

# PennDOT pledges "full support" to 309 safety

by Joan Kingsbury

"I assure you, you have the full support of our district office to reach some remedy to the situation here."

This is how PennDOT district engineer Jack Finn replied to Back Mountain residents asking what PennDOT plans to do to make Route 309 a safer place to travel.

A large portion of Wednesday night's meeting of the Kingston

Township Board of Supervisors was devoted to residents comments concerning the area of Route 309 between Center Street and Franklin Street in Shavertown.

Although this area of Route 309 near the Shavertown shopping center has been a problem area for a number of years, the death of nine year old Matthew Segrave-Daley on July 14 while he was attempting to cross the highway has caused citizens to band together and

demand safer conditions.

Among the requests made on a petition circulated by Shavertown resident Carolyn Bulford were installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 309 and Franklin Street with the designation of a pedestrian cross walk; a reduced speed limit in that area; and utilizing already existing caution lights owned by the fire company to help during peak traffic hours.

Circulated throughout the Back Mountain businesses and five churches, Gate of Heaven, St. Therese's, Our Lady of Victory, St. Frances Cabrini and St. Paul's Lutheran, more than 3400 signatures were recorded on these petitions.

Included in comments made by residents were those Arthur Segrave-Daley, father of the boy who was killed, and Col. William Dierolf.

Although he is not a Kingston Township resident, Dierolf noted that he frequently travels this portion of the highway. He urged installation of safety measures stating, "I lost my father at that spot in 1955."

Segrave-Daley stated, "This is a situation we have let get progressively worse. There is no bitterness or rancor in this question, but how many more deaths do we have to have before something is done."

In giving PennDOT's position on the matter Finn stated, "I came here tonight because I am very personally concerned about the problem you have here. It is not as simple as it may appear. From the department's standpoint we have an obligation not only to Kingston Township and its residents but to

the traveling public as well."

Finn stressed that heavy traffic congestion is a severe problem and any attempt to slow down traffic flow will undoubtedly raise an adverse reaction from the traveling public.

Despite this, Finn said, "On the other side of the coin we have this very tragic situation just a few weeks ago and we realize that safety is the primary concern."

Concerning the petition Finn said there would be no problem in reducing the speed limit from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour in the area between Center Street and Frankling Street.

Kingston Twp. Chief of Police Paul Sabol suggested enforcement of no parking on either side of the highway in PennDOT's right of way. Finn agreed that this would help alleviate congestion, and that it would be implemented.

When the idea of installing a solid medial strip was brought up by the supervisors, Finn cautioned that taking this measure could cause protest from businessmen who would be directly affected by it.

Board members claimed that businessmen would not lose business over installation of the median. Ambrose Gavigan pointed out that the area would only require patrons to go approximately one block out of their way, not several miles.

The median will cover a distance of about 1,300 feet and will prevent left turns out of the shopping center and other businesses located in this portion of highway.

When inquiring on progress made following the meeting, Kingston Township Secretary Mark Kunkle noted that the supervisors' petition requesting the speed limit reduction, no parking enforcement and solid medial barrier was sent out

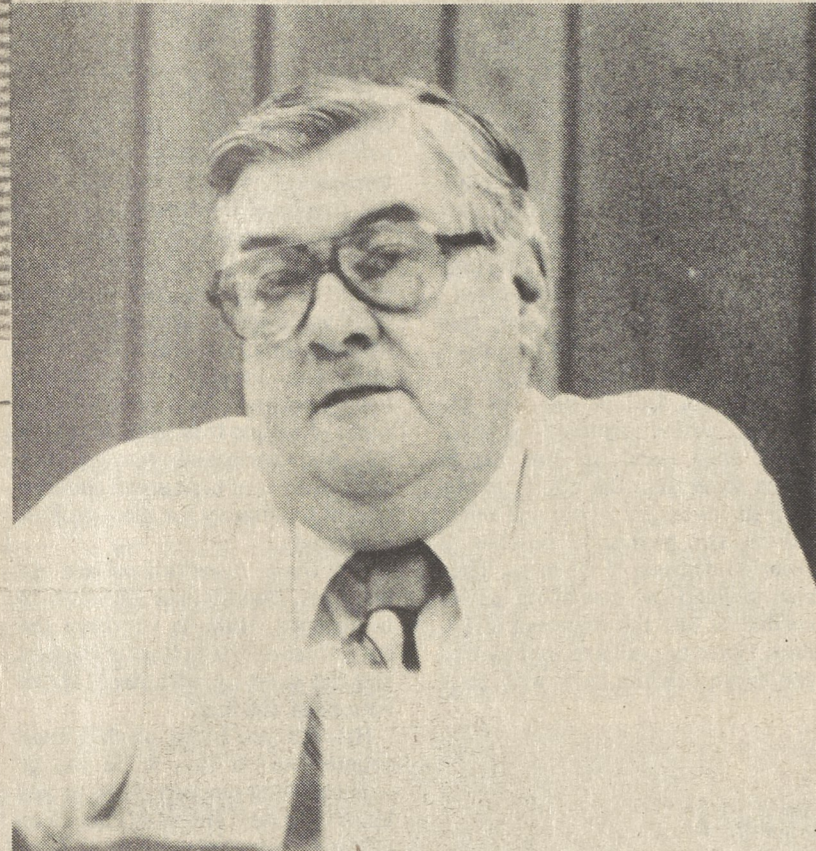
Monday.

