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Ice formations

The cold weather we have experienced during the past week may have caused some problems for us, but these ice formations at the Huntsville Dam were really a sight. There are some disadvantages to the cold weather, but when you stumble upon something as beautiful as this sight, it's hard not to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Dallas Post/George Poynton

Nebraska school closed

Can it happen here?

By WALLY KOCHER
Staff Correspondent

As eyes focus on Louisville, Nebraska, and the tension being created there between the people of the Faith Baptist Church and the local and state officials, a question should be running through our minds.

Can this kind of thing happen here?

Rev. Everett Silleven, pastor of the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska, thinks it can.

In an exclusive interview with The Dallas Post, Rev. Silleven stated, "There are several groups in the United States that are trying to establish a requirement of teacher certification for Christian Schools. As of now, in Pennsylvania, it is not necessary for Christians schools to only employ certified teachers. Rev. Silleven, however, feels it is only a matter of time before such certification becomes a requirement in Pennsylvania schools.

Rev. Silleven was arrested in 1982, while preaching in his pulpit, for operating an unapproved Christian school.

The reason the school is unapproved is because none of the teachers at the school are state certified. According to the Nebraska State Law, one certified teacher must be present at all times.

Rev. Silleven feels that the state is trying to exercise too much power by enforcing this law. "Christ is our Lord, not the government," he said. "All we want is for Nebraska to return to the United States where there's absolutely no totalitarianism."

A few days after the pastor's arrest in 1982, 85 people including visiting clergymen, were bodily carried out of the church and the building was temporarily padlocked. The school was successfully closed down for the rest of the year.

However, in September of 1983, classes at the school resumed without the required certified teacher.

On Nov. 23, 1983, seven fathers and mothers were requested to appear before a judge to testify in court regarding the school. The fathers appeared, but the mothers, along with their children, fled the state for fear of arrest. Instead of testifying, however, the fathers refused to answer any of the judge's questions, by using the Fifth Amendment. They were, in turn,

placed in jail, and charged with Civil Contempt of Court. One of the men was released after talking with the judge, but the remaining six men are still imprisoned.

Prison isn't the only thing the parishioners have to worry about. According to Rev. Silleven, several cases of property damage, including garbage dumping, and window breaking have been reported by the church members.

"The general public doesn't feel the same way about this religious discrimination as we do," said Rev. Silleven.

A spokesman from the Louisville Sheriff's office told The Dallas Post the issue is not a religious one, as the church believes, but that of a simple civil case.

Is all this actually happening in America? Even more so, can it happen here in the Back Mountain Area? We already have Rev. Silleven's opinion, but what about those people in our area who would be affected?

Gloria Long, principal at the Christian Academy of Community Bible Church, Sweet Valley, is a strong supporter of the Faith Baptist Church, and the stand they have taken.

"Certification has absolutely nothing to do with quality education," Long said. "If we allow the government to control our christian schools, where will they stop? Next they'll want to license the churches."

Another supporter of Rev. Silleven is Rev. Dennis Madeira of the New Life Community Church, Dallas, who doesn't feel the quality of education is the issue.

"The issue here is who gets control over our children's education," he said. However, Rev. Madeira doesn't feel as strongly that what has happened in Nebraska can happen here, as Rev. Silleven does.

"I don't think it could happen here unless quite a few changes (in the Pennsylvania law) were to take place," Rev. Madeira said.

Whether the laws change or not, it is obvious to see that this controversy will be in the minds of Americans across the nation for a long while.

As one pastor put it, "If we don't keep our eyes on them (the government) it's hard to say what they'll try."

DRGs are here

New medical plan studied

By WALLY KOCHER
Staff Correspondent

College Misericordia was the setting for a seminar on the Diagnostic Related Group Program on Jan. 19 at which Phillip Greiner, an instructor and undergraduate Content Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, was the guest speaker.

