

# THE DALLAS POST

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Workshop deals with suicides

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

The first in a series of suicide prevention training sessions scheduled for January 22 in the board room of Dallas School District's administration offices was postponed to February 5 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The session was postponed because of the cancellation of school due to the extremely cold weather.

Dr. Jeffrey Sternlieb, licensed clinical psychologist, will conduct the workshop dealing with prevention of suicides with emphasis on teenage suicides.

Of the 44 persons who committed suicide in Luzerne County in 1983, 17 percent were under the age of 25. In 1982, six of the 33 suicides committed in Luzerne County were by young people under the age of 24. The Luzerne County Coroner's Office is currently working on the figures for 1984, but a spokesman in Dr. George Hudock's office stated that as of Monday, she had a definite figure of three teenagers, who committed suicide in 1984, one age 19, one age 17 and one age 14. She said, however, that the tabulation was not completed. In an appearance before the board of the Youth Service Commission of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, Dr. Hudock stated that there were at least 46 suicides in 1984.

Mary Brassel Zack, executive director of the agency, explained that Dr. Hudock expressed serious concern over the number of suicides committed in this area, as well as the number of suicidal attempts. He sees an average of four attempted overdoses a week, most tried by teens below the age of 19, according to Ms. Zack. She said Hudock told agency members that many of the vehicular accidents with a lone occupant in the car are actually suicides just as many cases of overdosing are those of self-destruction.

"We are not a treatment agency," explained Ms. Zack. "Our effort is a prevention program. Our purpose is to prevent even one suicide from occurring and we are starting by trying to educate the public through publicity and through the schools by conducting workshops for school personnel, who work with students. In the fall of 1984, we sent out literature asking the schools to respond to our program. We hoped to have at least two schools respond favorably to our program. We were overwhelmed when we received requests from 12 schools, eight public and four private."

Zack said their agency gave the schools two options - the agency representatives will either train personnel so they can recognize warning signs and know referral procedures (See WORKSHOP, page 8)

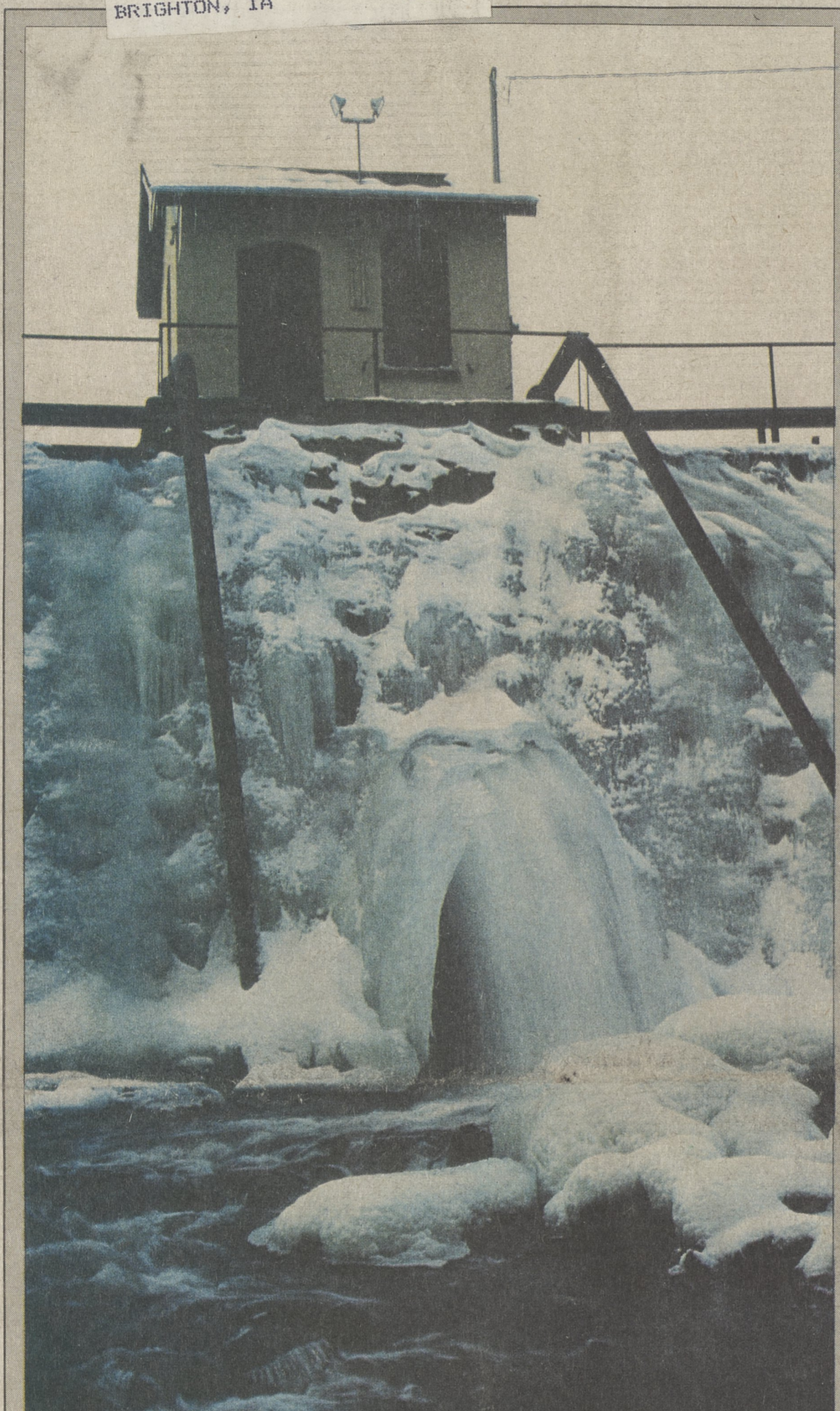
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Friendly ice

