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Local school directors differ slightly from those in statewide survey

By PAMELA AARON
Staff Correspondent

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following the release of a survey conducted by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association studying the backgrounds and characteristics of school directors across the state of Pennsylvania, The Dallas Post conducted a random survey of its own, studying the backgrounds and characteristics of members of both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Boards.

Survey forms were mailed to all members of both local school boards, asking the school directors to complete the forms and return them to The Dallas Post. All survey forms were to be completed anonymously.

Following are the results from both the statewide survey conducted by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the local survey conducted by The Dallas Post.

The Dallas Post reminds readers that all members of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Boards did not respond to the survey form. The results here have been compiled only from those local school directors who complete the survey questionnaire.)

Characteristics of members of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Boards differ somewhat from those of school directors across the state of Pennsylvania, according to a survey conducted recently by The Dallas Post.

Contrary to statewide statistics, compiled by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the two local school boards differ in that their school directors are not mainly college graduates and do not earn over \$50,000 per year.

Research conducted at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association looking into the backgrounds and characteristics of 4,509 school board members shows that a profile of today's School Board member is: male, Protestant, Republican, Caucasian, married and between the ages of 40 and 49, has two children who attend or have attended public

schools, is a college graduate or higher with a family income of \$50,000 and has four or less years experience on the school board. He spends between 11 and 20 hours per month on school board activities.

The findings of the statewide survey indicate that board members have become increasingly more mobile with a tendency to have more education and a greater income than in the past.

Other significant findings of the study were:

- The number of women on school boards continues to increase from the 1980 level to 20 percent of the 1984 level of 27 percent.

- The two largest occupational classifications for these women are homemaker (13.8 percent) and office supervisor, manager or executive (9.2 percent).

- The "educational" classifications included teachers, administrators, higher education and other school employees, these having increased from 7.6 percent in 1980 to 8.4 percent in 1984.

- Most school directors, surveyed were Republican and Protestant.

- As many as 65 percent of school board directors had four years of board service or less, representing the trend toward leadership change that is evidenced itself over the years. Only 12 percent of those studied reported to have more than 10 years experience as a school director.

- The percentage of school directors spending more than 20 hours a month on school board activities rose over the 1980 figures, from 44 percent to the current 54 percent.

- More than half of all school board members surveyed (60 percent) were college graduates with 78 percent having had at least some college training.

Results of an informal poll taken of members of both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Boards, the following information was obtained:

- Most local school directors were male with only two out of the group surveyed being female.

- The majority were high school

(See SCHOOL, page 10)



TONJA SPENCER Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Riding comes naturally to Lehman's Tonja Spencer

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Horseback riding and winning in competition have been part of Tonja Spencer's life since she was a child.

"I have been riding all my life," said 19-year old Tonja. "When I was a child, I lived near the Mohawk and loved animals, so I guess riding just came naturally. My grandmother bought me my first horse, a pony. From that time, I kept buying and selling, until about 10 years ago, when I bought Pokey, a bay gelding."

Pokey is a registered quarter

horse which Tonja rode in competition for the past 10 years, competition in which she won 10 trophies and about 250 ribbons.

Tonja's latest achievement was in the State 4-H competition. In order to qualify, she first entered the County competition at the Lehman Horse Show Grounds where she took three second places — in the quadrangle, cloverleaf, and pole bending, all times races. This advanced her to the District competition at Dalton where she placed first in the three events. The top two riders advanced to the State competition where Tonja competed against

(See TONJA, page 10)

Barbacci hired at Lake-Lehman

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Lake-Lehman School Directors finally hired Dwight Barbacci as a full-time physical education teacher at the regular school board meeting held last Tuesday. Barbacci was hired at an annual salary of \$13,400.

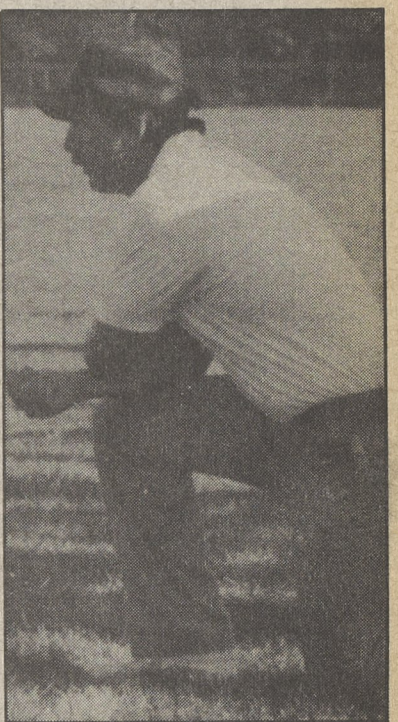
The motion to appoint Thomas A. Williams, son of director Tom Williams, failed, however, for the fifth consecutive meeting. Voting in favor of appointing Williams were Joseph Jones, Donald Jones, Gilbert Tough and Daniel Hudzik. Voting against Williams' appointment were Bing Wolfe, Martin Noon and Ed Mark. Allen Keiper was absent and Tom Williams, father of the teaching candidate, abstained from voting, thus following school policy.