According to Greiner, Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG) is a new prospective reimbursement method which will allow third party insurance companies to reimburse hospitals on a "per diagnosis" basis, instead of for every day spent in the hospital.

"After a patient has been admitted to a hospital and diagnosed," Greiner said, "It will be determined how much reimbursement the hospital will receive. The rate of reimbursement will depend on the diagnosis."

The DRG tells specifically how many days the patient should have to stay in the hospital. If the patient requires less time than expected to recover, the hospital will still be reimbursed for the entire anticipated time. However, if the patient has to stay in

the hospital longer than expected, the hospital either has to absorb the costs, or they can appeal for a new diagnosis.

This system brings along with it the fear that patients will be discharged before they are physically ready for it. Greiner, however, reassures that this will not happen.

"It's true that this was a main concern when the system was first brought up," he said, "however, since then the system has been tested out in eight different states, with success. The purpose of this new method is to reduce hospital costs."

The times of recovery used by the DRG have been compiled by using both national and regional rates for specific diagnosis. Eugene Neugent, Executive Director of Health Systems Agency, explained that the agency of Health and Human Services compiled the averages for an area.

Presently, this new system affects medicare patients only. However, Greiner feels the system will affect all hospital patients in the next five to seven years.

Jan. 30-Feb. 4

Gate of Heaven prepares for annual 'Catholic School Week'

With the theme "Beacon of Hope" leading the way, Father William Cusick, Father William Langan, Sister M. Davida and members of the faculty and study body of Gate of Heaven School, Dallas, will open Catholic Schools Week on Monday, Jan. 30.

Father Cusick will deliver a Proclamation at 10 a.m. that day and will kickoff a week-long celebration of activities.

"Student Appreciation Day" which will be conducted on Monday, will highlight work done by the students in the fields of religion, education and language arts.

Monsignor Paul Terraicciano, superintendent, Scranton Diocesan Schools, will commemorate Cath-

olic Schools Week with a celebration to be conducted on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Gate of Heaven Church. Father Cusick, pastor, and Father Langan, assistant pastor, will also participate in this family mass with parents joining students in the celebration of the Liturgy.

"Open House" for parents will be conducted Wednesday, Feb. 1 and will give parents an opportunity to observe the students in their classroom atmosphere.

Students and parents will participate in "Teacher Appreciation Day" on Thursday, Feb. 2, with various activities planned for the occasion. A chicken bar-b-que will be served in the cafeteria and

teachers will be honored at a luncheon.

Throughout the week, guest speakers in their own area of expertise, will make presentations to the students. Also, Ed Lyons, chief of police, Dallas Borough, will fingerprint the students during the week.

A film on "The Life of John Neuman" will be shown throughout the school during the week to commemorate the tremendous contributions he made to Catholic education in the United States.

Presentations in essay reading, a Scholastic Bowl and various sports events will take place during the week. Awards will be presented by the Parent-Teacher Group for the events.

Chamber of Commerce agrees to establish new tourism bureau

The Board of Directors of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce recently agreed to the establishment of a convention and tourism bureau. The Board acted in response to a report presented by Michael Lefchak, chairman of the Convention and Tourism Commit-

tee. The committee interviewed individuals who were instrumental in attracting and formulating conventions recently held in Wilkes-Barre. They also talked with restaurant and hotel operators and met with the Wilkes-Barre 11 organization.

The committee identified a great economic potential for the development of conventions and tourism in the area. They also noted the lack of a single organization to act as a central point for convention planners.

It was the unanimous recommendations of the committee that the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce should establish a Convention and Tourism Bureau to act as a focal point for all related activities.

Members of the Convention and Tourism committee are: Chairman Michael Lefchak, United Credit Bureau; Bob Cardillo, Custom Color Lab; George Stozenski, PP&L; Michzel Salamon, Landau & Landau; Dr. Carl Urbanski, Optometrist; Joseph Perugino, PG&W; Maria Rubando, Amy's Flower & Gift Shop; Leslie Parker, United Credit Bureau, and Debbie Zurinski, staff liaison.

