

## GROSSMAN

by Howard J. Grossman

The life style of a neighborhood, community, or region is often dictated by the quality of its design. A strong factor in attracting new economic development and encouraging a better quality of life is the design feature built into facilities, buildings, and the landscape.

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, the sensitivity to design has often been lacking, and a real gap exists between the creation of ideas and the eventual transference of an idea to the landscape. In many cases, we have not taken the time to develop an appreciation of design and its impact on community livability.

Many surveys have shown that the overall community appearance and beautification of areas within Northeastern Pennsylvania is rated as the number one priority for substantial improvement and treatment in order to permanently create the overall improvement of the region.

## THE SENATE SIDE

by Sen. T. Newell Wood

Two companion bills, centering on reform of the Public Utility Commission, are now in final stages for passage in the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

The consumer-oriented measures, which I have cosponsored, are Senate Bills 1216 and 1217. Together they comprise a package that is of special concern to all utility customers in the state.

They are important because of recent events in which the Public Utility Commission authorized two sister firms, Pennsylvania Electric Company and Metropolitan Edison Company, to recover about \$32 million in retroactive rate hikes. The retroactive problem, caused by the PUC's year-long delay in approving a permanent rate, produced a tidal wave of angry protests throughout the regions they serve. In response to the outcry, we here in the general assembly accelerated work on the utility-reform bills.

The bills, which have now emerged from a Senate-House conference committee, prohibit what I believe is a most obnoxious provision, the retroactive rate hike. Under present procedures the PUC can award a temporary rate increase to a utility firm. Then, over the course of the following 11 months, the commission can grant a permanent and higher rate. In such situations, it then allows the companies to recover the difference between the temporary rate and the permanent one that it approves at a later time. I am very much opposed to that procedure.

The new utility-reform package specifically forbids this practice. Under the provisions of the new laws,

## Quality of design

Recently some steps have been taken in the city of Scranton and elsewhere to establish a better appreciation of design. The local chapter of the American Institute of Architects has endorsed efforts to create a better community image through improved design and neighborhood preservation. The Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs is undertaking to obtain a federal grant to once again promote as a major priority neighborhood preservation throughout Pennsylvania.

Public awareness or appreciation of design as a quality factor in the overall development of a community remains a large issue, and much more should be done to encourage public participation in the use of architecture, landscape architecture, and other disciplines to accomplish an improved quality of design.

Citizen advisory boards or committees officially established by local units of governments or the use

of local planning commissions many of which already exist in Northeastern Pennsylvania may be a route to follow toward improved quality of design. While it is next to impossible to legislate esthetics, it may be useful to have further public participation in design considerations as new projects evolve throughout the region.

One of the best places to start would be at the elementary and secondary school level through community development and or urban and regional planning courses which could be offered in conjunction with ongoing tuition in each school district of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is one organization available to provide technical assistance in establishing these types of courses and in encouraging a quality of design which will feature an improved quality of life for our regional residents, present and future.

## EDITORIAL

## The chief question

No one is issuing any official explanation for the abrupt resignation of Dallas Police Chief Ray Titus a couple of weeks ago. Although gossip is rampant, it may be that the information is not essential to public well being, except as an item of morbid curiosity.

But we believe the borough council retains some general responsibility in the matter which requires their review of the situation.

If the rumors regarding the chief's resignation are untrue, then the council has permitted the maligning of the man unjustly—and the matter

could be set straight with the truth.

If the rumors are true—then the council has to consider its obligations to the public. Was the matter investigated promptly when first indications of a problem were submitted? If not, the council could be vulnerable to civil liability if a lawsuit is filed by persons with a legal interest in the matter.

In addition, the borough council needs to consider what it must do to preclude the alleged situation from recurring. Are police recruiting procedures, supervision, and intradepartmental relations what

they should be?

No one envies the position of the council in delicate matters such as these. But once in the positions they occupy, it is essential that council officials be responsive to the public and fully obliged to the requirements of office.

It's been our experience that no Back Mountain police agency was as "closed" to public information as the Dallas Borough Police—and this is the type of situation which is most vulnerable to problems of government.

## ONLY YESTERDAY

40 years ago-September 25, 1936

Sen. A. J. Sordani this week purchased the Shemansi farm increasing his land holdings at Harveys Lake to 1,500 acres. He will raise chickens on the new tract, he said, building special coops and starting with 2,000 poultry.

The Dallas Junior Women's Club Glee Club made its first appearance on Monday night when it appeared before the Township PTA.

