

# Dispatcher flap

## Area police chiefs will discuss new position

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Four Back Mountain police chiefs and members of their respective councils will meet next Tuesday night at the Dallas Boro building to discuss, among other items, the controversial hiring of a full-time dispatcher at Dallas Township.

Phyllis Walter, who had worked at the dispatcher position as a part-time employee for four years, was recently hired as the fourth full-time dispatcher. But a number of persons close to the situation say the move was political and that her father, Dallas Township township supervisor Phil Walter, was the main influence that led to the hiring.

Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers said that is not the case, however, and, in fact, it was he (Miers) who brought up the idea and eventually hired Ms.

Walter for the position.

Police chiefs from Dallas Township, Dallas Borough, Kingston Township and Harveys Lake Borough, along with other officials, hope to resolve the controversy behind closed doors next Tuesday at 8 p.m. If they cannot solve the situation, however, the flap may jeopardize the forming of a Back Mountain Police Commission between the four which was planned to go into effect by January 1.

Until now, Dallas Township has listened to input from the other three departments who pay for the dispatcher services, but who do not have the final say. Under the proposed set-up, the four groups would meet to discuss various problems with each community having an equal say. But many people are upset at the township's latest move.

Some police officers seem to have mixed feelings on whether or not Walter should be allowed to remain on the job.

"In my experiences with her, overall, I would say she should not have been hired," said one police officer. "But you never know how these things will turn out. Look how well she performed when they had the shooting incident up there. I'm not so sure I would have done what she did. (Walter was the on-duty dispatcher in early June when a Noxen man allegedly walked into the township's Municipal building and shot two police officers. Walter alertly depressed the microphone, alerting surrounding departments to the fracas, allowing assisting officers to quell the problem quickly).

But Miers says that he has had no complaints about her disposition and has never personally had any problems with her job performance.

"I know there are a lot of rumblings," Miers said. "But our policy is that if someone has a complaint about another person then we check it out and if it's valid then we tell that person about it and see if we

could correct it."

Miers said he hired Walter to help with increased calls that come in from Thursday to Saturday and to help with data that must be attended to. He also said she fills in on other shifts for people who are sick or on vacation. Miers said the township has two other part-time dispatchers, one of whom has another full-time job and another who is effectively retired and can work only a limited number of hours.

Miers also said that because he is in charge of the department, he has the authority to hire individuals without going through a public meeting.

But one official disagreed, saying, "They may have to rescind hiring her."

Walter, who receives \$5.35 an hour plus benefits, is being paid with the collective monies from the four communities. Previously, she had been working three part-time jobs, but now holds only the dispatcher position.



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Dallas Post/Jane Renn

### Aspiring firefighter?

Tom Doughton, assistant fire chief, Dallas Fire and Ambulance, Inc., assist this young firefighter with the fire hose during a recent visit to the Trinity Nursery School. Captain Brett Slocum steadies the young man's helmet as he directs the water.

## Former library buildings are sold to contractor

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

The purchase of the former Calvary Baptist Church property on Main Street, Dallas, made recently by contractor Tim Carroll came three months after the church was closed in June and advertised for sale.

The property was formerly purchased by the Calvary Baptist Church congregation from the Back Mountain Library Board prior to the library moving into its new building on Huntsville Road, Dallas.

Immediately after purchasing the property, church representatives began renovating the buildings and had three of them partially renovated before the congregational members unanimously agreed to sell the property.

According to J. Patton, former treasurer of the Baptist Church and a deacon at the time the property was placed on the market, the congregation did not increase as expected.

"We had a group of people interested in Calvary Baptist and some very high active members," said Patton. "We didn't expect the congregation to increase overnight but it didn't grow as we expected."

Patton said because of the high cost of maintaining the property and since there were other churches in the Back Mountain that could meet the needs of the members, it was a unanimous decision of the congregation to close it and attend other churches in the area.

"All the members who were still active in Calvary Baptist Church are now attending other churches," said Patton. Patton said it is his opinion that Dallas suffers from being a community where many people

belong to a church and although they do not always attend, go on considering themselves members of particular churches.

When Carroll decided the property would suit his purposes and was willing to buy the property at the asking price, officials of the church accepted his offer and the transaction was completed.

Carroll explained that he purchased the entire property because he planned to move his contracting business into one of the buildings and rent the other buildings.

He plans to renovate and make two apartments in the building which was formerly the Children's Library. These will be for rent and so will the auction barn once renovations are done on it. Carroll will use three rooms off the main building as offices for his contracting business and the permanent stands on the former auction grounds for storage.

