



Dinner meeting

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Shown here are those who met for dinner at Pickett's Charge Restaurant, Dallas, to plan for their re-enactment of the Civil War. From left, first row, Howard Lee, Ryan Lindbuckler, John Larioni Jr., and Bob Thomas. Second row, Marilyn Mercer, Karen Radwanski, and Stephanie Purdy. Third row, Dan Mercer, Jim Gorney, Chuck Mercer, Gary Radwanski, Tom Umile, Tom Purdy and John Larioni. (Photo by Ed Campbell)

New DA getting adjusted

Shaking off the speculation that he was named to his new post mainly because of his father's influence as judge upon the other members of the Luzerne County court en banc, newly-appointed district attorney Bernard A. Podcasy says he is ready to accept the challenge as the county's top prosecutor and that he is "ready to go."

Podcasy was elected among a swirl of controversy on January 7 to fill the unexpired term of former District Attorney Robert J. Gillespie Jr. who resigned earlier to accept a position with a local office of the Philadelphia-based law firm of Curran, Mylotte, David and Fitzpatrick.

In a scramble to fill the \$64,000 a year position, Podcasy, along with First Assistant Joseph Giovannini and assistants Lawrence Klemow and Joseph Albert announced their candidacy for the spot. Because of Giovannini's title and the fact that both Klemow and Albert were senior trial lawyers, it was felt that Podcasy would be the longshot at securing the post.

But on the third ballot, Podcasy emerged the winner, receiving five votes from the county's seven judges. Although his father, Judge Bernard Podcasy, abstained in the third ballot, reports circulated that the judge knew beforehand of the other judges' selections and that his son would receive the necessary number of votes for the appointment.

Reportedly, Podcasy received three votes (four being a majority) on the first ballot from Judges Arthur Dalessandro, Bernard Brominski and Podcasy. But on the second ballot, Judges Robert Hourigan and Gifford Cappellini, who voted for Albert and Klemow respectively the first time around, changed their vote in favor of Podcasy. In an effort to get a unanimous decision, a third ballot was taken. But Judge Chester Muroski still voted his original selection of Giovannini while Podcasy abstained.

Although the new DA did acknowledge that his father was a factor, he did not see it as the sole reason for his victory.

"I'm not naive enough to say that it wasn't helpful," Podcasy stated. "Naturally, my father supported my candidacy and told his reasons to the other members on the panel. But the other six judges had to make up their minds independently and they ultimately had to make the choice."

As far as the fact that he was not a senior trial lawyer is concerned, the 37-year-old Podcasy, who has been with the DA's office for seven years, said that is an appointment made by the previous district attorney and that he didn't feel he was any less qualified even though he did not have that title.

"That is a designation given by the district attorney," Podcasy noted. "There are factors, such as experience with the system, how long they've been with the office and so on. But I have handled major cases, too — not the types that Klemow and Albert have, but I've had some important cases."

Although the three who lost out publicly wished their colleague well, the bitterness of their defeats had left them all contemplating about leaving the office altogether.

Giovannini has already announced that he will leave. As for Klemow,

the 41-year old attorney from Hazleton who has been with the office for 10 years, still has not made a decision.

"He still hasn't decided yet what he will do," Podcasy said. "But I certainly hope he stays on. He's a top guy and the reputation, the experience and the knowledge he brings to this office make him a very valuable asset."

The loss was also a crushing blow to Albert. A 34-year old assistant from Laflin who has been with the DA's office for eight years, he, too, pondered leaving the office. But, Podcasy persuaded him to stay on as his first assistant.

Still, with the resignation of Gio-

annini and the loss of Gillespie and full-time assistant district attorney Bruce Anders, whom Gillespie took with him, there are a number of vacancies to be filled.

"Right now, I haven't had an opportunity to meet with anyone who is interested in the vacancies. I'm just settling in myself and getting organized," Podcasy explained. "First, I want to meet with Bob (Gillespie) to see what the situation is with the office as far as the different projects that we're working on."

Podcasy's term will expire in January of 1988.

— JOHN HOINSKI

Lehman Board accepts grant

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Robert Rogeders, girls volleyball, \$895; Mike Sharok, golf, \$970; and Ray Dennis, soccer, at a salary to be decided.

Members of the Lake-Lehman School Board at the regular meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 14 approved a motion to accept a \$20,000 asbestos grant-loan award from the Environmental Protection Agency for the removal of asbestos from the senior high school.

The award is made possible under the Commonwealth's asbestos Hazards Abatement Assistance program. The total includes a grant of \$7,401 and the balance an interest-free loan to be repaid in annual installments of \$5,000 annually, according to Business Manager Raymond Bowersox.

The Lake-Lehman School District has spent more than \$35,000 testing and correcting the asbestos problem during the past five years, following an evaluation of the asbestos problem in 1979. According to Bowersox, the asbestos insulation remaining in the high school should be removed and replaced by the end of the summer of this year.

It was reported that final arrangements have been completed for the installation of the Commonwealth Telephone Company's switching unit on the district's property to the satisfaction of all parties concerned and that the papers have been signed and returned to Commonwealth Telephone Company.

