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Seeing the Light:

Many See It, But Few Stop When Shavertown Fire Light Flashes

BY JANE C. BOLGER

Are you an alert driver? If so, then you recognize the overhead light pictured as being across the Memorial Highway in Shavertown crossing between Cook's Pharmacy and the shopping center.

If you are really aware, you know that when this light is blinking, you must stop to allow Shavertown Fire and Ambulance Company's emergency vehicles the right of way.

Unfortunately this does not seem to be the case with most motorists according to Shavertown Fire Chief Gary Beisel. "These lights are

useless; it would be easier to lay firemen across the highway to get some of these people to stop," he noted.

Part of the problem is believed to be the fact that the firehouse itself is out of sight, one block back on North Main Street, and that the emergency vehicles are pulling out of a right-of-way that is more an alley than a street. But this is no excuse for anyone ignoring the traffic signals.

When there is an emergency a three-minute timer is set in the fire house, which activates the

overhead light to flash yellow while the blinking sign reads "fire" in red. Traffic is supposed to stop and yield the right-of-way to fire trucks and ambulances, which in some cases, must cross four lanes of traffic.

Kingston Twp. Police Chief Paul Sabol remembers one particular fire six or seven years ago in the Shavertown Shopping Center. Because of the morning rush hour, the fire engines were physically unable to cross the highway until police arrived and stopped the traffic. Unfortunately, this is the case more often than not as motorists ignore

the flashing lights until they see a policeman ordering them to stop.

The township has sought approval from the state to have the traffic light at Center Street and Route 309 changed to stop all traffic at the intersection so fire engines may respond with as little delay as possible. Despite the extra distance to be traveled to reach the highway, this would seem to be the solution.

The Dallas Fire Company reports there is no problem with its trucks leaving the fire house on Main Street, although it uses a similar fire button that stops all other traffic at the five-way intersection

for two minutes. The Trucksville Fire Department successfully uses the same system to stop Route 309 traffic when fire engines are responding from the fire house on Carverton Road.

It is believed that motorists respond more quickly in these cases because the signals used are attached to existing traffic signals rather than in an area where there is normally a full flow of traffic. However until the new system is installed in Shavertown, all motorists are requested to be alert to the blinking lights near the shopping center and to be prepared to stop.



FIRST PLACE WINNERS—Pictured following the Girl Scouts Anniversary Celebration at Boscov's are Brownies from Lehman Troop 641. First row, left to right, Lisa Gunn, Joanna Arndt, Karen Komsisky, Christina Jones, Sara Yabloski, Lynn Turner, Betty Spencer. Second row, Christina Conrad, Tracy

Margellina, Judy Andrejko, Diana Shoemaker, Marla Roskos, Cheryl Gunn, Kathy Gunn, Sue Niezgoda. Absent, Margie and Rose Langdon, Heather Dieffenbacher. Leader is Mrs. Charlene Cook. Assistants are Mrs. Judy Gunn and Mrs. Helen Gunn. (Mark Moran Photo)

Brownies Win First Prizes

Lehman Brownie Troop 641 and Junior Troop 626 recently took part in Boscov's Department Store's 21st anniversary celebration for the Girl Scouts from Penn's Woods Council.

Over 500 Girl Scouts from the Wyoming Valley and Back Mountain gathered to celebrate Girl Scout Week. The event, entitled "We Found a New World," featured displays, talent shows, Girl Scout sales clerks and special appearance by Jane Adonizio of Channel 16's "PM Magazine."

The Brownies won two beautiful ribbons; a first prize overall for their table display on "What Brownies Do," and a first place ribbon for their poster on the theme "We've Found a New World."

First, second and third place ribbons were awarded in three categories: Brownie, Junior,

Cadette and Senior. Brownie Troop 641 received the top award of the day. Judges were Ms. Pat Sparlow, Kingston, volunteer event coordinator; Mrs. Arline Oldershaw, Wilkes-Barre, Girl Scout volunteer trainer; and Phyllis Balberchak, Boscov's special events assistant. Displays were judged on visual appeal, enthusiasm of the girls, creativity and adherence to Girl Scout programs and ideals.

The Lehman Junior Troop won a first prize ribbon in the junior age level display. Their display featured each troop member pictured as a future professional, accompanied by poems on careers. Everything, from doctors to fire fighters, to teachers to auto mechanics, was represented. The entire display explained how the junior badges can give girls insight into future careers.

Troop 626 also performed in the talent segment of the festivities, doing a cheer and several songs. Members of the troop are Andrea Bunny, Becky James, Mandy and Jenny Jones, Missy Larkins, Megan and Allyson Lukasavagbe, Cindy May, Becky Miers, Kim Niegoda, Amber Roese, Ainsley Rowlands, Lori Recek, Cindy Spencer, Becky Start, Jill Shaw, Trudy Wandel, and Judy Williams. Troop leaders are Mrs. Terry Sutton and Marsha May.

Recent activities keeping the Brownies hopping are first aid with the Lehman Ambulance, Girl Scout Sunday at Shavertown Methodist Church, a McDonald's visit, roller skating, Girl Scouts Inter-gathering at Dallas, a circus, a father-daughter dinner and show, a fly-up ceremony with Troop 626, and an end-of-the-year field trip.

Hughes Retirement Remains a Question at Dallas Area

"I have mixed emotions after the last board meeting," said Dallas High School Principal Edgar Hughes. "I submitted my letter saying that I wanted to retire June 30, 1983, and had full intentions of doing some of the projects I have been planning. I also would like to do some part time teaching at the college level but after the directors refrained from seconding the motion made by Director Shawn Murphy to accept my retirement, I have had second thoughts.

