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# THE DALLAS POST

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1977

DALLAS, PA.

TWENTY CENTS

## Council appoints

### Robert Post

#### as mayor

Robert Post of Dallas was appointed mayor of Dallas Borough at the borough's council meeting Tuesday night. Post will fill the position left open by the recent death of Stephen Hartman and will serve until January, 1978. Post, who lives on West Center Hill Road, is a former councilman of the borough.

Joan Ogurkis of Dallas Borough Elementary PTO asked president Jerry Machell if council had received an answer to the request for a grant to raze the old elementary building. Machell explained that the only answer to date is a letter noting receipt of the council's request.

Taxpayers at the meeting asked what process had been made on the easement through the Dallas Post Office property. Solicitor Charles Lemmond explained that the land had been removed from the disposal list and would not be sold. He also stated that the postal department will not give it as a gift to any local government and the purchase price is \$7,400.



BOY SCOUT SUNDAY-Troop 232, Gate of Heaven, observed Boy Scout Sunday with a Court of Awards and a family dinner, Feb. 13, beginning at 3 p.m. Walter Weir, III, received the Eagle award, the highest honor in scouting. Left to right, are Rev. Stephen McGough, assistant pastor, Gate of Heaven; Walter Weir, Jr.; Walter, III, Eagle Scout; Mrs. Weir; Rev. Thomas Jordan, pastor, Gate of Heaven; and Robert Cartier, leader.

Charlot Denmon

## Dallas board reduces tax collector commission

Dallas School Board members Monday voted to reduce the commission rate paid to tax collectors of the municipalities within the district in order to establish a fair compensation.

A base compensation is required by the Pennsylvania School Code but Finance chairman Earl Fritzges stated that since all of the municipalities have elected tax collectors it would not be fair to establish a base salary since some of the officials serve larger areas than others.

The newly approved commission rates are two per cent during the discount period, three percent during the 60-day period, and four percent during the penalty period until an annual salary of \$15,000 is reached. The rates would then be one percent during the discount period, one and a half percent during the 60-day period and two percent during the penalty period.

A resolution was also adopted to notify H.A. Berkheimer Associates that the district is exercising its option

not to automatically renew its contract with the collection agency to collect the one percent wage tax when the contract runs out June 30, 1977. This does not necessarily mean the district will not retain Berkheimer but it will not automatically do so.

The directors also approved a resolution to receive sealed quotations for the interest rate and terms on a five-year temporary loan in the sum of \$800,000 for the purpose of remodeling and renovating the Westmoreland Elementary School, to include the heating system, exterior window walls and doors, electrical system, ceilings and lighting, lavatories, classrooms, and addition of cafeteria serving area, lavatories and learning resource area.

Superintendent of Schools Linford A. Werkheiser stated that due to the days lost during the energy crisis, classes will be held Feb. 21 instead of being closed for President's Day.

The directors also adopted a resolution to advertise to receive sealed proposals for conducting a

complete door-to-door census enumeration of all residents of the school district.

Gerald Coleman was appointed assistant senior high track coach at the approved rate.

Coaches were approved for fall sports of 1977: football, head coach, Jack Jones; first assistant, Ron Rybak; assistants, George Dombek and Fred Templin; cross country, Louis Isaac, coach; golf, Charles Preece, coach; junior high football head coach, Robert Cicon; assistants, Paul Warshal, Evan Williams.

The cafeteria report for the period ending Jan. 31, 1977, showed a profit of \$3,735.53.

Mrs. Dianne Brennan was appointed as a long-term substitute elementary teacher to replace Mrs. Lois Townsend, effective Feb. 17, 1977. Mrs. Townsend was granted a maternity leave.

Raymond Kuderka, RD 3, Dallas, certified in health and physical education was added to the list of available substitute professional

employees. Kuderka is a graduate of Dallas High School and East Stroudsburg State College. He resides at RD 3, Dallas.