The request of the school's ski club for a trip to Quebec, Feb. 9 through Feb. 13, was approved by the board. Board members also approved coaches for the 1986-1987 fall program as follows: Rich Gornik, football, salary \$2,950; Ed Narkiewicz, cross country, \$835; Jean Lipski, field hockey, \$1,410;

Director Martin Noon, community relations chairman, presented Edward F. Mark with a 10-year Pennsylvania School Board Association certificate for Mark's tenure as a school board member.

Director Bing O. Wolfe reported that a summary of the pre-scholastic aptitude testing done in October, 1985, indicates that students of the district recorded the best performances since the 1981-82 school year, and that the performance by ninth grade students on their SRA tests given in October, 1985, was above the national average.

Dr. David Preston, district superintendent, reported the fifth installment of the pre-school and four-year-old program will take place Jan. 22 through Jan. 24, at Lehman-Jackson, Lake-Noxen and Ross, respectively, beginning at 9 a.m. The program will feature math readiness and a computer program and all district parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to attend. Additional information is available by contacting the elementary schools of the district.

A motion was approved to support the efforts of the Lehman Township supervisors in attempting to decrease the speed limit on Route 118, in the area of Lehman Center, from 55 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.

Donna G. Barton, RD 3, Tunkhannock, librarian, was approved for the substitute list, pending receipt of appropriate documentation relative to the State Police Criminal Records Check and Certification.

Civil War buffs meet at Pickett's

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

No battle in the history of the United States was responsible for the slaughter of more human beings than the Civil War. It tore apart a country and families alike and had left a bitter feeling that still exists in part today. And, 121 years later, it still remains the most intriguing part of our heritage.

Saturday night a group of those so intrigued with the Civil War met at Pickett's Charge Restaurant, Dallas. But this was no ordinary group. Clad in self-made Confederate uniforms, the Second Virginia Company out of Clarks Summit met for their annual dinner and awards presentation.

For the past five years the club, which is comprised of approximately 25 members from the Scranton area, has been getting together along with their wives to honor not only their own comrades but those who fought in the actual battle.

"This group has a real love of history," Captain John Larioni of Clarks Summit said. "We chose Pickett's Charge because it is the name of a famous battle that took place in the war. So we thought it would be appropriate to hold the dinner here. Tonight, we'll present awards such as Soldier of the Year within the group and we're also celebrating the birthdays of Robert E. Lee and 'Stonewall' Jackson."

But their devotion does not end there. Once a month, all the members participate in a re-enactment of the four-year battle in Hedgesville, Va., where the club originates from, or wherever they are scheduled. In fact they not only take part but they also play the role of an individual who fought in the actual battle.

"We go back to Hedgesville where they have a roll call of the people of the town that actually participated in the war," Howard Lee of Moosic said.

"Then in the re-enactment, each man represents a person who fought in the war. For example, I represented William Turner. He fought in the Second Virginia Infantry and was in the Stonewall Brigade under Commander Jackson. But we also try and find out everything about him, his occupation, family, what his hobbies were and so on.

"It involves a lot of work and it is time-consuming," Lee continued. "In addition to the re-enactments and research and travel, the club also has work sessions where we work on uniforms and other things. It's funny to watch guys walk in with their wives' sewing machines, but we make our own uniforms. We cut patterns and sew the material and each member is responsible for the upkeep of his uniform."

But Lee says none of this would be possible without the cooperation of the wives.

"The club could not function without the understanding from the wives," Lee, an ex-Marine continued. "But they realize we do this because of our real love of history. They know we're not out guzzling beer all night."

In addition to running their own newsletter and various other drives, the group also has unusual hiking expeditions in which they don't use any modern utensils. Instead, they only use instruments that were available during the Civil War era.

"It's interesting to see how people use to live," Lee explained. "You can't really appreciate it until you actually do it. But we manage and it's a lot of fun."

The overall experience has produced a family type atmosphere among the members and their wives and Lee says the bond is getting stronger all the time.

"I've been here for five years and there has never been an incident yet," he said. "Everyone gets along well with each other and there hasn't ever been anything close to a fight."

Proof that history doesn't always repeat itself.

Two accidents cause minor injuries

No injuries were reported in a one-car accident early Sunday morning in Kingston Township.

Henry Eugene Banta, 26, of RD 1, Box 267, Pittston, was reportedly traveling west on Harris Hill Road when his tire caught the edge of the road, pulling him into the berm where he struck a tree head on. The vehicle had to be towed to Wesley's station. Banta received minor inju-

ries and said he would see his own physician.

Three vehicles were damaged early Sunday morning when the operator of a vehicle fell asleep at the wheel and plowed into parked cars.

According to police, Stanley Earl Spencer, Box RD 7, Box 390, Shav-

ertown, was operating his 1976 Pontiac Catalina on E. Franklin St., Shavertown, when he dozed off at the wheel and struck two parked cars owned by Fred Mihal.

Struck were a 1972 Chevy and a 1975 AMC. Spencer received minor injuries but said he would see his own physician.

Guam will get cemetery

The Territory of Guam has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Veterans Administration to aid in the establishment of a veterans cemetery at Piti, Guam.

VA Administrator Harry N. Walters said the funds will provide for site development costs and for the construction of an administration and maintenance building, chapel, and other support facilities. The planned 18-acre cemetery will provide space for 6,000 to 7,000 burials over the next 20 years.

Guam is the first U.S. territory to receive funds under the Veterans Administration's Cemetery Grants program.

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