Spirited contests over local option will dominate the Fall election in four local communities—Lake Twp., Dallas Borough, Dallas Twp., and Kingston Twp.

A system of student government has been instituted at the Dallas Borough High School, it was announced by Principal Harry L. Tennyson this week.

Fifteen prizes await the winners of the Post's 10-week Most Popular Baby Contest, who will be announced this Saturday.

Coach Ernest Line's Dallas Borough High School football team will open its season this afternoon against Tunkhannock, ancient rival of the local squad. Kingston Township will continue its series with Wyoming Valley High Schools, playing Meyers High School.

Mrs. Emma Shaver, Mrs. Lott Thompson, Thomas Knorr, and Mrs. Hattie Stevens, made the 1280-mile, three day trip to Callendar, Canada, to visit the Dionne quintuplets.

More than 1,000 persons turned out to see the donkey baseball contest, sponsored by the Dallas American Legion. The score ended in a 1-1 tie. Married-Marion Virginia Mills to Walter S. Steelman, Jr.

You could get-Fresh pork butts, 27 cents lb.; center cut chuck roast, 19 cents lb.; tub butter, 2 lb. 75 cents; yellow onions, 10 lb. 35 cents; sweet potatoes, 10 lb. 25 cents; celery hearts, 2 for 15 cents; spaghetti or macaroni, 4 lbs. 25 cents.

30 years ago-September 27, 1946

Work is moving on schedule at the new Natona Mills plant along Memorial Highway, Dallas.

Niles Hess, age 2, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Niles Hess, Trucksville, was seriously injured when he fell from the Hess' car, then was struck by an approaching car driven by Fuller Dymond.

Harry Harding, Trucksville, is in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital as a result of first and second degree burns received following a spontaneous gasoline explosion in the basement workshop of his home.

Lehman High School appointed Edward F. Hendericks, teacher of math and science, and Virginia King as teacher of social studies and as librarian.

Harveys Lake Light Company cut down the huge old oak tree standing at the corner of Harris Hill Road and School Street.

Dallas Legionaires defeated Jackson to the tune of 6-2 in one of the best exhibition games played at the Jackson diamond.

Now playing at local theatre—"The Spiral Staircase," Dorothy McGuire, George Brent, Ethel Barrymore.

## On PUC reform

all utilities, except transportation firms, will file for general rate increases to take effect in 60 days after the date of filing. If the commission does not take action on the boost within that 60-day span, the increase is automatically suspended for a period not to exceed seven months.

If the PUC has still not handed down an order by the end of the full suspension period of nine months, the rate hike will go into effect. However, the PUC could come up with a final order at a later date and could order refunds of overpayments, plus interest at the prevailing home-mortgage rates.

This is only part of the consumer-protection features which we have built into the measures. Another provision deals with fuel adjustment clauses.

The PUC is required to keep a careful watch over the operations of the fuel-adjustment clauses. An annual audit may be carried out either by PUC personnel or by independent auditors who are knowledgeable in the field.

Within five months after the annual audit, the commission must review the clauses and the amounts collected from them. The PUC is authorized to intervene in cases of overcharges or under-collections.

Because the bills greatly increase the range of the PUC's duties and powers, the commission will need more money for operational purposes. The commission's budget is derived from an assessment of two-tenths of one percent of the total intrastate operating revenues collected by utility firms. The assessment will be

increased to three-tenths of one percent, with a provision for a supplemental assessment to initiate the commission's expanded programs.

The utility-reform bills also raise the salaries of the five members of the commission. The PUC members now draw \$24,000 a year, and the commission chairman receives \$25,000. These are considered part-time positions, and the commissioners often engage in outside law practices or other forms of employment.

Now, however, the commissioners must spend full-time at their duties and are, therefore, barred from accepting outside employment. On January 1, 1977, their salaries will jump to \$35,000 a year (with a salary of \$37,500 for the chairman); one year later, the salary levels will be boosted by another \$5,000.

Other sections of the bill will establish minimum hearing procedures such as those used in courts and on federal levels, and they will permit full participation in the proceedings by individual customers and consumer groups.

In addition, there will be a central bureau to receive consumer complaints and to assure prompt action on these complaints. Utilities also will be required to file annual conservation reports to assure that the companies are taking full advantage of new technology.

In summary, the PUC will be given the authority and the resources to carry out its expanded responsibilities. If it fails to perform these new duties, it will be among the first to find out why and to take the necessary action. These reforms are too important and are long overdue.