Earl Samuels, Samuels Insurance Agency, Dallas, also an officer of Calvary Baptist Church, said the church was closed because there was no pastor and costs were too high to continue the operation.

Also closing its doors last week was Chicken Plus, located in the Dallas Shopping Center. That business ceased its Back Mountain operation on Saturday, Sept. 27, and transferred the employees of the store to its location on the Sans Souci Parkway, Wilkes-Barre.

Manager Bill Davis and the clerks employed at the Dallas Store were transferred to positions in the Wilkes-Barre store. According to employees, the company moved into one location because it was interested in a high volume of business operation and believed combining the two would accomplish that goal.

## Several Back Mountain estates are featured on Annual Farm Tour

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

Two busloads and numerous cars full of area residents took part in the Luzerne County Conservation District's Seventh Annual Farm Tour on Saturday.

The tour stopped first at the apple orchard of Benjamin Spencer on the top of the Plymouth-Larksville Mountain, just beyond the Jackson Township line.

The homestead is surrounded by grassy mounds speckled with apple and plum trees and overlooks the valley. The Spencer farm has been passed from father to son as are many farms in the area, and Mr. Spencer has spent 60 years in the homestead and orchard. There are 20 acres of apple trees, more than 1,000 trees of McIntosh, Delicious, Northern Spy, Red Spy, Ida Red and others and more than 100 prune trees.

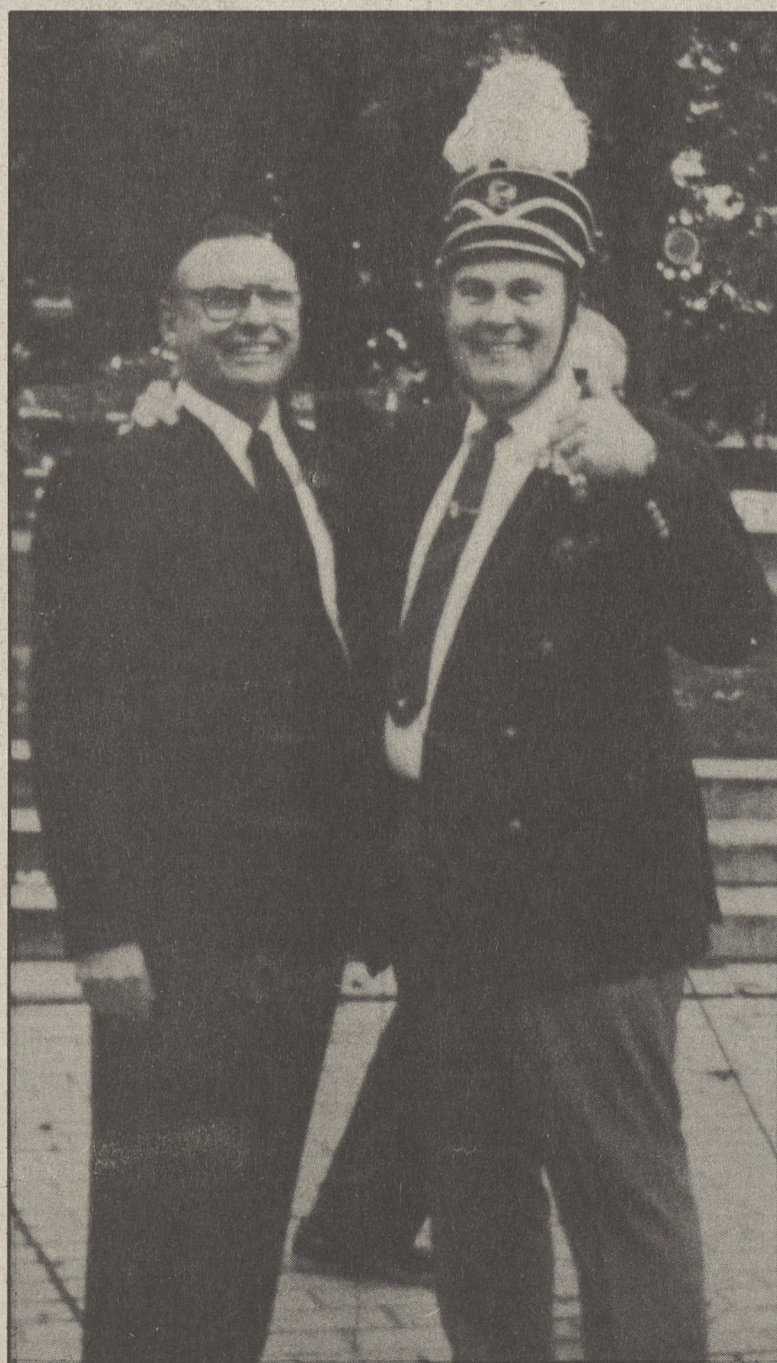
At one time, cider was made on the farm. The cider press is still there, but no longer in use.

