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Dallas Post/Peggy Poynton

A scarce breed

These two Cabbage Patch Kids, Karyn Alissia, left, and Seymour Marv, right, visited the offices of The Dallas Post one day last week. Cabbage Patch Kids, the hottest Christmas item this year, are still nowhere to be found in the Back Mountain area.

Cabbage Patch craze continues

By DOTY MARTIN
Associate Editor

The craze continues, and while latest reports have several Back Mountain people joining the national search for Cabbage Patch Kids, there still is no sign of the soft, cuddly dolls in our area.

Although Marsha Landis, proprietor of Back Mountain Lumber Co. in Shavertown, says calls requesting the dolls have decreased in the past few months, Mike Dzanko of Valentine's Toys and Hardware on Route 415 in Dallas finds himself answering more such calls these days.

"We get at least 10-12 phone calls a day," Dzanko said. "I think more people are calling now because the dolls are so hard to get."

Cabbage Patch Kids, which come complete with birth certificates and adoption papers, have been stealing hearts nationwide for some time now while the Coleco Co., manufacturers of the dolls, tries desperately to meet orders.

Officials from the Coleco Co. have said the company will produce nearly 2 million dolls between now and Christmas. Stores across the nation, however, have been unable to meet custom-

ers' demands as the dolls are sold within minutes after being displayed on shelves.

A riot at the Zayre Department Store in Wilkes-Barre last week saw approximately 1,000 people pushing and shoving to get their hands on an advertised 250 dolls and resulted in the hospitalization of a Kingston woman suffering from a broken leg.

Back Mountain retail stores have been rather fortunate - they have avoided such riots, but only because the Cabbage Patch Kids have not been found in area stores since the summer months.

Mrs. Landis said her store sold quite a few Cabbage Patch Kids during the summer months, however, once Coleco's advertising campaign took hold on the nation's shoppers, Cabbage Patch Kids were too hard to get.

"We haven't had any since last summer," Mrs. Landis said. "Our supplier keeps telling us we will get some if he can get them but he hasn't even been able to get any lately."

Dzanko, who hasn't seen Cabbage Patch Kids in the Dallas area for a while, said he has a waiting list in the store. "I have 30 names on the list," the store manager said. "I could have taken 300 names,

(See KIDS, page 8)

Kingston Township residents thrilled with reduction of taxes

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

"They should be patted on the back," was one Kingston Township resident's enthusiastic comment on hearing that the township fathers plan to lower taxes by two mills next year. The unexpected tax reduction was appropriately announced at a Thanksgiving Eve Supervisors meeting which was open to the public.

The public, however, consisted of "only six people," according to Township Manager Mark Kunkle who formally presented his "Budget Message 1984" at the meeting.

"I wasn't there, but I'm for it 100 percent," said a Trucksville resident, adding "who would expect to get good news at a budget meeting."

"Hey, I voted for those guys and they didn't even tell us before the election that they were gonna do this," said an old-time Shavertown resident. "Those guys" who unanimously voted to approve the tentative budget were Kingston Township Supervisors Herbert Hill, Daniel Wisniewski, Ambrose Gavigan, Edward Price and Willard Piatt.

"I'm very pleased, but what does it really mean?"

asked a housewife from Rose Village.

The answer was given by Mark Kunkle who recommended the tax cut. "This reduction in millage will mean a decrease in tax of \$2 for every \$1,000 of assessed value for the property owner," Kunkle said.

In other words - if you own a home assessed at \$5,000, you will pay only \$25 in real estate taxes to Kingston Township next year while you paid \$35 this year. Unfortunately, Kunkle pointed out, the same property owner will pay a total of 147.5 mills in taxes with the remainder distributed as 32.5 mills to Luzerne County and 111 mills to the Dallas School District.

"We get the smallest percentage of the real estate taxes, but this two mill drop is a 29 percent reduction in taxes for our municipality," Kunkle stated. He said "community growth" had a lot to do with making the tax reduction feasible noting specifically "an increase in revenue from Earned Income Tax" as well as "returns on investment of idle funds."

"It's good to know we're fiscally sound," commented a Druid Hills businessman, adding "I'm proud to live here."

Not surprisingly, the overall reaction of Kingston Township residents to the news of a tax reduction was good as they wait the final approval of the budget scheduled for Dec. 14.

Farmers shoot at spotters

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

One hunting season incident has developed into a criminal matter as two farmers from Franklin Township have been arrested for allegedly shooting at four people spotlighting deer on their property.

Martin Murray, 57, and his son, William J. Murray, 28, have been charged with Recklessly Endangering Another Person and Criminal Mischief. Arresting officer is Pa. State Trooper Stanley Jezewski.

Police report that Jeffrey Norris, Kimberly McGovern, James McGovern and a juvenile, all from Pittston, first attempted to enter the farm through an opening in a wall. The youths, who are all charged with Criminal Trespass, were spotlighting deer when the Murrays allegedly opened fire on the field.

Approximately one dozen shots were fired, according to police reports and two tires of McGovern's 1977 Chevy Blazer were shot out with bullet holes also apparent in the body of the vehicle. The spotters were allegedly trapped in a corn field by the farmers and a struggle took place there for the guns.

State Police confiscated the weapons and pressed charges against both the Murrays and the trespassers on their property.

