

The DALLAS POST

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Vol. 95, No. 32

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

25 Cents

In 45 days

Supervisors to decide fate of school building

By PAMELA AARON
Staff Correspondent

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors now has 45 days in which to make a decision concerning the rezoning of the area on which the former Trucksville Elementary School sits.

The supervisors, faced with the decision of whether or not to rezone the area for a project designed to prove housing for the elderly and handicapped, met Monday evening to discuss the topic.

The meeting was scheduled around requests by both Smith Miller Associates, designer of the housing project, and the Dallas School Board, which recently sold the school building to Smith Miller, the highest bidders on the property. Attorney Gerald Cohen, who conducted Monday's meeting, outlined the criteria to be discussed which included how rezoning the area for a housing development would affect the natural resource base, how it would affect individual and community needs and how it would contribute to economic development. Cohen suggested to those present that since other topics had been discussed during previous meetings the speakers limit themselves to addresses just these three subjects.

Ernest Ashbridge, a member of the Dallas School Board, noted that school enrollment has dropped from 3,644 during the 1976-77 school year to 2,872 during the 1983-84 school year. Ashbridge also stated the increased tax burden of the Dallas

schools should be considered and that the utilization of the building itself was positive.

Marie Orlandini, a resident of the area, questioned Ashbridge as to just how much millage could be saved by selling the building and claiming future taxes. Ashbridge said he could not be certain.

Hugh Gallagher, fire chief, questioned why certain information and documents had not been presented at the July meeting and also stated that it was not in the community's best interest to support the housing project as it is a residential area. Gallagher also stated that only 12 units are allowed in an R-3 zoning ordinance, making anything greater illegal. Smith Miller Associates is proposing 14 units.

Gary Mathers, a teacher in the Dallas School District, offered that there could be no guarantee that the building would be used solely for the elderly and handicapped.

Joan Roginski, a resident of the area, stood in favor of the rezoning issue. She cited the building and property we've an eyesore and that she, herself, would welcome its renovation, along with the elderly.

Roginski claimed that some petitions were signed disfavoring the project because of information being espoused about the project, namely, that it would be a haven for drug addicts, alcoholics and other less reputable. Mark Kunkle, Kingston Township manager, denied that.

The decision of the supervisors, which will be made within a 45-day limit.

Human target



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Tom Clemow grimaces, but takes it all in stride as he serves as the target during a wet sponge throw game. Clemow was participating in "Summer Happening," a day filled with fun and games at the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

\$250,000 bonfire

'Pot' goes up in smoke

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Motorists traveling upper and lower Demunds Road last Thursday at 4 p.m. were probably curious about a fire in the area as large clouds of gray smoke billowed over the highway. No doubt few realized it was \$250,000 worth of marijuana being burned by Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers and Patrolmen Doug Lamoreux, Wayman Miers and Clark Van Orden.

The marijuana was the crop confiscated by Dallas Township police with the aid of the Pennsylvania State Police last Wednesday afternoon near the far boundary of a large farm on Demunds Road in East Dallas. The finding of scattered marijuana plants several days earlier had led Chief Miers to believe there could be a large field of marijuana in the nearby area. When the Pennsylvania State Police helicopter made its routine visit to township headquarters last week, Miers was able to enlist the service of the chopper and sent one of his men up state police about 3 p.m. It was less than 15 minutes later that Patrolman Lamoreux spotted a field of unusually large marijuana plants.

"The plants were in such a remote and overgrown area," said Miers. "I don't believe we would have ever found it from the ground. Only from the air was it possible to spot the six to eight feet tall plants planted in three plots, each plot approximately 50x150 feet."

Miers said the manner in which the plants were cultivated and the discarded fertilizer bags scattered on the ground indicated the plants were part of a commercial operation. "Each plant had wire around it to prevent animals from getting at it," Miers said.

After giving consideration to setting up surveillance in the hopes of nabbing the "pot" farmer or farmers, the police finally decided it was best to harvest the crop.

"It would take a lot of manpower to keep the area under surveillance 24 hours a day with no idea how many days we would have to watch it, and we don't have that many men. Neither did we know whether or not the culprit was somewhere in the area and might have seen the State Police chopper which is easily identified," said Miers.

Miers and his men decided it would be best to destroy the 124 plants making that much less for sale in the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley. The cluster of plants were located in an area where the overgrowth of brush was so thick Dallas Township equipment had to be used to clear a path for the police to get in to harvest the crop.

The police removed all the plants from the ground and loaded them into township trucks which hauled them to the municipal building where they were kept under security until the quarter-million bonfire on Thursday afternoon.

Miers went to Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie

(See POT, page 8)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

School daze!

