

Youth dies from self-inflicted gunshot wound

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

The lack of publicity concerning the recent death of Robert Stair of Dallas by a self-inflicted gunshot wound has brought questions as well as various rumors from members of the Back Mountain community.

The late Robert Stair, according to Dallas Township Chief of Police Carl Miers, was found dead in a car shortly after 3 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15. Stair's body was found outside of the Dallas Township Municipal Building by Patrolman Elliott Ide. According to County Coroner Dr. George E. Hudock, the victim died of a self-inflicted shot gun wound.

Miers said that police had narrowed the

time of Stair's death to approximately 10 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14. According to police, the car in which his body was found was parked along the side of the township building and, because there was a meeting in the township building Monday night and auditors were in the building, people who saw the parked car thought it was one that belonged to someone still in the building.

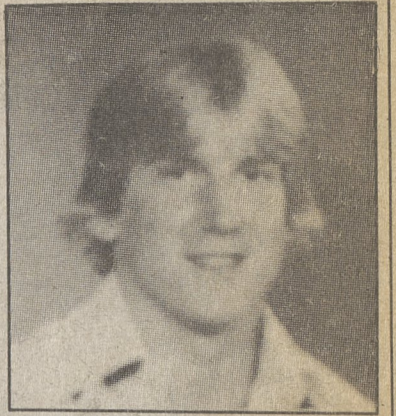
Since the patrol car does not circle the building, it was only natural that the policeman on duty would not notice the parked car. Miers explained that when the cruiser comes in, the officer driving pulls in front of the building then backs along the front side of the building heading out toward the highway.

One of the persons in the building Monday night said he had heard a noise somewhere in the vicinity of 10 and 10:30 p.m., but thought

it was a car backfiring on the highway in front of the municipal building. Miers said such backfiring happens frequently along Route 309.

Contrary to reports in the Back Mountain area, the police chief reported that no drugs were found in the car, which was a vehicle allegedly stolen by Stair. The car was owned by Robert Volker of 25 Pace St., Larksville, who had it parked outside of a store in Larksville. Courtdale police chased the stolen vehicle to Kingston, but were unable to stop Stair.

A report that Stair had two shotgun shells, one of which was meant for a Dallas patrolman who had charged Stair in the past and was responsible for his arrest and time spent in prison, could not be confirmed by Police Chief Miers.



ROBERT STAIR

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Students first! Kids are priority in cancelling school

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Parents, who thought there should have been a delayed start or cancellation of classes in Back Mountain schools last Thursday or who are questioning the cancellation of school during the early part of this week due to bitter cold temperatures, are probably unaware of the difficulty in making such decisions.

The heavy snowfall which occurred on Thursday, Jan. 17, came between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Those persons going to work prior to 6:30 a.m. had little difficulty on the highways.

In answer to the question as to why Lake-Lehman School District did not have a delayed start or cancellation of classes, Dr. David Preston, superintendent, explained the reason is the element of time.

Because of the fact that all radio and television stations have to be contacted before a certain time by the districts, school officials must make a decision before 6 a.m. Preston said the conditions as reported to him and to assistant to the superintendent, Anthony Mar-

chakitis, did not warrant closing or delayed start.

"I was up at 5:30 a.m.," explained Dr. Preston. "At that time there was only an inch and a half of snow on the ground. I checked with Mr. Marchakitis and he confirmed about the same amount on the ground, so we decided to go ahead with the regular starting time and get the students in early."

The storm picked up after that time and, by 7:30 a.m., too late to call the media, Channel 16 had upped its predictions from one to two inches to three to six inches.

Dr. Preston explained that school officials have only a narrow period of time to make phone calls and can't get through to the stations if they wait too long. He said he checked the snow at 4:30 a.m. and was up again at 5:30 to check outside.

