

Happy hours: Do they create drunk drivers?

By CHARLOT M. DENMAN

Increased public attention to alcohol-related problems and an increase in cases of "driving under



UNCERTAIN — Tom Pickett of Pickett's Charge Restaurant hosts the only happy hour in the Back Mountain area, but he says he is not certain he likes the idea. (Photo by Charlot M. Denman)

the influence" has prompted the Pennsylvania State Liquor Control Board officials to consider banning happy hour in bars throughout the Commonwealth.

A similar ban was put into effect recently in Massachusetts and certain groups in Pennsylvania advocate a similar law in this state because they believe the ban would decrease vehicle accidents.

Happy hour is a period of time, generally during early evening hours, in a bar or tavern when alcoholic drinks are served at reduced prices.

The State Liquor Control Board scheduled four hearings on the issue, with one remaining on the calendar in Philadelphia.

After the hearings are over, the PLCB plans to allow 90 days for people to submit written testimony to the board.

To determine how tavern owners and other persons in this area feel about happy hours, several owners and people at random were contacted.

Now, only one establishment has a happy hour, and the business owner is not certain that he is in

favor of it.

Tom Pickett of Pickett's Charge, Dallas, has happy hour, daily, from 4 to 7 p.m.

"The only night we are very busy at the bar is Friday," Pickett said. "People going by on the highway believe the restaurant is crowded when they see all the cars in the parking lot. Actually, the bar is crowded but not the dining room."

Pickett said that patrons stopping for dinner cannot find a parking place so they drive out and there are many times the bar is full but he has no one in the dining room. This defeats the purpose of his establishment, according to Pickett, because he is in business primarily to serve dinners. He said he has offered incentives such as discounts to the diners but said it hasn't helped very much.

Pickett said he didn't believe that happy hour had any effect on vehicle accidents. The bar is usually so crowded on Friday nights that his one bartender is so busy that a customer is fortunate if he gets more than two drinks during the period. He believes his aim to bring in diners through happy hour is not

working and is considering dropping it.

Lum Kern, owner of Fernbrook Inn, has no happy hour but he doesn't see anything wrong with it. He said from his experiences, in most places where there has been a happy hour the bar is so busy that customers seldom get more than two drinks.

"Most of the happy hours are for only one hour. It's just a gimmick to get people to come in. How much can one drink in an hour," asked Kern. He said he believed the habitual drinker will stop and drink no matter what the price is.

Sid and Judy Sivlers, owners of the White Horse in the Dallas Shopping Center, do not have a happy hour but said they don't believe happy hours play a major role in alcohol-related accidents.

"People who are going to drink will drink no matter what the cost. The occasional drinker might stop for one or two drinks to socialize with friends but they aren't the heavy drinkers," said Sivlers.

Sid's wife, Judy, believes that the PLCB is infringing upon the personal business of the bar or tavern

owner. She said that there are so many rules and regulations in Pennsylvania now that it is difficult for the owners to survive. She doesn't believe a happy hour would be beneficial to their business.

She said they had decided on a schedule of charges for the alcoholic beverages served in their place and that they would adhere to them. Neither she nor Sid believe that this has hurt their business. They do understand, however, that in the larger communities where there are so many establishments that a happy hour can help bring in more people but they also believe that the people will usually drink one or two drinks unless they are habitual drinkers.

District Magistrate Leonard Harvey said that he has never been to a happy hour but that he has never heard of anyone becoming intoxicated. He believes the bar owner, in most cases, realizes that he and the bartender are responsible for the serving intoxicated people.

He doesn't believe price would change the owner's understanding of his responsibility.

Harvey believes that the bar or tavern owner should be allowed to control prices as he desires.

Under PLCB regulations no establishment is allowed to charge less than the cost of the beverage to him.

Herbert Dreher, member of the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, said he doesn't know too much about the happy hour. He does believe that most persons who would drink to excess are those who would not stop irregardless of the price.

The heavy drinker usually doesn't care about price, in Dreher's opinion, and if he does he can always find a cheaper bar, or join a private club where the drinks are cheaper all of the time.

He said at one time the Legion tried a happy hour but it didn't do a thing for business. People drank as much or as little as usual. Price didn't increase business at all, in Dreher's opinion.

If the opinion of these persons holds true of other Back Mountain residents, happy hour does not appear to be a problem in this area.

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Dallas Post finds two couples who tied the knot 61 years ago

By JOAN KINGSBURY

In conjunction with Worldwide Marriage Encounter proposal to have the Sunday before Valentine's Day designated Worldwide Marriage Day, the Dallas Post has searched for the longest married couples in this area.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elston, Overbrook Road, Dallas and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Cornell, Meeker, are the winners. Both couples have been married for 61 years.