Mrs. Beverly Eyet was appointed as newspaper advisor in the Dallas Junior High School for the 1976-77 school year at the rate of \$175.

Non-residents added to the available substitute list of professional employees were William Jones, Kingston, health and physical education; Mrs. Katherine Hulanick, Courtale, elementary education.

The property committee was instructed to determine appropriate rental terms for the Back Mountain Telecab's use of the sewage treatment plant as a site for their antenna.

Junior varsity basketball player Steve Asby was publicly commended for the manner in which he behaved in a recent basketball game when he was punched in the face by a player on the opposing team. Asby walked away thus avoiding any censure or disciplining of the team.

## Out of work? What can you do?

by Hilda Goldberg

"I've been out of work since the beginning of September and I can tell you, it's been rough. When you have a family, you just can't make it on \$75 a week. That's what I draw in unemployment checks," said John Barrett of Harveys Lake.

John Barrett is not his real name, but his problem is real. He is among the 19.3 percent unemployed residents of Harveys Lake.

John is 28, a high school graduate and he worked last as a mechanic. His wife, 25, has no job experience. They have three pre-school children.

"The place where I used to work went out of business. At first, I wasn't too worried. I knew I was a good mechanic and didn't think I'd have much trouble getting another job," said John. "But, it's been five months now. It's really discouraging."

"Sure," he said, "I go out every day looking for a job. But believe me, the situation is pretty bad."

"Have you seen the lines at the employment office?" said John referring to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Economic Security. "It's scary how so many people are out of work and struggling like I am."

Total estimated unemployment in the Wyoming Valley area reached 17,100 during mid-December, according to Joseph Haley, employment service supervisor of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Economic Security. It was the highest level of unemployment since July, 1976, when 18,200 area residents were without jobs.

During December, unemployment rose by 1,500 as people previously laid off were slow to be called back and others fell victim to seasonal cutbacks.

According to Haley, a majority of the people standing in the long lines at the B.E.S. are employed in the garment industries, the boot and shoe factories and the textile mills. Haley said most of these plants are working only part-time. One of the reasons for the lay-offs and the part-time employment in these industries is a result of trade with other countries.

For instance, the boot and shoe factories import a substantial number of soft soles from outside the U.S.; usually from Japan or Taiwan because labor is cheaper there. And the factories can buy the shoe parts for less they can make them, according to Haley.

Haley said that because of trade with other countries, a new law went into effect on April 3, 1975, to protect workers who lose their jobs or whose hours and wages are reduced. It's called the Trade Act of 1974 or TRA (Trade Readjustment Allowance).

Under TRA, workers whose employment is adversely affected by increased imports may apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance. This includes trade readjustment allowances that provide weekly income for them to live on while they are unemployed or on reduced schedules and a variety of help in preparing for and obtaining new employment. They may be eligible for allowances to enable them to take training away from home when it is unavailable locally; to search for work in other areas; and to move to a new job.

"We just had a lay-off at RCA in Mountaintop because of imports," said Haley. "Over 100 employees are

out of work because RCA is curtailing its production."

"And, of course we have union employees who collect unemployment benefits practically all winter long," said Haley. "These are painters, carpenters, bricklayers."

Haley said that the Wyoming Valley area did not suffer too badly from the fuel crisis. He said that most businesses operate on electricity or steam heat or coal. He said that Hazleton was the hardest hit. As a result, a special grant of \$79,000 from the federal government was given to Human Resources Development to assist in the fuel crisis.

An estimated 40 employees were expected to fill the requirements of the grant. They will work on a month-to-month basis until the grant runs out. The grant employees will work at jobs that will help in any way to offset the gas shortage. The grant jobs include insulating homes and repairing frozen pipes. Forty Fort will be given five of these laborers to help the borough repair underground pipes, according to Haley.

Even though employment is down below last year, Haley said the outlook is good. He said that the three major plants in the Back Mountain area are running full-time. Haley said that "things are picking up with all the redevelopment in the West Side area of Wilkes-Barre. This will mean more new jobs."