## MY TYPEWRITER TALKS

## Carpet beater

by the Rev. Charles H. Gilbert

I wonder how many of you remember back to when your chief house-cleaning tool was the broom! Carpet sweeper, perhaps; carpet beater—I did a lot of that when I was trying to "work my way" through school.

I think it was in 1910 or 11 that I tried to make some money demonstrating and selling, if possible, the thing called a vacuum cleaner. It seems to me that it must have been very early in the dawn of civilization! I found myself not trying so much to sell the machine as to sell the idea of cleaning by vacuum.

That first vacuum cleaner was a awkward looking contraption; in the first place it was hand-powered, no motor. The machine, however, was a very powerful thing. The idea was to draw by suction the household dirt not only from the top of the carpet but even from the floor and up through the carpet, deposit it in a can of about two gallon capacity, and later empty it out.

This was the way it was constructed; the can had suspended from the inside of the cover a cloth sack; in the top of the can was a hose attachment; to the hose was connected the wand, a tube of metal; at the floor end was a slotted implement through which the dirt was drawn from the floor, through the wand and hose into the porous cloth bag inside the can cover.

At the top of the can was a glass "window" through which you could see the dirt cloud hurrying to get out of that carpet, into the sack. The dirt came swooping up the hose in a mighty wind, the harmless and almost clean air going out the exhaust into the room again.

The lady of the house was sure that was too lazy a way to clean. At that point however, she had not yet manipulated that wand nor the handle on the pump. One lady, when she invited me in to demonstrate, was kind enough to tell me that I need not try it on the part of the carpet she had already cleaned with a broom. Of course not, why waste labor on what was already clean? But I just wanted to show her that she had not really

cleaned that strip of carpet after all.

That was right disgraceful of me to try to show her that her method, hard work as it was, still left a cloud of dust in and under the carpet! "Lady, you just watch that little window while I run this handle back and forth operating the pump and with the other hand pass the wand back and forth across the rug." She didn't appreciate that at all.

As a demonstrator I was expert in holding that wooden platform on which the pump and can were fastened; my weight in those days held the thing steady. Then I could put the machine under my right arm and hold it against my hip while I steered my bike with my left hand and pedaled on to the next house for another demonstration.

I still think that pump was a marvel of perfection, for it had the toughest

vacuum I ever saw in an air pump.

You put your hand over the end of the pipe where the hose went on and you could stop the pump. I worked! I did a lot of house cleaning in those days while demonstrating. But neither that nor my talking and smiling sold any machines for the Cyclone Vacuum Cleaner Company. People did finally believe in the principle of cleaning house by suction. I haven't watched anybody beat a carpet on the clothesline in years!

I didn't need to write an article to convince you dear readers that this is the way to clean your carpets. I know that you young housewives learned it from your mothers and you'll teach it to your children. If you think that today any child of yours is about to volunteer his services in beating the dirt out of your carpets... well, if I know your children they will all prefer to buy you a modern vacuum cleaner!

## Hanson raps Shupnik vote aiding Shapp veto

Dan Hanson, candidate for the State Legislature from the 4th District, today charged incumbent Fred Shupnik with failure to support legislation designed to create thousands of new jobs in the Commonwealth.

Hanson made the statement after Shupnik

voted not to override the governor's veto of House Bill 605 which is designed to ease the tax system for corporations in an effort to foster new employment.

"Presently the laws regarding the payment of state taxes place an undue financial strain on business and industry," Hanson

said. "These businesses and firms must pay 90 per cent of their prior year's state tax in advance.

"House Bill 605 would have allowed business and industry to pay State taxes in a type of installment plan, with 25 per cent of the tax due every three months."

"The result of this legislation would be very beneficial to the business climate in Pennsylvania," Hanson said.

"This legislation was an honest attempt to bolster Pennsylvania's sagging economy but Fred Shupnik and the Shapp Administration voted it down."

## CM plans student open house

All area high school students and their parents are being invited to visit the College Misericordia campus in Dallas this Sunday afternoon for the college's annual open house.

According to a spokesman for the college, the campus will be open to the public from 2 to 5 that afternoon. Among the activities scheduled are campus tours, entertainment, and informal discussions with both faculty

and administration at the college.

Prospective college students will have the opportunity to review facilities, meet with faculty members in the discipline in which they are interested, and obtain complete information on admissions policies and requirements.

In addition, the college will provide refreshments and entertainment by Ferdinand Liva, director of the Sinfonia da Camera

chamber orchestra.

