

The vote counts

SB 10 -- Motor Vehicles

On grounds that it would be a key toward passage of the debate-snarled 1980-81 state budget, the state Senate last week adopted a conference report aimed at increasing taxes on motor vehicles by an estimated \$95 million in the coming year.

Of that figure, about \$30.6 million represents increases in fees levied on heavy trucks. In return, truckers are to be allowed to operate heavier (up to 80,000 lbs., from a current 73,280 lb. limit) and longer (by five feet) rigs on Pennsylvania roads, in line with the limits in neighboring states.

Senators from western districts opposed the larger truck provisions, arguing that the money would be traded for greater road damage and more serious accidents.

Adoption was by a bare majority, 26 to 22.

Passenger car owners will also face increased fees if Senate amendments are accepted by the House and Gov. Thornburgh signs the bill. They include hikes of title fees from \$5 to \$15, temporary licenses from \$1 to \$5, inspection stickers from 25 cents to \$1, and a new \$25 fee for reinstatement of a suspended license.

Senators voting FOR SB 10 included Frank O'Connell.

HB 1840 -- Waste Disposal

The Senate also approved, 43 to 5, and returned to the House for concurrence in Senate amendments, a broad proposal for strict control of waste disposal in Pennsylvania.

While aimed primarily at proper handling of hazardous and toxic wastes generated by industries and hospitals, with special penalties for illegal dumping and "midnight haulers," the 65-page bill also places responsibility on local governments for proper handling of all trash.

An illegal dumper may still be fined as little as \$100 for a first offense, but the maximum fine for a flagrant, high volume "wastelegger" is pegged at up to \$500,000 per day for each violation, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. Current maximum penalty is a \$300-per-day fine.

The thorny problem--where to put radioactive and poisonous junk--is not solved by the bill, but it gives the Department of Environmental Resources two years in which to work out procedures in consultation with the Department of Health. Meanwhile, temporary disposal permits will be issued by DER.

Senators voting FOR HB 1840 included Frank O'Connell and Robert Mellow.

HB 1155 -- No Fault

In the Pennsylvania House of Representatives last week, debate centered on the 1980-81 General

Fund Budget, but was almost entirely on procedural issues. No budgetary issue reached the floor for rollcall vote.

The House did find time, however, to approve and send to the Senate, 164 to 13, proposed revisions of the Pennsylvania no-fault auto insurance law.

A major aim is to crack down on motorists who carry no insurance, in violation of existing law. If the bill becomes law, owners will be required to prove they have insurance in effect to obtain the semi-annual inspection stickers, and those driving without no-fault insurance identification cards may be fined from \$300 for a first offense to \$1,000 for repeated violations.

All area representatives voted FOR the stiffer law.

HB 2032 -- Welfare Runaways

The House also voted last week, 165-13, to give the Department of Welfare greater authority to track down people who desert their children and other dependents and stop supporting them, making the dependents rely upon public assistance.

Under current law, welfare workers can track people down through the Social Security Administration; one of the few situations in which the confidentiality of Social Security records is set aside in the interest of justice.

Under the new proposal, welfare workers will also be able to question "caretakers" of children regarding the whereabouts of persons responsible for their support, and to obtain name, address, employer and Social Security number--but not income data--from income tax records.

All area representatives voted for the bill.

HB 1066 -- Constables

Earlier, by a vote of 32 to 152, the state House of Representatives killed a bill which would have given constables additional powers and duties.

Among other things, the bill proposed that constables be given the task of picking up driver's licenses and vehicle registration cards revoked by the Department of Transportation. State Police would then be relieved of that duty, saving an estimated \$540,000 a year.

Constables would be paid \$9 for each license retrieved, from a \$25 fee charged against the affected auto owner or operator, and other fees would be raised.

But the bill also provided for only one constable in each of the state's magisterial districts. Although each constable would have had the right to appoint up to four deputies, many constables opposed the bill, for fear of losing their appointments. They urged their Representatives to defeat the bill.

All area representatives voted AGAINST the bill.



OUTSTANDING CITIZEN--The late Whitey Porasky was named "Outstanding Male Citizen" by the Back Mountain Service Clubs Awards Committee at their meeting at Mark II on Monday night. The posthumous award will be presented at the dinner at the Irem Temple Country Club on June 19. (Photo by Mark Moran)



MARSHA LANDIS NAMED--Marsha Landis was selected by the Back Mountain Service Clubs Awards Committee as the "Outstanding Woman" in the community during the past year. The selections were announced at a meeting of the committee held at Mark II on Monday night. Mrs. Landis will be honored at the annual dinner at Irem Temple Country Club, Thursday, June 19. (Photo by Mark Moran)

Harvey dismisses charge

Magistrate Leonard Harvey this week reported that he dismissed charges filed against Richard and Melvin Meyers, Harveys Lake property owners, for failing to comply with a borough ordinance requiring them to hook their boathouse up to the municipal sewer.

