

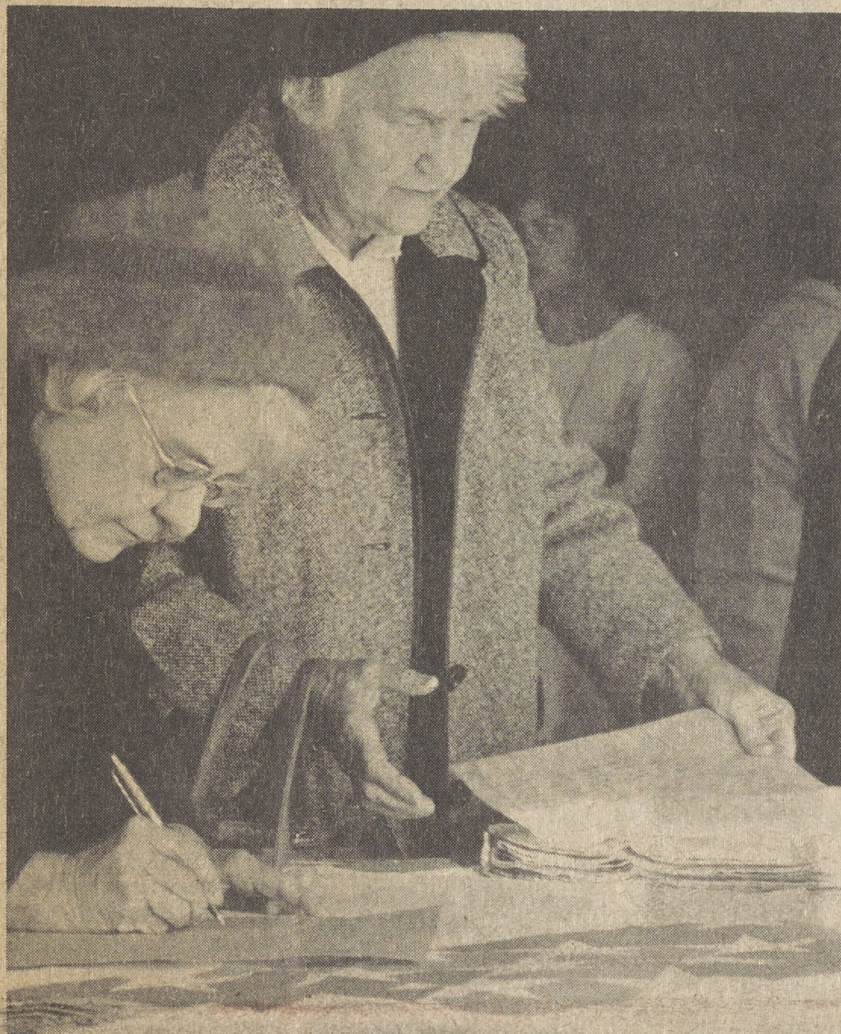
THE DALLAS POST

VOL. 86 NO. 51

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976

DALLAS, PA.

TWENTY CENTS



FIRST SIGNER—June MacCloskey, Dallas, is shown signing the Declaration of Independence at the Dallas Township Bicentennial ceremonies last Saturday while Blanche Thompson looks on. Miss MacCloskey's ancestor, Robert Morris, signed the first Declaration in 1776. See story on P. 4.

Dallas announces Bicentennial program

Mrs. Robert Hughes, chairman of Dallas Borough Bicentennial Commission, has announced that Dallas Borough has been recognized as an official Bicentennial community. An official American Revolution Bicentennial flag and certificate will be presented to borough officials on Jan. 20 at 7:45 p.m., at the borough building by Luzerne County Bicentennial officials. The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

The first official event will be an

ecumenical service sponsored by the Back Mountain Ecumenical Council. The service will close out a year of observance of Christian Unity with a bicentennial theme.

The service will be conducted by Dr. Clarence Goen of Wesley Seminary, Washington, D.C. He will speak on "The American Revolution as a Religious Revival." Rev. Steven McGough, president of the Back Mountain Clergy, invites all area residents to attend.

At a recent meeting of Dallas

Elston plans to rebuild tire company

"We will rebuild and open our tire service as soon as possible. We are working on it now. I have too many faithful employees to close down and walk away from it all," said Ray Elston, owner of Elston Tire Service, Memorial Highway, Dallas.

Elston's building and business along the highway was heavily damaged in a general alarm fire in the early morning hours last Saturday in four degrees below zero weather.

More than 75 volunteers from five Back Mountain fire companies turned out to battle the flames which

destroyed more than two thirds of the building.

Three automobiles and a truck were saved by the quick response of the Dallas, Shavertown, Trucksville, Kunkle and Lehman Fire Companies. Adjacent buildings were also successfully protected by the fire fighters.

Dallas fire chief Don Shaffer reported that the fire was spotted by a young man on his way home from work and an alarm turned in about 3:30 a.m. When the chief arrived at the fire about five minutes later, flames were pouring out of the doors, windows and roofs at the left corner of

the building.

Chief Shaffer said that they were lucky to save the most of the contents of the building but one truck was destroyed.

"We had the use of a huge water tank of Valley Offset Paperback. The concern allowed us to use 500,000 gallons of water in battling the fire. We were taking 1,000 gallons a minute at the height of the fire," said Shaffer.

The firemen were hampered in battling the blaze by the icy highway.

Shaffer confirmed that repeated calls were made to PennDOT at Bear Creek requesting that they send a truck with cinders but no truck came

out until nearly noon. In the meantime, he commended the Dallas Township road department who came on the scene about 8:50 a.m. to cinder the highway which was dangerous.

The police tried to contact Tony Madden of Luzerne, state road caretaker, but were unable to reach him by phone.

