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# THE DALLAS POST

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TWENTY CENTS

## Supervisors contest in townships

On Nov. 4, citizens of the Back Mountain will go to the polls to vote for the candidates of their choice. In the various townships of the area,

the strongest interest appears to be centered in Lehman, Jackson and Kingston Townships. For the first time in the history of

Jackson Township, a woman is running for supervisor. Mrs. Richard Hogoboom, Sutton Road, is the Republican candidate. Her opponent

on the Democratic slate is Andrew Stofko.

Millie Hogoboom is a housewife with two children. She is presently serving as chairman of the supervisors, a position to which she was appointed when Felix Niedjaco resigned.

She said that she wants to see good government in the township with the best possible services at the least cost. She believes that the supervisors should do some long-range planning, improve road maintenance and continue to improve police security.

In commenting on priorities in the township, Millie Hogoboom said that she feels it necessary to continue working with the planning consultant and rewriting the zoning ordinances for the future benefit of the area. She also believes they should continue to investigate the funds available from both the state and local government.

Mrs. Hogoboom believes that the planning will determine the township's recreation needs and municipal building requirements.

Her Democratic opponent, Andrew Stofko, served on the board of supervisors during Governor

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HOMEcomings QUEENS—Members of the Lake-Lehman Homecoming court are shown recently at the school. A queen will be chosen from the court when the school observes its second annual homecoming this weekend. Front row, left to right, are: Laurie Dockeray and Cheryl Hoover. Standing, Barb Kasakowski, Diane Godleski, Donna Maskluk and Mary Duffy.



Photo by Stuart Caulkins

FATAL FIRE—Back Mountain firemen battle Tuesday blaze at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Snyder, Huntsville Road. The fire, which erupted in the early morning hours, claimed the life of Mr. Snyder, an apparent heart attack victim. See obituary, page 2.

### Kunkle Farmer Dance

## 1927-1965: The place to meet your mate

Editor's note: This historical series on the Back Mountain is written from the memories of those now living who made or remember the interesting incidents of the area. Anyone wishing to share memories or anecdotes of Back Mountain life in the past is asked to call the Post at 675-5211.

"It was like a family affair, children came, babies slept on desks while parents danced," Mrs. Dorothy Dodson remembers of the Kunkle Farmer Dance. The Saturday night dances were held at the Kunkle Community Hall for nearly 40 years, ending just a decade ago.

"It really was a family affair. Everyone was so close," she said.

Mrs. Dodson remembered attending Kunkle dances from her very early childhood. "The building was actually the old Kunkle school house. Then, in 1927, the Dallas Township

schools sold the building to John Isaacs and the Kunkle students left it to go to the Dallas Township Elementary School.

But they left it in good hands. For John Isaacs (Mrs. Dodson's grandfather) in turn sold the building to the community and the deed to this day bears the written proof of his good intentions. "For allowing the community to have affairs," he sold the building at the same price he purchased it.

Soon after Kunkle purchased the hall, the dances started. "The desks were still there, pushed with their backs to the wall, parents would bring the whole family, some would dance, some would sit on the desks, little babies would lay on the desks and sleep through all the dancing."

Two people would work at the door, two in the kitchen, and everyone took turns. At intermission, local girls

## "Kids" comment on who's raising them

by Terry Bonifanti

(This is the final article in a series dealing with the structure of the family in the Back Mountain. The series reviewed questions on family

life and life in general in the Back Mountain in an attempt to answer the question, "Who's raising the kids?" This article gives "the kids" a chance to comment.)

"who could do the Charleston or whatever," entertained according to Mrs. Dodson.

The one thing everyone associated with Kunkle Farmer Dance was its amazing matchmaking ability. The Dallas Post in 1965, on the occasion of the dances end said, "The Kunkle Farmer Dance had a phenomenal record of introducing man and wife and any number of Back Mountain couples owe their years of marital bliss to its spell."

Mrs. Dodson agrees. "A lot of fellas and dates met their mates there." The dance's last caller, "Red" Jones said he can remember, in only eight of those nearly 40 years while he was calling "at least 30 couples who got married after meeting there."

"And another thing," Jones added, "I can't remember one fight the whole time I was there."

Jones was the last on a long list of well-known area callers who spent their Saturday night's entertaining square dancers from Kunkle, the whole Back Mountain and as far away as Scranton. In the early days, Joe Goebels from Centermoreland and his sons provided the music. "Joe played the fiddle and called," Mrs. Dodson remembers.

Other callers included Bill Hoover, Abe Bellas, Carl Hank, Harry Wilke, Herb Brunges, Wayne Weaver, Al Derhammer, Carl Veraskie and Joe McKeown.

Bill Rowlands, Berwick's Harry and Marian Campbell, Panky Stolarick from Lehman and a special local rotating orchestra provided the music for all those callers.

The local rotating orchestra was a product of World War II.

"There was no gas, so we had to get people close to home," according to Mrs. Dodson who was herself a member of the band at times. Accompanying Mrs. Dodson might be Bill Thomas, Tom Jordan, Edwin Shoemaker, Don Cosgrove, Les Warhola, Bob Scott or anybody willing. Some would drop in, some out.

The dances were either sponsored by the community, the Silver Leaf Club or the Harry S. Smith Fire Company and were billed as "the oldest social function in the Back Mountain."