Harvey said his understanding of the ordinance requiring the hookup was that it pertained to boathouses 500 feet or more away from the main residence on the property owner.

He said it was the testimony of Harveys Lake Building Inspector Richard Boice that the Meyer's home was only 375 feet from the boathouse.

The Meyers were previously defendants in a lawsuit brought by neighbors objecting to the rental of slips in the boathouse and the installation of an apartment in their home. The boathouse slip rentals reportedly were permitted by the court while subject to certain restrictions but the apartment rental was refused.

Subsequently, the Meyers requested a special exception to the

portion of the ordinance banning the apartment in the single family dwelling zone from the borough's zoning hearing board, according to Board Chairman Ben Orfaly.

The board then agreed to permit the exception providing the Meyers hooked up the boathouse, then viewed as a "commercial"

operation by the board and agreed to decline rentals of terms less than one month, confirmed Orfaly.

Both Meyers and the plaintiff-neighbors had a right of appeal to the zoning hearing board decision and neither party exercised the appeal, the chairman noted. Meyers subsequently declined to install the hookup and the borough

filed the enforcement action. Orfaly charged that Harvey was out of order in considering the merits of the situation since "his job was to rule whether or not the order was violated."

Atty. Joseph Kasper represented the borough council in pressing the case. Atty. Santo Agati is solicitor for the zoning hearing board.

LCCC Summer School offered at Dallas

LuZerne County Community College has entered into an agreement with the Dallas School District to offer a summer school through Project RISE for secondary students who did not achieve satisfactory grades in their school subjects.

The RISE program

will be housed in the Dallas Senior High School and is scheduled from June 30 to Aug. 13, between 8 a.m. and noon. The classes will be 90 minutes in length with no Friday classes planned for the month of July and no Thursday or Friday classes for the month of August.

Because this program is being offered by LCCC, the following tuition fees will be charged: one course - \$50; two courses - \$90 and three courses - \$130.

Courses to be offered are: Basic Language Arts, World Literature, World Cultures, U.S. Cultures, General

Mathematics, and General Science.

Students interested in participating in RISE must register with their guidance counselor by Friday, June 13. The tuition fee is payable at that time. If there are any questions about the program, please contact the guidance office at 675-5201.

'The river was there first' says 'flood plain chief'

by David M. Cleary
Special to The Dallas Post

When the Susquehanna River and its tributaries overflowed their banks in 1972, during the heavy rains of Tropical Storm Agnes, the cost to Pennsylvania taxpayers ran into billions.

The Governor's Mansion, overlooking the usually tranquil Susquehanna, was among the many state-owned buildings that had to be cleaned and rehabilitated at taxpayer expense.

Hundreds of industrial firms sustained heavy damage, and were out of business for periods varying from a few days to several months, with corresponding reductions in their payments of state taxes.

It will be much worse next time a flood of the Agnes magnitude strikes Pennsylvania.

Aside from the increased costs of cleanup due to inflation, the thousands of people forced out of work will be paying no personal income tax, which did not exist in 1972.

Preparing for floods

For those and other reasons, the Department of Community Affairs has sent a paperback book entitled "Industrial Flood Preparedness" to officials of 1,000 municipalities and townships across the Commonwealth.

Communities receiving the book were chosen, said a spokeswoman for Shirley M. Dennis, Secretary of Community Affairs, on the basis of their potential damage in the event of a new flood. The department scouted carefully for industrial firms that could save millions by investing a few thousand dollars in preparedness.

The book, a compilation of papers presented during a two day symposium held at Williamsport last year, makes clear that floods are not a "maybe" event, to be regarded with a fingers crossed attitude and a trust in good luck.

Rather, floods are declared to be inevitable, at some time each 50

years or so, along virtually every river and stream except those running through narrow mountain gorges.

Armando C. Lardieri, chief of flood plain management services for the Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District, recalled the disastrous Pittsburgh flood of 1936 and cited a passage from "Engineering News Record" the following year.

Rivers and floodways

"Rivers were here long before man, and for untold ages every stream has periodically exercised its right to expand when carrying more than normal flow. Man's error has not been neglect of flood control measures, but his refusal to recognize the right of the rivers to their floodways."

Some industrial firms have learned their lessons from the 1936 and 1972 experiences, while others feel that they can expect help from the federal government if a new flood strikes.

Federal help is going to be hard to obtain in the future, warned William R. Wilcox, the Federal Disaster Assistance Administrator, because of changes in policy made in the administration of President Carter, himself an engineer.