The farmers were arraigned before District Magistrate Earl Gregory with bail being set at \$2,000 each for both William J. and Martin Murray pending a hearing.



Dallas Post/Peggy Poynton

Biggest buck

Michael Romanchick of RD 2, Box 71, Harveys Lake, bagged his biggest prize in 35 years of hunting when he brought down a 12-point buck at 7:25 a.m. last Tuesday. Romanchick, who has been hunting since he was 12 years old and "always hunts alone" has bagged three nine-pointers in his hunting career. This catch, which was shot behind the old dump in Harveys Lake Township, weighs approximately 175 pounds.

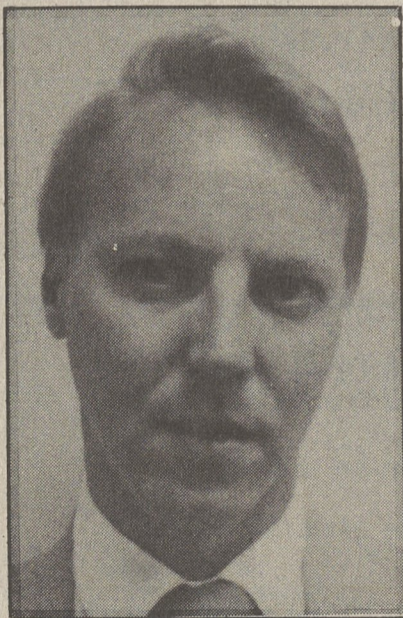
Gabriel will appeal decision

By JANE C. BOLGER
Staff Correspondent

John Gabriel has decided to appeal the Dallas School Board's decision to fire him from his position as Supervisor of Grounds and Maintenance. The appeal is currently in the process of being drawn up by Attorneys Arthur Piccone and Ronald Santora who represent Gabriel.

The appeal will be filed before the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas to be heard when a date is available on the court calendar. This actual court trial of the Gabriel case follows 11 public hearings before the Dallas School Board which ultimately voted Nov. 25 to dismiss Gabriel.

Prior to the final vote, which was 8-1 with Patricia Gregory casting the single no-vote, the same Dallas School Board had fired Gabriel twice before. Their original action last August was reworded in September following a trip to court and then challenged by Gabriel and his attorneys during the subsequent



JOHN GABRIEL

hearings that spanned three months. Gabriel continued to work daily at the School District from August

until the final vote on his firing was taken the day after Thanksgiving. His last actual working day was Nov. 23 due to the holiday but he returned to the school again last Tuesday.

"I was escorted to my office to remove the contents of my desk," Gabriel reported. "Then I left." He noted that his "escorts" were Gerry Wycallis, Supervisor of Curriculum, and Dan Poorman, the principal of both schools.

Gabriel is at home at Harveys Lake now awaiting scheduling of his appeal. "It would be difficult to find work," he said, "because I may be leaving in a short time to return to my job in Dallas."

Presently, supervision of maintenance for the Dallas School District is being accomplished by "an interim plan," according to Dallas School District Superintendent Dr. Richard A. Shipe. "Any problems are being handled by central administration," he explained, "pending the reorganization of the school board."

The new school board was scheduled to be seated Monday evening and Dr. Shipe stated, "my recommendation to them will be to take action on advertising this vacancy as soon as possible." Dr. Shipe further stated that the new school board will make the decision on just how Gabriel's former post will be filled.

There has been speculation that the post may not be filled by another supervisor, but that all maintenance and grounds work for the school district may be taken over by an outside firm. In addition to making this decision, the new Dallas School Board will also inherit the pending John Gabriel court case.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Madrigal singers

College Misericordia students are shown here as they entertain at the college's 14th Annual Madrigal Dinner held at Merrick Hall on the college campus.

Dallas gridgers honored

Members of the Dallas Gridiron Club honored Dallas High School football players, their parents and special guests at the Fourth Annual Football Banquet held Dec. 4 at the Newberry Public House, Dallas.

Trophies provided by the club were presented to Tony Tucker, Mike Borton, Tim Finnegan, Gregg Manusky, Tom Levitsky, Joe Simon, Bernie Walsh, Sam Noone, Joe Walsh, Jack Hines and John Farrell. Head Coach Ronald Rybak and

his assistants, George Dombek, Chuck Suppon and Bill Silvi presented plaques to 22 sophomores, 15 juniors and 20 seniors. They also presented letter jackets to the seniors including Mike Borton, Don Dickson, John Farrell, Ed Fedrow, Tim Finnegan, Jim Gorman, Tim Grove, Jack Hines, Tom Levitsky, Paul Lewis, Gregg Manusky, Sam Noone, Brian Oeller, Joe Ostrowski, Bernie Riley, Joe Simon, Ken Thompson, Tony Tucker, Bernie Walsh and Joe Walsh.

Believe it!

The Dallas Borough Sanitation Manager was scene crawling through the window of the garbage packer at the Dallas Post Office one day last week. Could it be he is practicing to be a stunt man and will soon be heading toward greener pastures in Hollywood? Or is it just that the door of the truck doesn't open?

How come? The banks in Shavertown just can't seem to get their stories straight. It seems no matter what time of year it is, the thermometers at the Wyoming National Bank on one side of Route 309 and the Franklin First Federal Bank on the other side of the highway are always three degrees different.

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