The Elstons were married on June 19, 1924, on the lawn of their home.

Mrs. Elston is the former Ruby Eulford, daughter of the late B. Frank and Ellen Duckworth Bulford of Dallas. The Bulfords were early settlers in Dallas. The Elston property on Overbrook Road has been in the Bulford family since 1848. Their home, the old family homestead was constructed in 1889. Mrs. Elston was born and raised in that home. Her husband was born in

Lehman Center, son of the late George and Etta DeLay Elston. He is retired from the Luzerne County Road and Bridge Department.

The Elstons have two children, Harold of Dallas and Nancy Schimmel of State College. They have six grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornell were married June 12, 1924 at the home of her parents, the late Harvey and Jennie Naugle. Mrs. Cornell is the former Emma Naugle of Pikes Creek.

Mr. Cornell is the son of the late Daniel and Mary Cornell of Meeker. He is a farmer and owner of Willard Cornell Trucking and Excavating. The Cornells have lived in Meeker ever since they were married.

The Cornells are the parents of seven children: Ruth Valick of Meeker; Dorothy Antabin of California; Harold, Ralph, and Francis Cornell all of Meeker; Kenneth of Dallas and Janet Veccaria of Los Angeles, Calif.

They have 22 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



NEW HOME FOR BOOKS — Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library gathered at the new library this past Sunday for an Open House celebration of the library's new building. The library, which was formerly housed in a building on Main Street in Dallas, is moving to its new facilities in the former Dallas Borough School Building on Huntsville Road. Joining in the fun are, from the left, are Ray Bachman, 9, Dallas; Uncle Ted, and Melissa McLarighin, 9, Dallas. (Photo by Ed Campbell)

Teen-ager faces more charges; injured police officer improving

By CHARLOT M. DENMON

The 17-year-old youth charged with running down Kingston Township Police Officer Ralph Seltzer Jan. 27, on Lower Demunds Road, Dallas, remains committed to the Luzerne County Juvenile Detention Center, waiting a hearing in the Luzerne County Juvenile Court.

The youth, originally charged with aggravated assault and recklessly endangering the life of the police officer by Pennsylvania State Trooper Carl Allen, had additional charges filed against him by Allen last week.

In a statement made Monday, Allen said he had filed charges of violating the drug, devices and cosmetic act, and the possession of an instrument of crime.

The youth will remain in the Juvenile Detention Center until the Juvenile Court schedules a date for a hearing, which according to Luzerne District Attorney Robert Gillespie must be held within 10-12 days from the date of the juvenile's arrest.

If convicted, the judge of juvenile court has three options. The youth may be sentenced to prison, certified to adult court, or placed on

probation.

The juvenile operator reportedly ran down Officer Seltzer when he tried to run a road block set up by Seltzer by driving around the Kingston Township cruiser. The youth struck Seltzer, who, according to police, was dragged under the youth's vehicle. The youth was then stopped by Dallas Police Officers Jack Fowler and Doug Lamoreux.

According to the State Police report, Fowler originally signalled the driver to stop because of a registration violation. The 17-year-old operator failed to stop so the vehicle was chased by the Dallas Borough Police cruiser. It proceeded through New Goss Manor and down Fairground Road to Lower Demunds Road where Dallas Township and Kingston Township Police joined the chase. Seltzer used the Kingston Township police cruiser to set up a road block and was trying to get away from the cruiser when he was struck down.

Seltzer, who underwent extensive surgery, is now out of intensive care. He told The Dallas Post he had no broken bones nor internal injuries.

"I had some seriously torn muscles in my leg which were corrected with surgery and I had to have

many skin grafts. I also had innumerable contusions and abrasions, and due to the skin grafts I am flat on my back and able to use only one arm."

When asked about the incident Seltzer said everything happened so suddenly he didn't actually know exactly how it all happened except that he was walking from the front to the side of the police cruiser.

Despite his injuries, Seltzer said that he intends to return to his position with the Kingston Township as soon as he is well enough to do so.

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol said that he would be happy to have Seltzer return to his department.

"He came out of the police academy with a 98 percent average. How much more can you ask for," said Sabol. "He is very caring about people and is very conscientious about his responsibility. Everybody likes him. He is a very fortunate young man that his injuries were not more critical than they are."

Chief Sabol stated that there is a lot more to the entire incident than can be revealed at the present time. He explained that the case is in the hands of the State Police, who are continuing with the investigation.

Crestwood gets new band director

By CATHY FLOWER

Special to The Dallas Post

John Kasko of Shavertown has been named the new band director at Crestwood High School in Mountaintop.

Kasko comes to his new position with a strong musical background. He was assistant band director at Hanover Area and studied in Atlanta where he worked with a 100-member band at Briarcliff High School.

