality or political views. The young men and women are from 17 to 25 years of age and since its inception in 1965, 3,500 others have participated. Approximately 600 students apply for membership each month.

## Park-n-ride lot terminates at Dallas Shopping Center

"Not to hurt the people who have to use the bus, but for the benefit of the customers who use shopping center," is how James B. Davies, a spokesman for the merchants at the Dallas Shopping Center, explained the move by the merchants to stop the set-up of a park-n-ride lot by the Luzerne County Transit Authority at the center's parking lot last week.

Davies explained there are "18 businesses in the center and a limited amount of parking space."

The decision to end the park-n-ride set up the shopping center was made by LCTA following a talk with merchants in the center. "We originally talked with Carl Goeringer," (the realtor responsible for the lot), who gave permission for

the lot use on the basis the owners of Dave's Holiday Market gave approval," Stephen Keiper, LCTA administrative assistant said.

Receiving approval from the people at the Holiday Market, LCTA put up signs and established the park-n-ride set last week. Merchants in the center removed the signs and after consultation with them, LCTA "terminated" their use of the lot.

"We've tried quite a few places in Dallas," Keiper said last week, "but none have worked out."

Keiper said, "There is a demand for a park-n-ride lot in the area, but we can't find a suitable place." He added "I think we're going to be stuck leaving people to find what space they can to park."

### NEW ADDRESS

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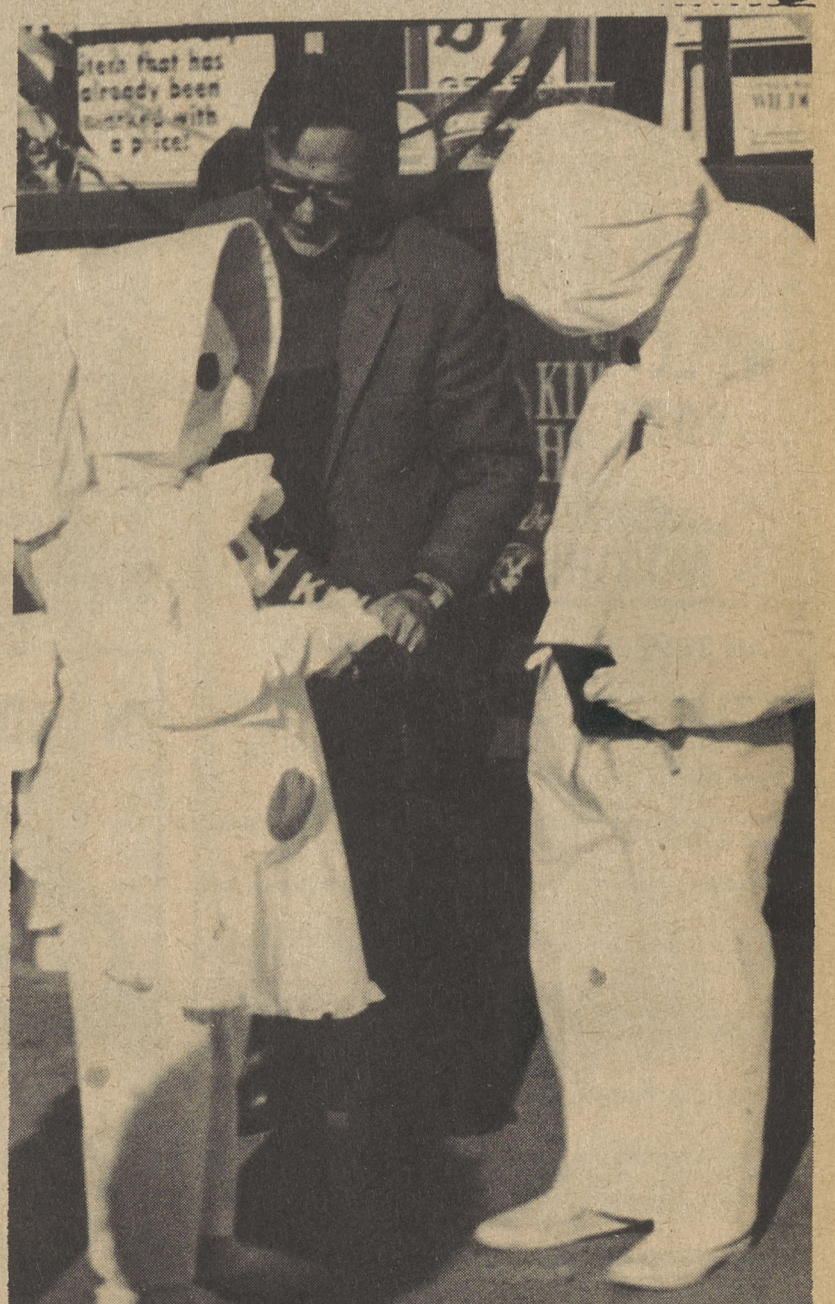


Photo by Fay Broody

**HALLOWEEN'S PARADE**--Pillsbury Kids, portrayed by Denise and Walter Crabenstetter are shown receiving their prize money from Bob Maturi, representative of the Dallas Kiwanis Club, following last year's Halloween parade, sponsored annually by the club. This year's event will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, and will feature 37 separate cash prizes, double the number awarded previously.