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# THE DALLAS POST

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DALLAS, PA.

TWENTY CENTS

## Hearing set Dec. 31 on homicide

James W. Haddle of Kunkle, charged with criminal homicide in the death of David M. Hodge, Kingston, on Dec. 23, was released on \$25,000 bail Dec. 24, following a hearing before President Judge Bernard C. Brominski at Luzerne County Courthouse.

Haddle was freed according to the DA's office, pending a hearing set for Dec. 31, at 2 p.m. before District Magistrate Earl Gregory of Shavertown, to answer the charge of criminal homicide as cited by Dallas Twp. Police. The hearing will be held to establish whether or not there is sufficient evidence to hold Haddle for trial.

Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers said Haddle was arrested on the

evening of Dec. 23 on the general charge of criminal homicide following an argument at the Haddle home which resulted in Hodge's fatal injury.

An autopsy was conducted at the Mercy Hospital by Dr. George E. Hudock, Jr., Luzerne County coroner, who attributed Hodge's death to a fractured skull due to kicking.

Hodge was a native of Augurn, N.Y., and moved to this area with his family several years ago, residing first in West Pittston and moving to Kingston three months ago. He is survived by his widow and six children.

Investigation in the homicide is being conducted by Police Chief Carl Miers and Patrolman Douglas H. Lamoreux. Assisting in the

investigation are Sgt. Sev Newberry, Dallas Borough; Lt. Donald Dorris, Troopers Michael Jordan, Joseph Brozina, and William Koschinsky of the Pennsylvania State Police, Wyoming; District Atty. Patrick Toole, Luzerne Co. Coroner Eugene Hudock, Chief Deputy Coroner Joseph Shaver, and Deputy Coroner Richard Disque.

Monday confirmed that Haddle was a patient in the hospital for undisclosed reasons and his condition was reported as 'good'. A spokesman from the Rural Health Clinic reported that Haddle had been a patient of the Noxen office in April but reports from patients treated during the past week had not yet been sent into the main office in Wilkes-Barre.



HAPPY NEW YEAR—Dec. 29, 1966. The Post wished its readers a successful and happy New Year. This year we again wish the best of everything for 1976.

## 1976 budget adopted Monday for Dallas Twp.

Dallas Township supervisors adopted the 1976 budget Monday night at a special meeting held in the township building. The supervisors announced there would be no increase in taxes, that the present 3 mills will remain in effect.

Dallas Township has a total of \$270,000 in the General Fund.

The supervisors authorized Township Solicitor Frank Townend to draw up an ordinance for 35 mile speed limit signs to be posted on Lower Demunds Road from Moore's Store to Demunds Corners.

The township reorganization meeting will be held Jan. 5, 7-30 p.m., at the township municipal building.

## Jackson Twp. adopts budget

Jackson Township supervisors adopted the 1976 budget and approved payment of current bills at a special meeting Monday night at the Township Fire Hall.

The budget was adopted with no increase in millage for the coming year.

A reorganization meeting will be held Jan. 5, 1976 and the first regular meeting will be held Feb. 2.

## Commonwealth strike continues

Another mediation session between striking workers of the Communication Workers of America and Commonwealth Telephone Co. ended Monday after about three hours of discussion with no progress, according to a Commonwealth spokesperson.

Charles McHugh of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service called the meeting at the Hotel Sterling in Wilkes-Barre. No additional meetings had been scheduled as of Monday afternoon, although

McHugh will be in touch with both parties.

Service is continuing with management performing the duties of the striking employees. The company spokesperson said that no difficulties were encountered with the heavy load of calls on Christmas Day, even though the company handled more calls than it did the previous year. She pointed out that management personnel performing other functions are now more familiar with those duties and that since most long-

distance calls are direct-dialed, operators are not needed.

Union spokesman Robert Mack could not be contacted for comment on the latest negotiation session. Commonwealth is still standing on an offer of a 9.4 per cent across-the-board wage increase with increases in fringe benefits, while the union negotiators reportedly are asking for a 12.5 percent across-the-board increase, and better vacation and sick leave benefits.

The workers went on strike Saturday, Dec. 13.



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS—A group of Back Mountain residents under the leadership of Mike and Jeanine Wood have been singing Christmas Carols at Back Mountain Convalescent home for the past several years. Above, members of the group are shown at Smith's Nursing Home at Noxen. 1st row, left to right, are Mrs. and Mr. Mike Wood; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Austin; Alice Niskey; Mrs. Shep Pauling; H. Davis; J. Conaway; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ertley. 2nd row, Russell Andrews, Mrs. Gail Andrews; Joan and Walt Davidson; Mr. and Mrs. George J. Parrs; Jay P. Niskey; Shep Pauling, Mary Ann Ruggles, Fred Ruggles. Seated, Beatrice Scupin on Santa Pete Austin's lap; Elizabeth Taylor, Mary Roberts; Francis Stanitsis.

## Bicentennial Flashback

# Congress asks Susquehanna parties to 'cease hostilities'

ED. NOTE: This article is the first in an exclusive Dallas Post-Mountaintop Eagle bicentennial series which presents the historical development of the areas of Luzerne County during the 1776 founding of the nation. The facts are presented in a newspaper style as if happening and reported at the time they occurred. Background facts are obtained from various historical documents available in the area and are thought to be accurate.)