Kasko also attended Wilkes College where he performed in the college band. He served in the Marine Corps.

State champion Lake-Lehman band was the setting for John's first involvement with band when he played the tuba during his high school years.

Kasko is sensitive to the disruption caused by the recent teacher's strike and the adjustment band members must make to a new director.

He also notes that the band has no band period during the school day and members must stay after school to practice.

This, however, does not deter Kasko from holding high hopes of success in working with the band as a group for both the spring concert and field routines.

Getting to know the band members and working with them as individuals is one of the keys to future success, Kasko says.

In this respect, he said he would like to pass on the "caring, incredible attitude of my band director at Lehman, John Millauskas."

When John isn't putting in time with the band, he enjoys photography. What began as a hobby has become quite lucrative for John who has done professional fashion photography work for Loreal and Frito Lay.

Even though he has had some pretty enticing offers to use his photography talents on a full-time basis, Kasko remains too dedicated to the band to consider them.

Police have mixed opinions on chases

By CHARLOT M. DENMON

Are police chases necessary? Local law enforcement officers say there is no definite answer.

The recent chase by Back Mountain police officers which resulted in serious injury to Kingston Township policeman Ralph Seltzer, coupled with an apparent increase in the number of local chases, has raised that question in the minds of many Back Mountain residents.

The recent high speed chase in the Scranton area of a Farview inmate who escaped while being treated at a city hospital resulted in damage to numerous cars, as well as posing the possibility of serious injury to other motorists and bystanders.

More recently there was the story of the former Berwick resident, now living in New York, who was arrested following a high speed chase through several communities in Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

In both incidents, the drivers of the pursued cars were under the age of 21. The driver of the car who struck Seltzer was 17 years of

age.

Seltzer was injured when he used his car to set up a blockade to stop the pursued car. He left his car to move out of the way and when the youth driving the pursued car tried to run the blockade, he reportedly struck Seltzer, who was dragged under the youth's car for about 100 feet.

According to Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers, the youth was signalled to pull over because of a registration violation. The juvenile failed to do so and instead began speeding.

When the youth failed to pull over, the officer alerted all Back Mountain community enforcement officers.

Miers stated there are pros and cons regarding chasing violators.

"It's strictly a judgment decision," said Miers. "A split second decision and each pursuit is different. You can't put them into certain categories. Traffic conditions, weather, the kind of violation, behavior of the individual all enter into the officer's decision whether or not to pursue."

Miers said that in most cases, officers give six or seven warnings for every violation

category. "Why doesn't the individual stop when an officer puts on the red lights signalling him to pull over?" asked Miers. He explained that the Sunday incident involving Seltzer wasn't a high speed chase. Miers checked the distance and indications were that the juvenile had slowed down to approximately 25 mph. At the site of the road block, one could see a distance of 963 feet. At night with the lights flashing, the driver could see farther.

The ideal situation, according to Miers, would be to have car manufacturers install a device on police cars to stop the car being chased. The problem with that, however, is that the device would stop all cars in the vicinity of the pursued car.

The Dallas township Police Department has a policy that unless it is a felony, an officer gives chase to only 20 miles above the speed limit.

Miers stated that Act 120 of the police code stipulates mandatory training and his department also conducts in-training programs but unfortunately they do not have the facilities for overall pursuit cases. He said each pursuit is different and can't be put in a specific

category.

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol said the question about police chases is a difficult one to answer. He said it is difficult to say it's right all of the time.

Sabol also said that the juvenile being chased Sunday night had no business on the road without legal registration. If the juvenile or his passengers had been hurt, the police would have been criticized. Now they are criticized because an officer was injured.

"Every circumstance is different," said Sabol. "In the case of apparent driving under the influence, it's best to follow slowly until the officer can get the violator off the road."

Sabol believes there should be a mandatory continuing education program across the state for every police officer.

"The officer doesn't have an hour to decide whether to chase a violator. He has to decide in a split second," said Sabol. "Another solution since so many juvenile drivers panic so quickly and take off instead of pulling over, may be to raise the age to obtain a license. Maybe they are not old enough to drive. A vehicle can be more dangerous than a glass of beer."

Put your love in the paper

The Dallas Post offers you the opportunity to show your sweetheart how much you love him or her by advertising your feelings in its February 13th edition.

The Post is featuring a special classified Valentine Greeting section in the February 13th edition. For just \$1, you get five lines of copy to tell your sweetheart how much you love them.

It's simple to do, too. Just fill out the coupon that appears in today's paper or write your name and address on a piece of paper with your five-line Valentine Greeting ad. Attach \$1 and mail it to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, Pa., 18612.