Fourth grade parents in the audience spoke in favor of Williams and expressed concern if he were to be replaced during the course of the school year. Williams is presently teaching as a substitute in the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

Christina Conrad, fourth grade student, spoke on behalf of Williams and told the board members that for the first time she is not only learning math, but enjoying it under Williams' instruction. She said that after reading in a local paper that the board did not appoint Williams at the last meeting, she questioned the action and her parents explained why he was not hired. The student asked the board to reconsider and stated that not everyone is alike. She said just as she is not the same as her brothers and sisters, Williams is not necessarily like his father. She presented a petition to the board requesting that Williams be appointed.

Director Bing Wolfe told the youngsters he had to refute her remarks, that he believed she was misinformed and his remarks drew unfavorable reaction from taxpayers in the audience.

The board appointed Robert Roberts as assistant girls' basketball coach. The board members also approved the job description for the in-school suspension monitor. The



DWIGHT BARBACCI

description is to be sent to the state for approval and instructor certification. A resolution to approve the band's trip to Atlanta, Ga. in May, 1985, was approved in addition to a \$3,000 donation to help defray costs. A resolution for the high school's ski club's trip to Quebec also was approved.

Resolutions of Recognition were approved for the Lake-Lehman High School Band and Director John Milauskas for taking the Atlantic Coast Championship and to the Lehman Mini Football players and their coaches for winning their league title.

Recognition also was given to Marietta Toole, who was named outstanding teacher by College Misericordia, and to Katherine Gregory for her students Science Project.

The board approved the use of the junior and senior high school gyms by teams of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus.

Robert Kunkle, elementary school principal at Lake-Noxen Elementary School, was given approval to hire an instructional aide for first grade at Lake-Noxen.



Dallas Post/Joan Kingsbury

Honored teachers

College Misericordia recently honored three Back Mountain teachers for their accomplishments in education. Shown in the photo at left are teacher Marietta Toole and her first grade class at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School as they display stuffed animals and books brought in to celebrate National Book Week. In the center photo, Maureen Whalen, Dallas Senior High School



Dallas Post/Joan Kingsbury

English teacher, shows a bulletin board featuring the works of some of the authors her students are studying while Joann Drayer's class at Westmoreland Elementary School is shown in the photo at right as they make turkeys from apples, olives and raisins for Thanksgiving.



Dallas Post/Joan Kingsbury

College Misericordia cites three Back Mountain teachers

By JOAN KINGSBURY
Staff Correspondent

Three Back Mountain teachers have been recognized for their excellence in teaching by College Misericordia's Education Department.

The teachers, alumni of the college, are Marietta Toole, first grade teacher Lehman-Jackson Elementary School; Joann Drayer, learning disabilities teacher, Westmoreland Elementary School; and Maureen Whalen, English teacher, Dallas senior high school.

Marietta Toole has been an elementary teacher for 18 years with 10 of those years being spent teaching third grade. Her husband, Michael, is the home-school visitor for Lake-Lehman School District. The couple has a daughter Erin, age 6, a first grade student at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. The Tooles live in Meadowcrest Manor on Chase Road.

Marietta firmly believes in teaching the basics, but likes to add color and enrichment to her teaching program. She believes a teacher "must be firm but compassionate, trying to emphasize the positive." During National Book Week, her students were encouraged to bring in stuffed animals relating to books they have enjoyed reading. Marietta feels special projects such as these are remembered by students after

they have left elementary school. Marietta says, "It is rewarding to see how much and how far you can take a first grade. I enjoy seeing the success of each student."

Joann Drayer is a special education teacher employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit. She has been teaching out of the Westmoreland School for 11 years.

Joann lives in Askam with her husband, Michael, a public relations man, and their daughter, Aimee. Aimee is a second grader at St. Aloysius School.

Joann is a member of the PSEA. Joann's class includes children from grades 1-4 with learning disabilities. She gets great satisfaction from seeing the children accomplish things. "When the light bulb turns on for them it's pretty special," she says.

Joann, too, enjoys special projects with her class. A recent project was "Make Someone Happy" and each night the children had to do something nice for someone else for homework, helping them to see that when you make someone happy, you also make yourself happy.

Maureen Whalen's love of English and her desire to help others to enjoy this subject were deciding factors in her becoming a teacher. A resident of Kingston, Maureen's husband, Ned, is a teacher at Coughlin High School. The Whalens have two children, Kelly, a second grade student at the Chester Street School and Ned, a student at Little Peoples Nursery School.

Maureen enjoys teaching in the high school setting where she has been bringing English alive for her students for 14 years. Teaching

mostly junior and senior classes, Maureen especially enjoys teaching writing courses, encouraging more interest in written expression.

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Holiday Gift Guide inside

The Dallas Post proudly presents its 1984 Holiday Gift Guide, which readers will find in the second section of today's paper. The Holiday Gift Guide offers readers an opportunity to cash in on some extra savings by shopping early for Christmas gifts. Businessmen are offering special savings to those who shop early and you can find out who's selling what in today's Gift Guide. The guide also offers readers some advice about holiday gift-giving and includes some delicious holiday recipes.