"The Board can't stop me from retiring at the end of June but the

Northmoreland Township

Candidates Vie for Posts

Except for Northmoreland Twp., there will be some interesting races for the posts of supervisor and auditor in Monroe, Noxen and Northmoreland Twp. in the spring primary on May 17.

In Northmoreland Twp., which includes the Centermoreland, Vernon and Keelersburg areas, GOP candidates will have a political cakewalk, being unopposed in three township-wide races.

Incumbent Supervisor Jack Husband of Centermoreland is unopposed for a new six-year term on the township's board of supervisors. Husband, who operates a tree service, is in his sixth year as a supervisor and is serving as board chairman at present. No Democrats filed nominating papers for the supervisor post to be balloted on. However, a Democratic write-in in the spring primary is possible.

Filing for the GOP nomination on the two vacancies on Northmoreland's three-member board of township auditors was Mrs. Shirley M. (Marie) Wall, R.D.2, Box 377, Harveys Lake, who is seeking election to a six-year term as auditor. In the other township

way I feel now if they want me I will probably stay through the Middle States evaluations. These are in October and it would be unfair to ask a new person to step in during the middle of the year. If I stay I would finish the year 1983-84."

Hughes submitted his letter to the board at the March 14 meeting of the Dallas School District Board of Directors. Following Murphy's motion to accept Hughes's letter of retirement, there was absolute silence with no director seconding the motion. In answer to Director Joseph O'Donnell's question as to the next move, Board President

William Camp stated that it appeared the directors were in favor of Hughes remaining.

Hughes has been with the school district 35 years this month and with the inclusion of time out for military service, he has a total of 38 years to his credit.

A resident of Dallas, Hughes was a member of the 201st Anti-Aircraft Battalion during World War II. He enlisted in 1942 and served in Africa, then in the Italian Campaign. The war interrupted his college education at Lafayette. When he returned he completed his

education at Lafayette during 1946 through 1949. He earned his Master's in history from the University of Scranton where he also received his principal certification.

Hughes first started with the district at Dallas Township under the supervision of Ray Kuhnert in 1949. At that time he taught general science, math, and history. Later, he taught all of the history courses, American and World Cultures. With the first jointure which brought in Monroe Township, Hughes went to Westmoreland where he taught senior high school classes.

He was the first athletic director at Dallas Township and assistant athletic director in the jointure. Hughes was appointed senior advisor while at Dallas Township and remained in that position until he was appointed assistant principal in 1969.

During the years 1959 to 1969, Hughes taught summer and evening sessions in history and Western Civilization at Wilkes College.

Five years ago, he was appointed principal of the senior high school to fill the position left vacant by Robert Dolbear's retirement.

"If the directors want me to remain during the Middle States Evaluation, I will," said Hughes. "I would finish out the year after the evaluations so the district could carry out a thorough screening process."

Hughes is married to the former Jeanne McCabe. They have one daughter, Joyce, who recently resigned from her position in the district as an English teacher to assume a management position in Wyoming Valley. They also have a granddaughter, Shelby, in eighth grade at Dallas Junior High School.



Leonard Harvey

Harvey's Running

BY JANE C. BOLGER

District Magistrate Leonard Harvey, who officially announced last week that he is running for reelection, will apparently be unopposed at the polls this year.

Despite persistent rumors that at least one other candidate would be running, no one filed for the post to which Harvey was re-elected six years ago after a stiff political battle.

In addition to having a clear field, Harvey holds the distinction of being the only magisterial candidate running in Luzerne County. Statewide elections to fill most magisterial seats for the six-year term of office were held last year, but an "off year" election is mandated in this district because of the death in office of Harold Major, the first magistrate to preside over District 3-8.

Major died less than three months after his election in 1970; his widow was then appointed by the governor to hold the office, but resigned after serving just one day. Leonard Harvey, who had opposed Major and been defeated, was then appointed to the post on Dec. 1, 1970

and ran for his first full term in office in 1972.

This will be Harvey's third full term as district magistrate, although there appears to be a question of whether he will be able to complete his full term due to the mandatory retirement law. Since the inception of the magisterial system, several district justices have been forced to retire at age 70, an age Harvey admits he will reach in four years.

However, Magistrate Harvey said he hopes to be able to finish his full term in office due to new legislation, which would waive the mandatory retirement law. In the past, when a magistrate retired or resigned, a replacement has been named by the governor.

Harvey, who lives on Woodlawn Drive in Dallas with his wife, Marion, has his office and court room on the second floor of the Back Mountain Professional Building on Route 309, with hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, including the lunch hour and from 6:30 to 8:30 Thursday night. Harvey's district covers Dallas and Lake Boroughs and Plymouth, Lake, Jackson and Lehman Townships.

FBI Investigates Fire

An arson team from the FBI has been called in to investigate a house fire that occurred on Demunds Corners last Thursday night at 8:27 p.m. The home, which suffered mostly smoke and water damage, is owned by Anna Wivell, who is presently in a convalescent home.

Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers stated there is "no question" that the fire was arson. The FBI was called to assist in

evaluating various pieces of evidence.

Evidence is presently being processed through the Arson Crime Lab with results expected shortly.

Officials would not comment on whether a connection is suspected between this fire in an unoccupied building and other recent ones in Edwardsville, Larksville, Pringle and Tunkhannock.