The mystery of ice is that it can be both destructive and beautiful, all in the same season. Here, ice formations at the Huntsville Dam provide for a very pretty picture this winter while the same kind of ice can cause all kinds of damage to both homes and automobiles.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Following chase

## Vehicle strikes Kingston Twp. police officer

By DOTTY MARTIN  
Editor

A Kingston Township police officer remains in serious condition in the critical care unit of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston, after being struck by a vehicle Sunday night in Dallas while the operator of that vehicle, a 17-year-old youth from Dallas, remains committed to the Luzerne County Juvenile Detention Center.

The youth, who has been charged with aggravated assault, will remain in the Juvenile Detention Center until a full hearing is conducted. According to Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie, that hearing must be held within 10-12 days from the date of the arrest.

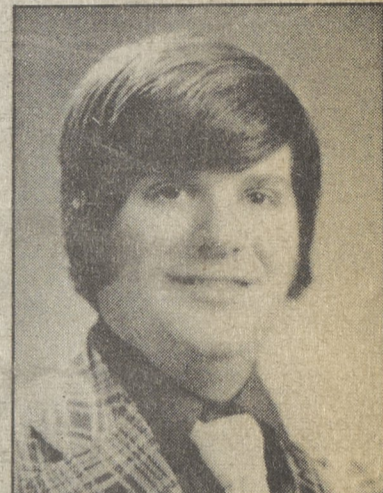
Ralph "Rusty" Seltzer, 27, of Hamilton Avenue, Kingston, a part-time police officer for Kingston Township, was struck at approximately 10:43 p.m. Sunday by a 1971 Javelin occupied by three juveniles. The accident occurred at the intersection of Lower Demunds Road and Roushey Street shortly after Seltzer had blocked the crossroads with the Kingston Township police cruiser in an attempt to stop the juveniles.

According to a report released by the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop P, Wyoming, who are investigating the incident, Officer Seltzer was found under the juvenile's vehicle after he was struck and dragged approximately 100 feet.

Seltzer was taken to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in Kingston by the Dallas ambulance. After being admitted to the hospital Sunday night, Seltzer underwent approximately five hours of surgery on Monday for contusions, abrasions and a large gash on one of his legs.

Although Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol reported Seltzer was scheduled to be transferred from the critical care unit to a private room, a hospital spokesman said the officer remained in the CCU unit of the hospital late Tuesday afternoon. Sabol did, however, report that Seltzer was resting comfortably and his attitude was good.

According to the State Police report, John Fowler of the Dallas Borough Police Department attempted to stop a 1971 Javelin occupied by three juveniles for a registration violation. When the 17-year-old operator refused to stop,



OFFICER RALPH SELTZER  
...in a 1975 photo

the vehicle was chased on Routes 415 and 309 by the Dallas Borough police cruiser.

The vehicle traveled through New Goss Manor and passed the Dallas Junior High School, then continued down through Fairgrounds Road to Demunds Road. The chase was then joined by Dallas Township and Kingston Township Police, according to the report.

Officer Seltzer set up a road block with the Kingston Township police cruiser at the intersection of Lower Demunds Road and Roushey Street. The juvenile driver tried to run the road block by driving around the front of the Kingston Township cruiser and, in doing so, struck Officer Seltzer who, in turn, was dragged under the juvenile's vehicle, police said.

The juvenile then stopped and was taken into custody by officers Fowler and Doug Lamoreux of the Dallas Township Police Department.

The three occupants of the vehicle were detained and questioned, after which the juvenile operator was arrested for aggravated assault by the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Division at Wyoming and committed to the Luzerne County Juvenile Center. The other two occupants of the vehicle were released, the report said.