For the general public, College Misericordia bills open house as "a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon." The campus is particularly beautiful in the fall, the spokesman remarked, with the variety of flora on campus arrayed in

full fall glory.

All visitors are asked to stop at Merrick Hall in the center of campus first. All tours will originate from that building. Visitors may take student-guided tours or walk around the campus at their leisure.

## Local options

Engaged-Marjorie Phipps to Stanley D. Shewan.

Married-Hannah Mae Gibbons and Joseph Patrick; Bettie Welsh and P. William Hanna, Jr., Selma Benjamin and Benjamin Winogrodski; Josephine Nichols and Frank J. Besseker.

Deaths-Harry Swithers, Trucksville; Albert Stull, Alderson; W. G. Allen, West Nanticoke; Albert Culbert, Dallas.

You could get-Coffee, 34 cents lb.; orange juice, 2 No. 2 cans, 37 cents; Keebler butter thins, 12-oz. pkg., 24 cents; Lux toilet soap, 3 bars 20 cents; Danish cabbage, 3 cents lb.; sweet potatoes, 3 lbs. 17 cents; cauliflower, extra large head, 15 cents.

20 years ago-September 28, 1956

Kingston Township Police Chief Jesse Coslett withdraws charges against drunken driver despite the posting of \$500 bail and the pronouncement by Dr. R. J. Crompton that the driver was intoxicated. Charges were withdrew while Justice of the Peace Beatrice Williams was on vacation and unable to protest.

Lehman Methodist Church observes its 100 years anniversary. Mrs. John Conyngham gave a \$1,500 organ in memory of her husband.

Lehman-Jackson Ross and Lake-Noxen joint school boards studied tentative set of agreements accepting them in the main without lengthy discussion but questioning the possibility of establishing elementary schools in areas which might become populous.

The paralyzed shepherd pup owned by Bernard Grishaber, stung by yellow jackets 17 days ago, is fighting for his life at Dr. R. C. Post's animal hospital, Shavertown.

Ray Davidson's new sausage plant will be in operation by the end of October.

Fernbrook Mill has been purchased by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund and negotiations with a new industry are nearing completion.

Dallas Ambulance Drive nets \$3,397, with treasurer W.B. Jeter noting that contributions were still coming in.

Now playing at local theatres—"Trapeze," Burt Lancaster, Gina Lollabrigida, Himmler Theatre; "The First Mexican," Joel McCrea, Luzerne Theatre; "Moby Dick," Gregory Peck, Forty Fort Theatre; "Trapeze," Dallas Outdoor Theatre; "The Bold and the Brave," Mickey Rooney, Wendell Corey, Moonlight Drive-In.

Engaged-Gail Eastwood to Francis Barry; Marjorie E. Dewitt and George Swales.

Married-Betty Marie Montross and Robert C. Statnick.

Deaths-George L. Dodson, Shavertown; Mrs. Daisy Cease Wint, Sweet Valley; Clarence S. Neely, Lake Silkworth; Jacob Traver, Ruggles.

You could get-local dressed and drawn fryers, 37 cents lb.; standing rib roast, 59 cents lb.; frozen pineapple juice, 2 6-oz. cans 29 cents; Birds Eye wax beans; 2 1 oz. pkgs., 45 cents; Philadelphia cream cheese, 59

Hanson added that House Bill 650 would that have provided business inducements equally throughout Pennsylvania, instead of the Shapp Administration having to make exotic deals as in the case of the Volkswagen plant in New Stanton, Pennsylvania.

## THE DALLAS POST

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An independent newspaper published each Thursday by Pennaprint, Inc. from 44 Main Street, Dallas, Pa. 18612. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Dallas, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions, 59 per year. Telephone 475-5211 or 425-4866. POSTMASTER: If undeliverable please send Form 3574 to P. O. Box 346, Dallas, Pa. 18612.

MEMBER  
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## Town meeting

to hold another town meeting to continue to discuss the recreation problems and that the suggestions made at these meetings be sent to community officials. The next town meeting will be held after Jan 1, 1977. More information may be obtained from Mrs. Alan Landis, Shavertown.

The town meeting committee included, Mrs. Landis, Mrs. David Perry, Mrs. John Oravit, Mrs. Edmund Narkiewicz, Mrs. Charles Parente, Mrs. William Parrish, Mrs. Clarence Michael, Mrs. Charles Hillard, Mrs. Evan Bonawitz, Mrs. William Davies, Mrs. John Keneally, Mrs. Hank Wasilewski, Mrs. Jerry Paxton, Mrs. James Borton and Mrs. Evan Bonawitz.