Wilcox admitted the job of predicting floods and preparing for them is a tough one. He pointed to the Susquehanna River Basin Study of 1970, which failed to allow for the heavy rains of Agnes, with the result that 40 percent of the damage occurred behind levees and dikes that weren't high enough.

Success stories

But the seminar included success stories too, Richard B. Ulp of the Mechanicsburg consulting engineer firm of Erdman, Anthony and Associates, told how the city of Lock Haven organized to prevent damage of the Agnes magnitude next time waters rise that high.

Piper Aircraft alone sustained damages of some \$28 million during Agnes, partly in destruction of

airplanes that were completed and could have been flown out with adequate warning, Ulp said. A warning system was therefore given high priority in Lock Haven.

Piper has also invested some \$2.1 million in levees to keep water off its property, and additional water-right closures of its 30 buildings.

An entirely different solution has been pursued by the Sprout-Waldron subsidiary of Koppers Company, which employs 1,250

office and factory workers on the flood plain at Muncy, and has been flooded eight times within the past 30 years.

It just isn't practical to keep rising waters out, said Sprout-Waldron spokesman Earl Tressler. He told how offices and production facilities are being moved to higher ground, and until that move is completed the company policy is to "ride out" floods with minimum damage.

Moving parts

Everything that can be moved when a flood is predicted is moved, even the key parts of some machines. Items that can't be moved are protected in a variety of ways, including the anchoring of heavy tanks to resist twice their buoyant force when empty, so that they can't float and damage other equipment.

Using frequent drills and a sharpened warning system, the

Sprout-Waldron goal is to reduce damage to the point that only cleaning up is needed when waters subside. It has done so well that the plant was back to 80 percent production within two days after the flooding that inevitably occurred during Tropical Storm Eloise in 1975.

The book contains other approaches, taken by other firms, and is described by Secretary Dennis as

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'Agnes' brought Kern to town--with soccer ball

by Charlot Denmon

Bruce Kern of Dallas came to this area in 1972 with Hurricane Agnes. Well, not exactly with the hurricane but shortly after to help the many flood victims put their properties back in living condition.

The hurricane was certainly no gift to residents of the area but the Bruce Kern family has been welcomed by many residents of the Back Mountain, especially soccer and softball enthusiasts.

Kern and his wife, Carolyn, are natives of New Jersey.

A graduate of Hanover Park High School, East Hanover, N.J., Kern attended Worcester Technology College, Mass., where he received his B.S. in engineering.

It was after he graduated from college that he came to the Valley to help with the flood work and stayed here to work with Interfaith, Inc.

Kern played soccer in a high school where it was much more popular than in this area. Most of the time he played at half-

back position.

For those not familiar with soccer, there are 11 persons on a team, including three halfbacks.

Kern also played soccer while in college and during his sophomore year his team was "small college" state champ. They advanced to the NCAA tournament where they moved up to the university division. Their play was short-lived as they lost to Harvard University in the first round.

Since coming to the Wyoming Valley area, Kern helped out occasionally at Wilkes College for two years. Then the Kerns moved to the Back Mountain and in 1978, he was among those who started the soccer program in the local area.

Kern is chief coach, a position he also held last year. He is responsible for all the coaches, as well as recruiting and assisting in training.

Recently he attended an area general meeting in Atlanta, G. for Division III which includes the Back Mountain. At the

meeting they discussed coaching, techniques and rules.

Kern is planning two coaching clinics in July prior to the beginning of the season. He plans to bring in a certified coach to run the clinics. Kern said the Back Mountain Soccer Association is still accepting applications from adults interested in coaching. He said they will probably have about 20 teams divided into divisions by age groups.

The league hopes to use the same fields as last year, Penn State's Wilkes-Barre Campus and the Dallas School District fields.

Last year Kern played with the adult soccer team but this year gave that up to play softball on the Columbia Porch & Shade team in the slo-pitch softball league.

During the winter Kern plays ice hockey on the East Mountain Bears team. He has played with the team since the beginning of the Coal Street In-house League. Some of the members are

from Dallas but most of them are from Scranton.

Kern spends a lot of his leisure time remodeling his home and also takes care of the large yard and garden. His beautifully landscaped yard and garden attests to his preference for gardening.

He does some crafts especially woodworking.

Kern likes the Back Mountain area. He said New Jersey was more metropolitan. He likes it here because it is removed from the city but not too rural.

Kern looks forward to this year's soccer program being more successful than the past two years. He said the league officials have had more time to get it together and to do more training.

Kern also believes that enthusiasm is growing and the sport is becoming increasingly popular among young people and their parents.

"It is a game everyone can play," said Kern. "Size doesn't matter and it is not an expensive sport."



Bruce Kern