The lazy, hazy days of summer are just about over and the time for taking notes and taking tests has once again come to students at both College Misericordia and Penn State/Wilkes-Barre Campus. Shown here in the photo at left are a group of Misericordia co-eds who enjoyed their free time one last time



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

this past weekend during the family picnic at the local campus. From left, first row, Karen Kanya, Jennifer Flara. Second row, Tom Finlar, Jennie "Willie" Smith. Third row, Chris Zuba, Sam "Dex" Giraldo, Joe Schofield. In the top right photo, Karen Hromek of West Wyoming makes a visit to the campus bookstore at Penn State prior to starting classes.

Several issues cloud successful operation of Dallas cafeterias

By PAMELA AARON
Staff Correspondent

Of the many operations of the Dallas School District, one of the most visible, of late, has been that of the school's lunch program.

Since the school board's signing of a three-year contract with the A.R.A. Company, the board has effectively relinquished its control of cafeteria policy. Policies carried out in the cafeteria have now fallen under the realm of the A.R.A. which makes all decisions concerning the school lunch program.

Analysis

A.R.A., which originally stood for "Automatic Retailers Association" was formerly concerned only with luncheon provisions. Having since expanded into other lucrative markets, however, the company is now known simply as A.R.A.

Since A.R.A. became responsible for the operation of the school cafeterias, several changes have come about, especially in the menu which is now geared toward fast food preparation.

Since the August meeting of the Dallas School Board, two problems, not wholly unrelated, have come to warrant attention.

The first problem involves the \$6800 dollar deficit in the cafeteria budget. School Director Barbara Mead, chairperson of the cafeteria committee, has cited several reasons for this deficit.

Mrs. Mead said that 20 percent of students at the junior high school have discontinued buying lunches for one reason or another, suggesting that perhaps because of their age, the students are vocal and are protesting about what they will and will not eat. Mrs. Mead suggests alterations in the menu, making the plates more attractive and utilizing various promotional methods to regain the 20 percent. Some of the cafeteria workers agree that fast foods are not as appealing to the students, nor do parents encourage their children to eat at school because of the menu.

Mrs. Mead cites an \$800 layout for unexpected truck repair as the

second reason for the deficit.

The third, and possibly the most controversial expense, is that of the reimbursement of unemployment that occurred during the month of June, 1984. The recent retroactive law, passed by the state, for a greater percentage of funds, used a good portion of cafeteria income.

This problem came to light at the August meeting of the Dallas School Board and involved the cafeteria workers themselves. Unionized under P.S.S.P.A. (Pennsylvania School Service Personnel Association), the workers were informed by A.R.A. in July that their hours and locations would be changed upon the start of the 1984-85 school year.

No mention was made to any of the workers at that time as to just what changes would be involved. The cafeteria workers were concerned and 19 employees attended the August School Board meeting to present their complaints.

At that time, Attorney Ben Jones offered to meet with the workers and A.R.A. to try to work out a solution. The meeting was scheduled to take place on September 4, after the workers had met with A.R.A. The school board, however, has cancelled that meeting, stating it would be rescheduled for a later date.

Most of the objections raised by the workers are about the changes in hours. The cafeteria workers insist that a six-hour job cannot be done in four hours and the students will be the ones to suffer.

A meeting was held on August 22 between the workers and the A.R.A. and although the transference issues were resolved (employees, per contract, will stay at their original locations), A.R.A. and Manager Mary Reistetter stood firm on the issue of hours. Ms. Reistetter, however, was unavailable for comment on the matter.

Ms. Reistetter met with members of the school board on August 23 to clarify issues and a second meeting of the employees and A.R.A. is scheduled for September 11.

When school opened on August 28, tension was high. Two women, including one group leader and one general food worker, resigned immediately.

Which is it?

Frances or Francis?

By WALLY KOCHER
Staff Correspondent

FRANCIS or FRANCES? That's the question.

Thousands of people visit the Frances Slocum State Park each year, all year round, and yet the park's namesake is misspelled many times. The most recently noticed spelling mistake of the park is in a telephone book listing which had the park listed as "Francis

Slocum State Park." Also, several of the area maps hanging in local restaurants and stores misspell the park's name.

Who is Frances Slocum, and why has she had to deal with her name being misspelled all these years?

Frances Slocum was born in 1773, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Slocum. Her life was changed drastically when her parent's home in Wilkes-Barre came under attack from three Delaware Indians on Nov. 2, 1778. (See FRANCES, page 8)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

This is right!

This sign, leading the way to Frances Slocum State Park in Kingston Township, correctly spells the name of the woman for whom the park is named. Maps and telephone listings, have, in the past, misspelled the park's name.