Believe it!

Finding her car doors frozen shut one morning, a Dallas woman stood calmly in her driveway, defrosting the situation with her hair dryer.

The great stapler mystery continues in the Dallas Township Municipal Building where one very good, very new stapler is missing. If the culprit returns it immediately, his taxes just may not be raised this year.

A New York motorist returned to a Dallas restaurant where she had eaten lunch one day, hoping to find the purse she left in a restroom. After reporting the handbag stolen to local police, the woman embarrassingly found it in her car.

Campaign leaders

Shown here at College Misericordia's Annual "Gifts of Learning" campaign are, from left, Frank Pasquini, director of development, College Misericordia; Albert Duran, general campaign chairman; Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, provincial administrator for the Sisters of Mercy; Sr. Martha Hanlon, dean of students; and Father John Bendick, college chaplain.

College Misericordia launches 'Gifts of Learning' campaign

College Misericordia's annual campaign was launched recently at a kick-off luncheon held at the Sheraton-Crossgates in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The 1984 "Gifts for Learning" campaign, with a \$292,000 goal, will raise funds for student scholarships and other financial aid programs.

Approximately 100 campaign volunteers attended the kick-off. Principals at the event included Frank Pasquini, director of development at the College, who introduced Monsignor Andrew McGowan, chairman of Misericordia's board of trustees. McGowan served as emcee.

Harold Rosenn, Esq., of Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald and vice chairman of the board of trustees, introduced Albert Duran, senior vice president of United Penn Bank, who is general campaign chairman.

Duran in turn welcomed the six community vice chairmen of the campaign. They are Thomas

Jacobs, managing director of Boscov's; Helen O'Connor, Luzerne County Register of Wills; George Lister, vice president and general manager of the Times Leader; Raymond McGarry, national account manager of AT&T; Susan Kluger, a director of the First National Bank of Wyoming; and Daniel Shall, inventory and purchasing manager at Commonwealth Telephone Company.

Benedicta North Matchett was introduced as the chairman of Misericordia's alumni giving program which will feature a six day phonathon in February. The alumni advisory committee has set a goal of \$86,000 which volunteers will attempt to raise by telephoning the College's 7,000 alumni nationwide.

The alumni giving goal is part of the campaign's total goal of \$292,000.

Dr. Joseph R. Fink, College Misericordia president, praised the

commitment of local volunteers by saying, "Because of the friends which College Misericordia has garnered over the years, we feel our \$292,000 campaign goal is indeed achievable."

"The funds raised by the College in its annual campaigns are especially significant since nearly 99 percent of our students receive financial assistance of some kind," Dr. Fink continued. "Without the dedication of our Wyoming Valley volunteers, College Misericordia would not be able to continue its support of deserving students."

Rev. John Bendick, College chaplain, presented the invocation; Sister Martha Hanlon, R.S.M., dean of student, offered the benediction at the kick-off.

Three report meetings are scheduled during the next six weeks. A victory celebration will take place Feb. 29.

Postmaster Bly seeks customers' cooperation

Dallas Postmaster Thomas Bly is seeking the help and cooperation of Postal customers in his delivery area concerning snow and icy weather conditions.

The recent snowstorms have greatly hindered the letter carrier's ability to efficiently deliver your mail. The weather conditions also placed the letter carrier in jeopardy of increased vehicle accidents, slips on walking surfaces and subsequent falls causing injury.

Postmaster Bly has requested that all residents clear their side-

walks, as soon as possible, to prevent late mail delivery, temporary suspension of delivery service and/or possible third party claims for injury.

Curbline boxes should also be sufficiently cleared to allow the letter carrier to serve the box without dismounting from his vehicle.

Postmaster Bly said, "Customer cooperation regarding this matter will be truly appreciated and will allow the Postal Service to provide the best possible service to all customers in a safe and efficient manner."

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