When asked if she felt any progress was made at the meeting Carolyn Bulford replied, "I think the meeting went very, very well. I am hoping PennDOT will follow through."

Speaking with Finn on Tuesday he confirmed that the PennDOT traffic unit has submitted requests to Harrisburg for approval of the speed limit reduction and no parking signs. Finn said he feels

certain that these procedures will be implemented within three weeks.

Installation of a medial strip will take longer according to Finn. He has been looking into the possibility of salvaging materials from another project which would hasten installation time. Upon receipt of the letter from Kingston Township supervisors, Finn will seek approval from Harrisburg for this project.



IN MY OPINION--In my opinion an underground tunnel under the highway would be the best solution for the hazardous condition along Route 309 in Shavertown, said Sen. Frank O'Connell at the Kingston Township Supervisors meeting where the problem was discussed. (Photo by Mark Moran)



WE WILL COOPERATE--PennDOT will do everything that it can to cooperate in making Route 309 in Shavertown safe for pedestrians and motorists, said PennDOT official Jack Finn at the Kingston Township Supervisors meeting last week. (Photo by Mark Moran)

## Goodman road residents petition for improvements

by Barbara Evans

A petition signed by ten families residing on Goodman Road, Dallas was presented to the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting last week.

It was a request to have their dirt road graded and some sub-base work done. They are having difficulty maintaining the road in its present condition. The supervisors said that they would inspect the road and meet with the residents to discuss the matter.

Secretary Glenn Howell was instructed to advertise for bids on a van type ambulance for Kunkle Ambulance Association. The 13-page specifications will be available at the Township building for inspection. Bids will be opened at the Sept. 4 meeting.

The ambulance is being purchased through a grant for the Kunkle community.

A resident of Lower Demunds Road, Dallas was present to inquire

about the height of fences allowed in the township. Chairman Phillip Walter noted that there is a six foot limit on fences.

Work has begun in Kunkle on the little league baseball field. Sullivan Construction Company was awarded the bid for the field, backstop and dugout. It will not be completed until next spring season.

The police report indicated that the cruisers traveled 8591 miles; there were 342 incidents called in to the office; seven traffic arrests; three criminal arrests; 13 accidents were reported and Jeremy Torr and Thomas Lewis graduated from the Police Training Academy on July 6, 1979.

John Gossard resigned as school crossing guard and former Meshoppen Chief of Police, Richard Dodson was appointed to replace him.

The regular bi-monthly supervisors meeting and the Planning Commission meeting will be held Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

## J.R. Davis Horse Show postponed

Due to the inclement weather over the past weekend the 14th Annual J.R. Davis Fire Company Horse Show has been postponed until Aug. 26. This is the first time in the history of the show that this was done.

The chairman of Harveys Lake's planning commission, sharply criticizing a "political maneuver" approving the controversial purchase of land at Sandy Beach by the borough, resigned in protest over the moves last week during the commission's August meeting.

Dr. M. I. Slavin verbally submitted his resignation after commission members voted 4-3 to approve a borough plan to acquire certain Sandy Beach property as a municipal building and recreation site. The approval failed at the commission's July meeting on a 3-3 tie vote.

The presence of Harveys Lake businessman Joseph Paglianite served to break the tie during the August meeting. Voting with Paglianite were Councilman Robert Wintersteen, a consistent defender of the Beach purchase; and fellow commission members Richard Heuer and Francis Kopko.

Commissioners T. N. Wood Jr. and Anthony Fulton voted with Slavin in opposition to the motion.

## Dallas names business manager

by Joan Kingsbury

Fred Crupp, a Wilkes Barre resident, was named business manager of the Dallas School District at the board's meeting on Monday night. For the past six years Crupp has been employed at Wilkes College where he is currently serving as assistant comptroller.

Chosen from approximately 36 applicants, Crupp holds a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration from Wilkes College. Starting salary is set at \$18,000 per year. Crupp will assume his duties Sept. 4.

## Twp. investigates catch basins

A letter from the Department of Environmental Resources read at Monday night's meeting of the Lehman Township Supervisors requested installation of catch basins at Lake Silkworth.

A letter sent to DER from the Lake Silkworth Protective Association claims that during heavy rains, ashes and cinders are washed into the lake. The supervisors will investigate this matter and see what can be done.

Members of the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company requested the

## Planning commission chairman resigns

"When they railroaded that approval to the purchase of Sandy Beach...it was inconceivable to me," said Slavin. "It's so blatantly political" the doctor observed, stating that he believed the deliberations of the commission should be guided by standards of good planning and the best interests of the borough.

The planners had previously agreed to invite proposals for the beautification of the Sunset area during the Thursday meeting and an Allentown landscaping firm provided a general presentation on their abilities to handle such a project.