Shaffer said that the state police fire marshal investigated and, from what he could determine, the fire was caused by heating tape wrapped around a water pipe right inside the front door. The state police are continuing their investigation.

No strike progress

A mediation session between striking workers of the Communication Workers of America and Commonwealth Telephone Co. ended Tuesday afternoon after four or five hours of discussion with no progress made, according to a Commonwealth representative.

Charles McHugh of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service called the meeting for 11 a.m. in the office of Gov. Milton Schapp in Harrisburg. Representatives of the company and management were vice presidents Paul Mazza and John A. Heller.

The union spokesman said that McHugh planned to schedule more meetings but no date was announced this afternoon.

Members of six locals of the Communications Workers of America are involved in the strike but service

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RAGING FLAMES—Firemen from five Back Mountain Fire Companies turned out in sub-zero weather to fight the fire which destroyed two-thirds of Ray Elston's Tire Service early Saturday morning.

What do Back Mt. officials foresee during 1976?

by Charlot Denmon

What lies ahead for local municipalities for 1976? What

opportunities, problems or programs do community officials foresee.

Jerry Machell, president of Dallas

Borough council, said he anticipated a good economic year. He said the Dallas council if prepared to meet an anticipated population growth within the borough and plans to place emphasis on improving the recreation facilities.

The borough president said he foresees no great problems because most have been resolved throughout past years.

The one great expectation of the council is that the recently appointed planning consultant will be able to obtain financial support in improving the overall picture of Main Street, especially those businesses which

lookout at the highway.

The opportunities within the borough are many with it being centrally located with easy access to bus service, good sewage facilities, recreation facilities and above average school bus transportation.

The one problem borough council hopes to see resolved in 1976 is that of a fire company building.

Police protection is more than adequate with above average coverage provided by four full time and five part time officers encompassing the entire borough area.

Fred Fielding, chairman of Jackson Township Supervisors, stated that

there has been a steady increase in population in his township since 1970 with an average of 12 to 15 new homes constructed each year. If economy remains as usual he anticipates development along the same lines.

The supervisors plan to keep the township a residential area and adopted their 1976 budget without an increase in taxes.

Fielding was not certain in which direction the supervisors will move as far as emphasis on special projects is concerned. With a minority member on the board this year, some things may be done differently than previously.

The supervisors plan to continue their improvement of township roads as needed without going overboard. Jackson Township has a good road crew and Fielding is sure the men will continue their good work.

Despite some difficulty in getting off the ground, he feels the township has capable police protection and that the supervisors are obligated to see that it continues.

Overall, he said he foresees Jackson Township progressing as it has in the past five years.

The Kingston Township Supervisors

(Continued on page sixteen)

Franklin supervisors say 'no' to new taxes

Franklin Township supervisors said taxes will remain the same in their township during 1976. The decision was announced following a reorganization meeting last week.

Chairman Alex Matukitis said taxes will continue at the same rate as those in effect during 1975, including a six mill property tax, five dollar per capita tax, 1/2 per cent earned income tax, and 1/2 per cent real estate transfer tax.

During the reorganization meeting, the supervisors reappointed township officials to their respective posts. Matukitis will continue as chairman of the board of supervisors; Russell Race will continue as vice chairman and township roadmaster; Harold Hoover is secretary-treasurer; Richard Bartholemew continues as police chief; solicitor is John Morriss III.

Appointed to a five year term on the zoning commission was Donald Searfoss. Ray Turner Jr. will serve a three year term on the zoning hearing board. Robert Morgan is zoning officer and Harry Yatsko is sewage enforcement officer. The Don

Wilkinson Agency is earned income tax collector for the township.

All Franklin Township supervisors regular meeting are held the first Monday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Orange Methodist Church.

by Bob Kelley, President Back Mt. Jaycees

Across the state, across the nation, young men from all walks of life will next Sunday begin celebrating Jaycee week.

Annually set aside as the time when Jaycees celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and begin planning the many areas in which the organization will become involved during the coming year, Jaycee Week has also evolved into a membership campaign to extend the opportunities of being a Jaycee to other young men.

Locally, the Back Mountain Jaycees have much to celebrate. Having come into existence less than one year ago they have quickly earned the respect and recognition of the communities they serve as well as that of other area service clubs. In nearly every community-wide event in the past year, the Back Mountain Jaycees were called on to serve.

Both behind-the-scenes and on center stage the Jaycees served in such events as the Folk Arts Festival, the Library Auction, the Luzerne County Fall Fair, the "Up With People" concert, the Bicentennial

Kickoff, and a myriad of other events. Organizers learned of the dependability and willingness to work which is so much a part of the local Jaycee philosophy.

The Back Mountain Jaycees got involved in other things too: the children's films shown monthly to the delight of as many as 500 kids; bimonthly recycling campaigns for glass and aluminum; the Toby's Creek clean-up which netted some four tons of assorted trash in a 1/4 mile stretch of the stream; blood donations to a Scranton man in desperate need.

"The best thing about the Back

Mountain Jaycees" said President Bob Kelley "is that 50 young men who one year ago hardly knew each other, are now friends working together toward the same goal—a better community."

How does one become a Jaycee? Membership Chairman Joe Stager answered this way: "Any young man between the ages of 18 and 35 is welcome to join. It does not matter if he is married or single, nor what he does for a living."

Contrary to the belief that the Jaycees is essentially a white-collar

club, the local organization represents a good cross-section of the community. More than half of the members work in a trade, a few are businessmen, several are professionals, and some are unemployed.

"When all these people are assembled to exchange ideas," added Stager, "the results are often profound—and we have a lot of fun!"

The Back Mountain Jaycees will meet again on Tuesday, Jan. 20th at 8 p.m. at the Brothers Four Restaurant, now called "Hearthstone Pub."