The late Phillip Kunkle, who served as custodian for the hall for most of its 38 years with the dances, could only

remember one month in those years when the dances didn't run, "about a month in 1955 when they had to look for a new caller and band."

"A lot of good times were had up there," Mrs. Dodson said, "the kids today don't know that they're missing."

When the "farmer dances" ended Oct. 23, 1965, an attempt was made to try some new rock and roll dances. Eddie Day and the Starfires appeared at the hall until about 1967, "but it never really caught on."

In their day the farmer dances almost called for "widening the Kunkle Community Hall," to fit all those "families" in.

## Judge Hourigan BMPA toastmaster

The Honorable Robert J. Hourigan will serve as toastmaster when the Back Mountain Protective Association bestows its Community Service Award on U.S. Rep. Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.), Oct. 31. The Luzerne County judge will open the Friday banquet at the Irem Temple Country.

Robert W. Laux, BMPA board member, will give the welcome and make introductions; the Rev. Robert Dewitt Yost will give invocation; the

Rev. Andrew Pillarella will give benediction.

Rep. Flood will be the first award recipient not residing in the Back Mountain. Over the years the award has been presented to Howard Risley, Msgr. Francis Kane, Rev. Yost, Atty. James L. Brown, Sen. Andrew J. Sordani and twice it has gone to College Misericordia. Dr. F. Budd Schooley, BMPA president, will make the presentation.

The award is presented at the discretion of the association on the basis of service by individuals or institutions "beyond self" according to Dr. Schooley. Rep. Flood's honor comes on the heels of an "overwhelming majority" of nominations from local citizens and groups, since the BMPA opened nominations in early September.

Rev. Yost, Atty. Brown, Robert W. Laux, Edgar Lashford, John George, Edward Buckley, Donald Evans, the Rev. Thomas Jordan and E.V. Chadwick have been assisting Dr. Schooley in preparations for the banquet.

The banquet is set to begin at 6:30 at the country club.

Musical selections will be provided throughout the evening by the College Misericordia String Ensemble under the direction of Ferdinand Liva.

made at the same age and will continue to take on more responsibility as they grow.

"Their parents are there if they need them. It's just that they seem to have less and less to need them for. This, too, seems to change as generations change. Children who have become parents in their own right see parenting in a little different light than their own parents."

Questions on the "cultural change" supposedly taking place in today's society were answered by the older brothers and sisters of children whose parents were shocked by today's "open society." They see the same shocking element as "good."

One young father said, "I don't think I'll be as strict as my mother was. I was always hesitant to ask questions. I don't want my kids to think I am keeping something from them. I want stuff out in the open."

Having things "out in the open" is how the kids view the cultural change.

"Things like drugs, alcohol abuse, abortions, were always there," they said. "Now people talk about them so they seem worse."

Maybe the problems of growing up are a little greater, but so are the expectations. One person said he felt his younger brother, the youngest of five children is "gonna be smarter than all of us." This child is exposed to "better educational systems," "more people in the larger school district" and has the benefit of the knowledge of his four older siblings along with his parents.

The one thing he and his peers in the Back Mountain may find, that older brothers or sisters did not have to deal with, is that his parents aren't home as much. Mothers work, both parents are "in" to a lot of things.

The children say they don't mind. In most cases the mother did not begin working until the child entered school and was home for the important things. Brothers and sisters fill a lot of the time.

The one thing who are "children" now (the 11 to 16 year olds) do not really feel the abuse of the parent. When asked about responsibility, they did not say they felt pressure from it. "Most of the responsibility is on my older brothers and sisters," one said.

The Back Mountain may be the reason for all these attitudes. All those interviewed felt, or at least said they did that the Back Mountain was a good place to grow up. Those coming from other schools, however, are split on their choices as better school districts.

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## Wagons meet in Dallas

In early June 1976, wagons from six states will enter Pennsylvania near Erie. The wagons will divide into caravans and follow parallel routes across north and central Pennsylvania. On June 27, the central and the northern caravan will meet here in Dallas.

The colorful conestoga wagons and prairie schooners are part of the Bicentennial Wagon Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania as a part of the Commonwealth's tribute to the nation on its 200th birthday.

The wagons coming into Dallas will be from the Great Lake states. In all, wagons from 49 states will follow divergent routes through the state and converge with each other for July 4 in Valley Forge.

The wagons which have already started from some of the Western states make about 20 miles each day and stop each evening to camp and to put on a 40-minute musical show produced by Penn State University. The show and encampment activities have drawn crowds of thousands in the western states.

## Boroughs to elect councilman

Both Back Mt. boroughs will decide on candidates for four council seats during Tuesday election.

Voters in Dallas Borough will vote for four candidates, each for a four year term. Four candidates on the Republican slate are William Carroll Jr., Kenneth Young, Peter Arnaud, and Harold Brobst, all incumbents. Francis Shonk and Edwin Delaney are candidates on the Democrat ballot.

Four councilmen will be elected in Harveys Lake Borough for four year terms. On the Democrat ballot are

Thomas Mack, Rodney F. Sennett, Ellsworth Croop, and Guy Giordano. Robert Wintersteen, Margaret Purcell, Robert DeRemer, and Fred Merrill Jr., are the candidates on the Republican ballot.

**Vote  
November 4**



The Hon. Robert J. Hourigan