The chase began Sunday night when Officer Fowler spotted the Javelin in Dallas Borough. Fowler reported he is familiar with the vehicle and knew that the registration plate on the vehicle, which had expired, did not belong to the owner

(See VEHICLE, page 8)



### NEDT winners

N.E.D.T. Winners at Dallas Senior High School are shown here. From left, first row, Joanne Zuba, Doreen Karrott, Chrissy Bulford, Heather Natress, Denise Corcoran, Erin Cleary, Ann Marie Danna, Lynn Matus, Elizabeth Scott. Second row, Dr. Thomas Cypher, Principal; Chris Kelly, Truyen Huynh, Tom McNichols, Beth Adams, Chris Riedlinger, Cathy Zikor, Kristen Piatkowski, Lauren Walsh, Eileen Nagy, Staci Robbins, Kristen McHenry, Leonard Medura, Mrs. Patricia Russin, Counselor and Mr. Galicki, Assistant Principal; third row: Patricia Chisler, Crystalline Bell, Mary Herbert, Mark Richardsn, Enrico Nardone and Scott Francis. Absent from photo: Robert Kruchinski and Matt Lipo.

## Students win NEDT certificates

Dallas Senior High School is proud to announce that 29 students in the sophomore class are N.E.D.T. (National Educational Development Tests) Certificate Winners. These students attained a composite score on the test at the 90th percentile or better as measured by national norms.

The N.E.D.T. provides information about the general level of educational development of the student

and ability in the following areas: English, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Word Usage.

Certificate winners are: Elizabeth Adams, Crystalline Bell, Chrissy Bulford, Pat Chisler, Erin Cleary, Denise Corcoran, Ann Marie Danna, Donald Francis, Mary Herbert, Truyen Huynh, Doreen Karrott, Chris Kelly, Robert Kruschinski, Matt Lipo, Lynn Matus, Kristen

McHenry, Tom McNichols, Leonard Medura, Eileen Nagy, Enrico Nardone, Heather Natress, Kristen Piatkowski, Mark Richardson, Chris Riedlinger, Staci Robbins, Elizabeth Scott, Lauren Walsh, Cathy Zikor and Joanne Zuba.

These students will be participating in the 1985 Honors Banquet which will be held at Dallas Senior High School on May 16.

## Local police officer says life is being threatened

By DOTTY MARTIN  
Editor

A Dallas Borough police officer says his life has been verbally threatened several times during the past few weeks. The threats, according to the officer, began following the suicide of a 20-year-old Dallas man. It is not known whether the incidents are related.

John Fowler, a 12-year-veteran of the Dallas Borough Police Department, told The Dallas Post that he has been verbally threatened several times during his routine police duties since the death of Robert Stair, Jr.

Stair, of 42nd Street, died January 14, the victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Stair's body was found in a car parked alongside the Dallas Township Municipal Building.

Dallas Township Patrolman Elliott Ide discovered the body at approximately 3 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, in a car that police later determined had been stolen by Stair on January 14 from outside a business in Larksville. The vehicle was owned by Robert Volker of 25 Pace St., Larksville.

According to Fowler, several people have said to him, "I wish you were dead," during the past two weeks. Although Fowler reported to The Dallas Post he knows the identity of the people making these threats, he would describe them only as being over 18 years of age and as having been seen with Robert Stair in the past.

Fowler also reported that one day last week, a police officer at the

Dallas Township Municipal Building, from where all Back Mountain police cars are dispatched, received a call from someone who reported that Fowler had been murdered.

Fowler said that although much of the conversation was undistinguishable, one phrase understood by the officer taking the call, was "There's been a murder. Jack Fowler is dead."

The Borough police officer reported that although verbal threats have been directed to him during routine patrol duty and traffic stops, he has not been physically harmed in any way.

Fowler, who admitted to having arrested Stair several times for numerous violations in Dallas Borough, would not comment on the nature of those violations.

Dallas Borough Police Chief Ed Lyons reported that Stair had been arrested four times in Dallas Borough and that Fowler was the arresting officer all four times. Lyons reported that three of the arrests were for summary traffic violations in May of 1984 and one arrest was for disorderly conduct in September of 1984. Lyons also reported that all four charges were decided by a magistrate and that Stair's account in Dallas Borough was all cleared up prior to his death.

Lyons reported that Stair had not spent any time in jail in Dallas Borough, however, he was not sure as to whether or not Stair had spent time in any jail.

Mrs. Jane Stair, the victim's mother, placed a call to The Dallas Post last Wednesday, questioning a story that was published in the

January 23 issue of The Dallas Post.

During the course of that conversation, Mrs. Stair reported that Robert, Jr. had spent four hours in jail for driving a motorcycle without a license. She said she allowed her son to be put in jail to "try to teach him a lesson."

Frank Galicki, assistant principal at the Dallas Senior High School, denied reports that Stair's friends who attend the school had hung signs in the hallway, notifying anyone of any revenge being sought.

"I have not seen anything related to Bobby Stair in any way, shape or form since his death," said Galicki. "There are no signs of any revenge being sought here at the school, at least not to my knowledge."

Carl Miers, Dallas Township Police Chief and a close friend of the victim's parents, Robert and Jane Stair, reported the younger Stair was never arrested in Dallas Township.

(See THREATS, page 8)

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