He also stated that when he came in from Lake Silkworth, Route 29 was plowed and Route 118 was plowed and trucks were still plowing. Preston said that some of the buses going down Route 309 to West Side Tech, Bishop O'Reilly and

(See STUDENTS, page 8)

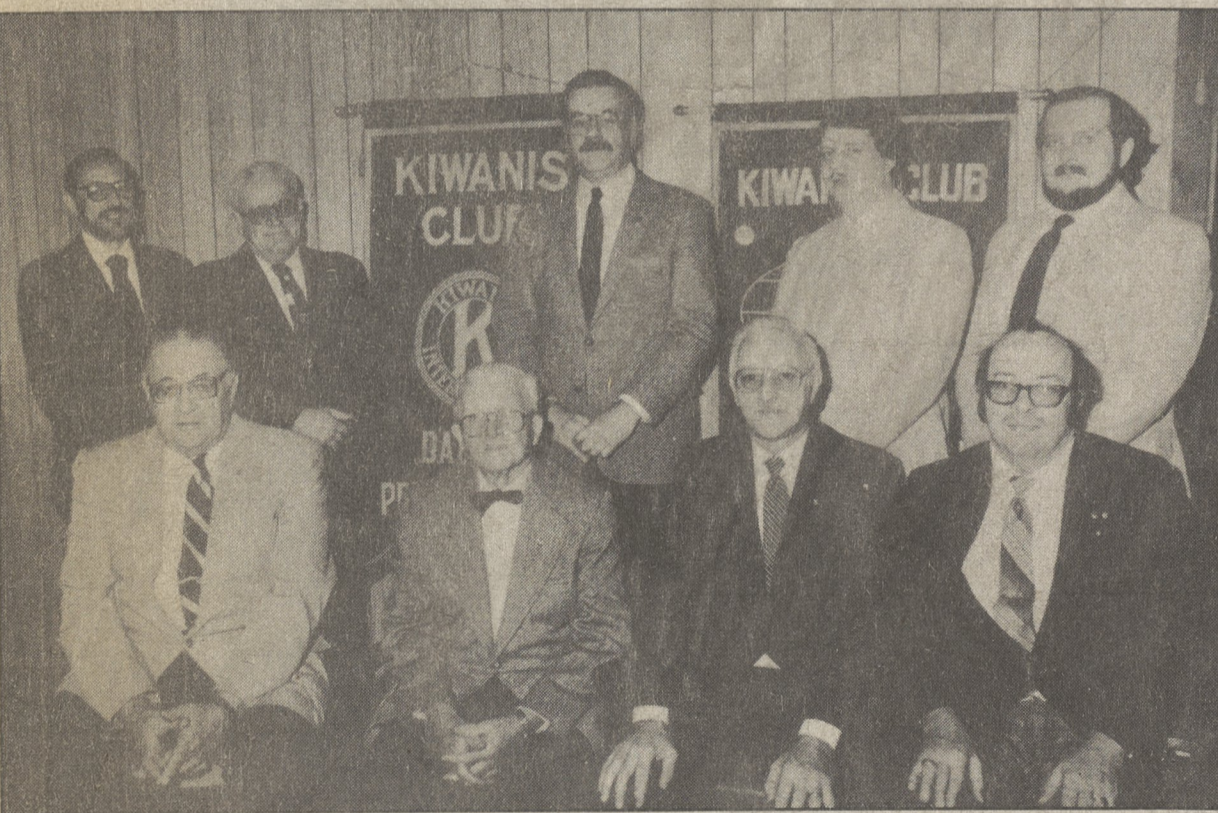


Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Winter fun!

Pat Hozempa of Lehman didn't let last week's snow and cold temperatures stop him from enjoying himself. Pat is shown

here as he takes a break from a snowmobiling adventure through the Back Mountain. The snowmobile is the newest toy of our very own photographer, Ed Campbell.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Kiwanians gather

Shown here are members of the Dallas and Back Mountain Kiwanis Clubs as they gather to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Kiwanis International. From left, first row, Paul Selingo, first vice president, Dallas Kiwanis; Gus Faerber, publicity chairman, Back Mountain Kiwanis; Richard Alters, treasurer, Back Mountain Kiwanis; Jim Snyder, secretary, Back Mountain Kiwanis. Second row, Bill Kalinowski, second vice president, Dallas Kiwanis; Peter G. George, president, Dallas Kiwanis; Reese E. Pelton, Lieutenant Governor, Division 15 Kiwanis; James J. Larson, president, Back Mountain Kiwanis; and Philip Neiman, vice president, Back Mountain Kiwanis.

Kiwanis notes 70 years

'Enthusiasm makes the difference'

By DOTTY MARTIN
Editor

"Enthusiasm Makes The Difference."