DATELINE WESTMORELAND (Dec. 20, 1775) The Continental Congress today passed a resolution urging contending parties for the lands on the waters of the Susquehanna River to "immediately cease all hostilities and avoid every appearance of force."

Congress asked settlers from

Connecticut and Pennamite origins who have been contending over the region for a number of years to "behave themselves peacefully" until the dispute can be legally decided and all property "taken and detained" can be restored to the original owners.

The congressional measure also asked that parties to the dispute avoid molesting persons or property from the other faction and "that things be put in the situation they were before the late unhappy contest."

The dispute focussed against New England "Yankees" residing in the Westmoreland area and has involved armed men, several raids and "arrests" by Pennamites of Lackaway. A threatened incursion by Col. William Plunkett's Pennamite forces into Wyoming Valley led Westmoreland representatives to

submit depositions to the congress on Dec. 18.

The Connecticut General Assembly, meeting in New Haven, during its October session authorized the New England settlers to organize as the 24th Regiment, Connecticut Militia, for the defense of the region.

Line officers named for the military group's organization included Capt. Nathaniel Landon, Lt. George Dorrance and Ensign Asahel Buck for the Second Company, located in the Kingston District; Capt. Stephen Harding, Lt. Elisha Scovell and Ensign John Jenkins Jr. for the Seventh Company in the vicinity of Exeter and Providence; Capt. Samuel Ransom, Lt. Peren Ross, and Ensign Asaph Whittlesey for the Third Company in the Plymouth District; and Capt. Stephen Fuller, Lt. John

# A review of 1975

If archaeologists of the future attempt to reconstruct life in the Back Mountain during 1975 from the pages of the Dallas Post they'll learn a lot about sewers and roads.

During the year the financial and construction woes of the Harvey's Lake municipal sewer authority and Glace and Glace construction engineers was extensively reported. So was the Carverton Road reconstruction progress and the problems of the general contractor on that job—Wyoming Sand and Gravel.

A variety of school issues and other local governmental activities were also conspicuous during the year.

In January, the Dallas Post returned to publication under new management, Pennaprint Inc. Former Tunkhannock resident Ray Carlsen, editor and publisher of Pennaprint, announced that three newspapers (the Dallas Post,) the Mountaintop Eagle, and the (Abington Journal) formerly owned by former Gov. William Scranton's Greenstreet News Co., would resume publication after an interruption of four weeks.

Local high school educators saw little change in disciplinary procedures following Supreme Court decision. The court held that no student may be expelled unless given the chance to explain his side of the story.

Northeastern Pennsylvania (Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Monroe counties) unemployment rose for the fourth straight month.

During February, the Lake Lehman High School Band was invited to compete in National Blossom Festival to be held May 11th at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Luzerne County Planning Commission claimed the Back Mountain area will need small urban parks by 1990 and the Harvey's Lake Sewer Authority discussed feasibility of sewerage residents of boat houses.

Local pharmacists objected to new state initiated PAID prescription program for welfare recipients, during February and the new Back Mountain jaycee chapter was presented its official charter. Local car dealers were optimistic following end of one month rebate period. In March, Kingston Township Policeman Sgt. William Pugh sought Dallas Kiwanis Women's aid in fighting potential Back Mountain drug problem. The Dallas Borough Council unanimously approved rezoning a portion of Powderhorn Estates to a residential area.

Also in March, Jackson Township adopted 10 a.m. curfew for all children under 18 years of age. Lake Lehman High School students ranked high on an evaluation by Middle States Association education committee.

The sewerage of boathouses was deemed necessary at Harvey's Lake by the Pennsylvania attorney general, during March. Back Mountain athletic directors felt that the Commonwealth Court's decision to strike down a PIAA clause denying high school girls' access to interscholastic team competition with boys could ham girls' participation in varsity sports.

Also in March, the Dallas School Board decided to close and sell the Shavertown Elementary School located on Route 309 and W. Center St. In April, the Dallas High School was burglarized. On March 31 the Dallas

Order of the Eastern Star celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Kingston Township narcotics officer Sgt. William Pugh claimed Back Mountain reaction to his previous comments concerning the existence of a "drug culture" in the area confirmed his contention.

Dallas Township Supervisory Board authorized the takeover of three roads in Applewood Manor.

Dallas Township DAMA representative John Hibbard claimed the inclusion of water authority under DAMA for the Back Mountain is very unlikely. Kingston Township Supervisors opposed potential Public

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## Dr. Gittens heads Retreat State Hospital

Dr. George E. Gittens was recently appointed to the position of superintendent of Retreat State Hospital, announced Mrs. Kathryn S. McKenna, deputy secretary of the Department of Public Welfare's Northeastern Region.

Dr. Gittens has served as acting superintendent of the Hunlock Creek facility for the mentally disabled since June 1, 1975.

In his new position, the superintendent will work with the Regional Welfare Office staff, the Retreat State Hospital Board of Trustees and the employees of the institution in insuring the best possible care and services for the patients at the Hospital. He will directly supervise the hospital's administration including financial management, the provision of support and professional services, and staff supervision consistent with Department regulations.

Prior to his appointment at Retreat, Dr. Gittens served as a special assistant of mental health and medical and psychiatric services in the Office of Mental Health and Medical Services for the Department of Public Welfare.

Dr. Gittens is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.