Smith-Miller Associates was also represented at the meeting and presented informal expressions of interest in the job, citing their previous experience in the area and the successes they had achieved in obtaining federal grants.

Kopko then moved to accept Smith-Miller as the company to handle the project. Slavin suggested that since Smith-Miller

had proposed no specific ideas for the area the planner delay their decision pending the receipt of three specific proposals. The measure was defeated by a 4-2 vote with commission member Fulton abstaining because of his professional ties to the Allentown firm.

Slavin said he also questioned the availability of funds for the project since council had taken a \$3,000 fund budgeted for the planning commission to pay legal fees connected with the defense of their Sandy Beach purchase decision.

Councilman Wintersteen assured the commission that the funds would be made available for the project. Slavin indicated that the commission should obtain a written assurance.

The split decision favoring Smith-Miller was followed by a motion by Kopko to approve the Sandy Beach purchase plan, Planning Commission members had cited the lack of a written proposal for parking, sanitation and safety for the Sandy

Saturday night.

There will be carnival rides every night for both young and old and raffle drawings will be held every hour.

Food and beverages of all kinds will be available including funnel cakes, pierogies, hamburgs, hot dogs, pizza, potato pancakes, ice cream, french fries and soda.

The Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company provides service to both Northmoreland and Franklin Townships.

## Franklin plans carnival

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company will hold its carnival Aug. 15, 16, 17, and 18 on the fire company grounds.

Among the features of the carnival will be Uncle Ted, Thursday, Aug. 16, and Friday, Aug. 17, at 8:30 p.m. each night.

The Pits open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18 and at 1 p.m., there will be a tractor pull.

The Red Sky, a band from Binghamton, N.Y., will entertain

Beach municipal building-recreation site. A written proposal had been requested in a letter to the council.

After the 4-3 vote favoring the purchase without the requested specifics, Slavin announced his intention to resign.

"It's not a question of wanting to win them all," Slavin noted, citing his ultimate acceptance of a Wintersteen-Kopko proposal to permit the construction of two-story bathhouses adjacent to the lake which he had opposed.

"I thought something unusual was happening when I saw everyone attending," concluded Slavin, referring to the Smith-Miller and beach purchase votes.

## Orchardview next project for DAMA

Sewering of Orchardview Terrace will be the next project of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority.

At Thursday night's meeting, the board decided that due to a serious pollution problem Orchardview Terrace must be their first priority. Consisting of 54 connections and 5600 accessible feet probably cost of the project is \$197,000. According to Tom Bagley, a \$50,000 grant is available to help defray costs of this project.

Spencer Martin, chairman of DAMA, said Tuesday that sewers were run into Orchardview Terrace in 1921-1972 but that homebuilding in the area since that time has led to a situation in which "quite a few" properties contain malfunctioning on-site waste disposal (septic) systems.

The board accepted a motion made by Joseph Youngblood to direct Roy Weston Company to prepare documents for extension of sewers in Orchardview Terrace.

Although Elmcreef Woods and Powderhorn Drive are also in need of sewers, Orchardview Terrace proved most feasible since installation of pumping station is not necessary there.

Martin continued, however, that extension of the Orchardview sewers is in itself a part of DAMA's master plan and is not just a recent decision.

## Black bear, dead Holstein,

## Canadian geese in the news

Three members of the animal world were in the spotlight last week in the Orange-Carverton area as a black bear, a Holstein dairy cow and five Canadian geese made the news and were topics for discussion by Back Country residents.

Seven-year-old Brian Gay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gay, Jr., Sutton Creek Road, Orange, and his cousin, four-year-old Jennifer Gay, were swinging on a swing set in the Gay backyard Friday evening about 8 o'clock, when Brian spotted a "big" black bear hovering a short distance away in the Gay's backyard.

Brian came into the house and yelled for his father - then both watched Mr. Bruin trudge off through the woods "over the hill and into a batch of Christmas trees" growing on the Gay farm. That was the last seen of the bear since!

Last Wednesday evening, around 6 o'clock, somebody shot and killed a prize Holstein dairy cow on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sands of Carverton. The cow was purchased in late July at a cost of \$1,800 in Canada.

The animal, shot and wounded, dragged herself into a nearby swamp where the person or persons shot her again as an examination showed bullet wounds in the stomach and behind an ear, according to Mr. Sands.

morning. It was then removed by employees of the American Rendering Company of Binghamton, N.Y., which will make fertilizer of the carcass.

Kingston Township police were notified and Patrolmen John Appel and Luther Rozelle investigated.

The matter was still under investigation as the Post went to press, and no arrests were made.

At Frances Slocum Park in Carverton, five Canadian geese flew in several weeks ago and park officials say the geese assumed "squatters' rights" and are making the park their home. The geese possess a friendly nature and make a point of stopping at picnicers' tables for a snack and have become quite an attraction at the park.

Park officials hope the web-footed birds stay at least through Labor Day! After that date, their lives may be in jeopardy from "sportsmen!"

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