And enthusiasm is the key to an organization that has been as successful as Kiwanis International for the past 70 years. Kiwanis, an international service organization with over 9000 members in the state of Pennsylvania alone, is celebrating its 70th anniversary this week, Jan. 20-26.

In conjunction with this celebration, Kiwanis has adopted the slogan "Enthusiasm Makes The Dif-

ference." EMTD pins on the lapels of Kiwanians distinguish them as members of this worldwide service organization.

Celebrating right along with Kiwanians both nationwide and internationally, are our very own area Kiwanis Clubs.

The Dallas Kiwanis Club, led this year by club president Peter G. George, is 58 years old while the Back Mountain Kiwanis Club, with Jim Larson as president, is rather new, having been in existence for eight years.

The Dallas Kiwanis Club meets every Wednesday evening at the

Irem Temple Country Club while the Back Mountain Club is a break-fast club, meeting every Saturday morning at Franklin's Restaurant in Dallas.

Dallas' own Reese Pelton serves as Lieutenant Governor for a Kiwanis District within Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, directing over 600 Kiwanians.

Kiwanis Clubs are the parent sponsor of high school Key Clubs as well as collegiate Circle K Clubs. According to Pelton, every high school within Luzerne County, with the exception of Bishop Hoban has a Key Club. And, he says, plans are

(See KIWANIS, page 8)

Panelists discuss pros and cons

Legalized gambling?

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

A panel of four guests, moderated by Bill Bachman, stated their positions on legalized casino gambling in Pennsylvania at a public forum held last Saturday night before a sparse audience at the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

State Representative Thomas Tighe of Hughestown and Paul Lauer, executive director of Luzerne County Tourist Promotion Agency, spoke out in favor of casino gambling, while Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie and Rev. Thomas Richards, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tannersville, spoke out against gambling.

Rep. Tighe stated he was in favor of casino gambling in the Poconos, but by local option such as is now the case throughout Pennsylvania relative to alcoholic beverages. The

portion of the Poconos he includes in his proposal for casino gambling includes areas of five counties. He advocates control of gambling by a control commission and enforcement agency, both under the direction of the State Attorney General.

Tighe also pointed out that casino gambling would mean employing more people, explaining that the Atlantic City Casinos employ thousands of people.

Tighe also said that in the new session of the House, the representatives will be taking a hard look at dog racing, video poker machines and other forms of gambling.

Lauer stated that he favored casino gambling because it would be a positive force for tourism, but it should be subject to local option and not just in the Poconos where they favor only slot machines.

He said he believed it would aid employment, bring in additional tax revenues and give Pennsylvania defense against those states now

considering legalized casino gambling. Lauer indicated that since many people gamble legally or illegally, it should be made legal to satisfy the demand of the people. Both Lauer and Tighe stated that Atlantic City has become the No. One Vacation spot in the country.

Gillespie said he was against legalized casino gambling and that although the Poconos were not in Luzerne County and construction was in Pike and Carbon County, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton are the largest cities and he believes that casino gambling will bring increased prostitution and armed robbery to these two cities.

Gillespie said that every year 700 to 800 billion dollars of U.S. money goes to South America in drug trafficking, but he doesn't advocate selling drugs because South America does; therefore, he doesn't advocate casino gambling because Pennsylvanians go to Atlantic City. He said he didn't want his children to grow up in Atlantic City atmosphere.

Rev. Richards, who has been spearheading a drive against gambling in the Poconos for the past two years, said he believes in the work ethic and he does not believe Pennsylvanians depend on luck or games of chance. He said he thinks it is a joke that legislators believe they can write foolproof legislation. "Who oversees tournaments in the bars?", "Who protects owners and

(See GAMBLE, page 8)



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Discussing gambling

A panel of four invited guests conducted a public forum on the topic of legalized casino gambling in Pennsylvania last Saturday at the Trucksville United Methodist Church. Bill Bachman, PG&W public information director, was moderator of the discussion. Members of the panel, above, from left, are State Rep. Thomas Tighe, Hughestown; Paul Lauer, Luzerne County Tourist Promotion Agency Director; Bachman; Rev. Thomas Richards, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tannersville; and Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie. Tighe and Lauer spoke in favor of gambling, Richards and Gillespie against the issue.

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