Leaving the Spencer farm, the group visited the Manzoni Brothers Farm where the family has maintained its 265-acre dairy farm for more than 100 years. John, Francis and Alfred Manzoni are presently engaged in the daily operation consisting of 130 head of a variety of breeds with milking cows.

The Manzoni have used a number of conservation practices to insure their acreage protection since 1966 and were selected by Luzerne County District's Board of Directors as recipients of the 1986 Cooperator of the Year Award.

Following the stop at the Manzoni farm, the group traveled to the Centermoreland United Methodist Church where they partook of an old-fashioned buffet lunch prepared by Betty Weaver, who prepares

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### Wakin' up with Willard

Lake-Lehman Band Director John Miliauskas poses with Willard Scott of NBC's "Today" show on Public Square, Wilkes-Barre last Wednesday. Scott, in town as part of The Times Leader's Lecture Series at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, did the national weather broadcast from Public Square that day. Scott, who work a Lehman Band hat during his national broadcast, called the Lake-Lehman Band "the best high school band in America."

## Program will teach Scouts about law

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

The Kingston Township Police Department, in conjunction with the Exploring Division of the Penn Mountains Council, Boy Scouts of America, recently announced plans to organize an Explorer Post program that will afford high school students a chance to learn about law enforcement.

The program, which began approximately five years ago in large Metropolitan areas, will now be offered for high school students who might be interested in a career in some area of law enforcement.

"The program will involve students from Wyoming Valley West, Dallas and Lake-Lehman," said Bob Belles, exploring executive. "What we are doing is career exploring involving co-ed youth. We did surveys involving kids from the three schools and asked them to fill out a questionnaire. Rating from 1-3, we asked them to circle the number that would indicate their degree of interest in law enforcement with 1 being the highest.

"We had 80 kids circle 1, then we added another 20 from those who circled two."

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 7 p.m. at the Kingston Township Municipal building in Trucksville, and will be open to all high school students 14 to 20 years of age.

The program is the first of this sort in the Back Mountain and will run for an hour or two once every one or two weeks for approximately eight or nine months.

"This is new territory," Belles said. "But it has been successful in the past. Eventually what we're hoping for is a 'cluster', that is, students from different communities with similar interests getting together. Then we could take them on tours to different places like the state police barracks or the communication center at the court house to see how different areas of law enforcement work."

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol will primarily run the program, acting as an overseer.

"When I was first approached about the program, I thought it was a good idea," Sabol stated. "So I sat down with Fred (Potzer, township manager) and we discussed how it would be run."

Potzer said the class would mainly consist of a seminar-type setting with members of the Back Mountain Police Association as well as others who specialize in a particular field, coming in as guest speakers.

## Supervisors schedule clean-up

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors remind Township residents that the annual fall clean-up will be held at the Township Maintenance Building located on East Center Street on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

Items not permitted to be disposed of include washers, dryers, refrigerators, television sets, hot water heaters, boilers, furnaces, stoves or large appliances. No tree stumps, concrete or rock, or household garbage.

## Marching Mounts win again

Honor and pride reigns once again for the award winning Dallas Area Band as the marching Mountaineers remain undefeated in "The Battle of the Bands" competition sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation held at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium.

Upon its victorious return to the Back Mountain Sunday night, the band was given an escort by the Dallas and Shavertown fire companies.

Performing in Group I, which consists of up to 45 playing mem-

bers, the band won first place with a score of 63.3. It was also awarded specialty trophies for Best Music and Best Band Front in their respective group. There were eight bands competing in Group I.

The band is under the direction of Steven Saive and is led onto the field by Drum Majors Kristen McHenry and Patricia Chisner.

Dallas Area will have its next competition on Sunday, Oct. 12, at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium with G.A.R. as the host band.

## Fire guts Harveys Lake home

A Harveys Lake home was gutted late Monday afternoon by fire that may have resulted from a spark from a woodstove.

The residence of Charles Dolfio, P.O. Box 123, Harveys Lake, was completely destroyed by the blaze that broke out at approximately

3:15 p.m. No one was injured and firefighters had the situation under control by 4:30 p.m.

The Daniel C. Roberts Fire company of Harveys Lake and the Kunkle Fire Department responded to the alarm.

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