Haley gave a brief list of jobs currently available. The list included offset press operator, sewing machine operator, sewing machine repairer, supervisor for garment industry and an opening for a waiter or waitress.

Also, according to the Federal Job Information Center, located in Philadelphia, there are civil service job openings. Presently, the FJIC is accepting applications for clerk typists, stenographers, dental lab technicians, health technicians, nurses, and medical radiology technicians.

In the trades and craft area, the FJIC is accepting applications for air conditioning equipment mechanics, machine operators, electricians, equipment mechanics, electronics mechanics, gardeners, heavy mobile equipment mechanics, machinists and locksmiths.

To qualify for the clerical or technical positions, one must have related experience or education. For the trades and crafts positions, one must have related experience or sufficient training to perform the skills.

Starting salaries range from \$5,810 to \$12,763, depending on position, training, education and experience. For more information concerning these federal jobs, one may call toll free; 1-800-462-4050.

John Barrett may have the opportunity to end his months of unemployment. As an experienced mechanic, he may qualify as an equipment mechanic or as a heavy mobile equipment mechanic for the federal government. Or, he may qualify for the position of sewing machine repairer listed through the Pennsylvania Bureau of Economic Security.

If he doesn't qualify, John will remain among the 17,100 jobless area residents. And, he may be "having it rough" for much longer to come.

## Lake-Lehman adopts contingency plan

Lake-Lehman's school directors responded to the recent energy crisis by adopting a series of guidelines and a contingency plan which will result in the addition of six school days to the 1977 school calendar. This move came at the regularly scheduled school board meeting last Tuesday night.

According to Superintendent of Schools Robert Z. Belles, the unofficial word from the Dept. of Education is that the three days during which school was closed on order of Governor Milton Shapp will be "days of grace" and will not have to be made up. Nonetheless, said Belles, at least six days remain to be made up.

The proposal adopted by the school board calls for days of instruction on Feb. 18, previously set aside for parent-teacher conferences, and Feb. 21, originally slated as a holiday in honor of Presidents' Day. Additionally, the last day of school will now be held June 15, with graduation scheduled the same day and teacher in-service designated for the following day.

For now, reports Belles, Easter vacation will remain the same as scheduled, with the possibility that additional school days lost due to inclement weather will be made up on Holy Thursday (April 7) and Easter Monday (April 11).

In commenting on the extra school days in June, Board President Arnold Garinger stated that "I wouldn't want the kids to go any longer in June than

is absolutely necessary--unless it's required to insure state reimbursement."

In addition to the school calendar change, the directors unanimously approved a contingency plan which provides for split sessions at the senior high school for grades seven through 12.

Because the junior high school is the only building being fueled by natural gas, explained Belles, that building would be closed and approximately 400 junior high students would attend morning sessions at the high school, with students in grades nine through 12 attending afternoon sessions.

Director Angelo DeCesaris criticized the plan initially, stating that he had "serious reservations" about split sessions. His objection was seconded by Director Ed Mark, but in the final vote both school board members voted in favor of the administration's plan.

Robert Allardice, Jackson Township resident, challenged the school board for its failure to apply for "community development funds" which he claimed are available for building programs from the federal government.

"The citizens of this community are being short-changed," Allardice charged, "because there are funds waiting and this school district hasn't even applied for them."

He was contradicted by Superintendent Belles, who argued the community development funds

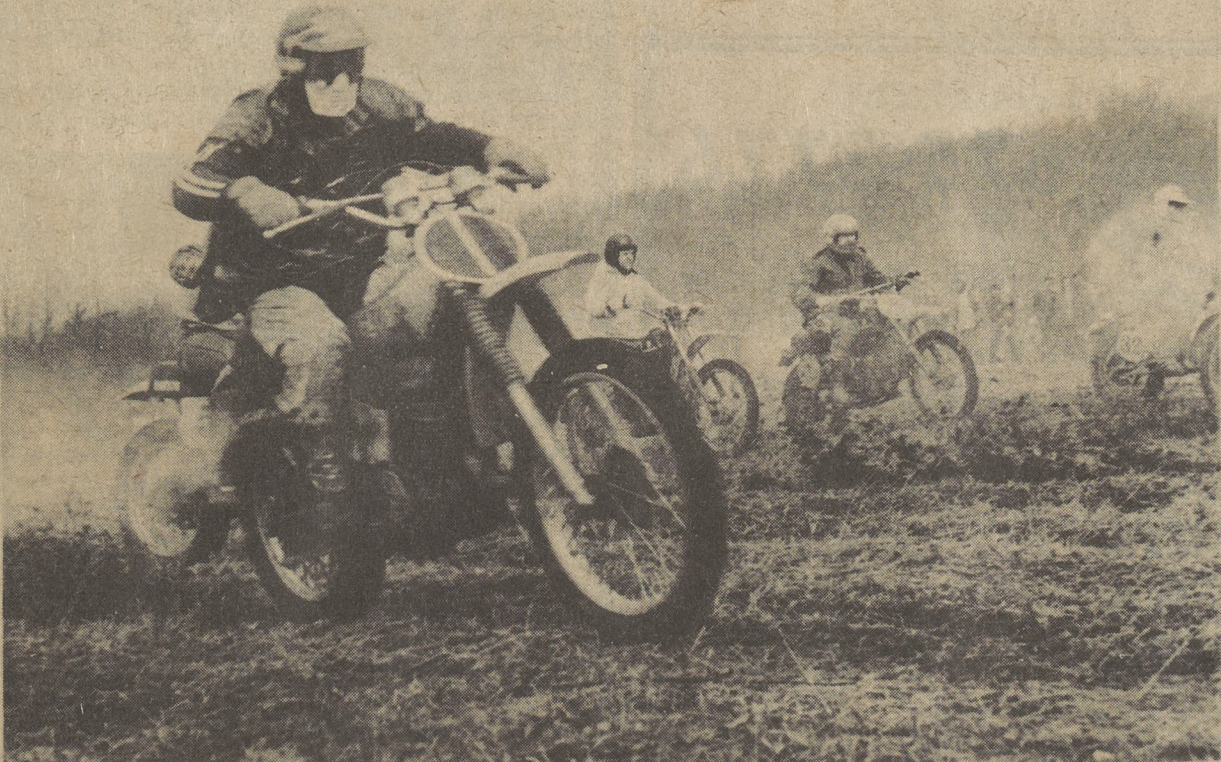
are "not for school districts." Belles in turn was contradicted by Director Mark, who charged that Belles was "dragging his feet" in applying for federal monies which are available under the Public Works Act.

Director DeCesaris suggested that Belles be directed to prepare a listing of all federal funds available to school districts and present this listing at the next school board meeting. Belles indicated he would do this.

Tax collectors in the Lake-Lehman School District who are elected in the municipal elections of 1977 will be reimbursed at a rate of three percent on the first \$100,000 they collect and one percent of whatever remaining sum is collected.

This motion, made on the recommendation of the board's finance committee and presented by Finance Committee Chairperson Gilbert Tough, was first amended by DeCesaris to provide for three percent reimbursement on the first \$125,000 and one percent on the remainder. The amended motion was defeated, however, and the original motion was ultimately approved by a vote of five to two.

According to Tough, the district's search for a business manager is coming to an end. Of the more than 100 applicants for the position, he stated, five candidates have now been interviewed and three of that number will be selected for recommendation to the board.



STARTING LINE-Riders get off to a quick start in Sunday's hare scrambles at Carverton Dirt Track. The weekend thaw made for a lot more mud than dirt. For the

results of the race see story on page 10. (photo by Cheryl Casner Gula)