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25 Cents

Route 309 traffic light being sought by police

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

In an effort to curb a dangerous traffic situation on Route 309 that has been the scene of a high number of automobile accidents over the years, two Back Mountain police departments have begun preliminary steps to have the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation step in and help resolve the matter.

The Dallas Township police department, in conjunction with Dallas Boro, has begun compiling specific accident reports pertaining to the intersection of Main Road and Route 309 located between the Mark II Restaurant and the Offset Paperback Company.

The spot, which is situated on the border between Dallas Township and the borough, has been the scene of numerous accidents in years past and police say it is imperative that a traffic light be installed at the site to allow motorists to safely make the left hand turn.

"It's a very, very dangerous area," Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers said. "Something has to be done. I'm getting tired of scraping people off the road."

PennDOT says in order for the area to be eligible for federal money from the states Safety Improvement Program, at least five angle accidents (not involving rear end collisions) must have been reported in that spot for the past three years.

Dallas Township alone has already met the criteria, reporting seven accidents in 1984; six in '85 and five so far in '86. Overall, since 1979 a total of 45 accidents, injuring 40 persons and involving 143 have been recorded.

Ron Bonacci, district traffic engineer for PennDOT, says the department will add those figures to their own study, but says even if the area does meet the requirements for the traffic light, it may be a while before it is installed. Bonacci says the project would then be put on a list with similar projects from across the state competing for the eight to 10 million dollars available in the SIP.

But area officials say they would like the light, which would cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, put in as part of a \$4 million project PennDOT will undertake in March of 1987 to renovate a stretch of the highway from Route 309 to the Cross Valley Expressway.

One of those improvements will include the addition of a modified fifth lane for a portion of road stretching from Center Street in Shavertown to the 309-415 intersection. PennDOT will utilize a four foot area in the middle of the road now occupied by a double yellow line, and part of the right side of the road heading north to add a fifth lane that will be used for making the left hand turn.

But Miers said the additional lane alone will not solve the problem. "They still have to cross the other two lanes to make the turn. But I feel the fifth lane plus the light will curb the accidents in that place by about 60 per cent."

Ian Richardson, executive vice president of Offset Paperback, who has been fighting for the signal for two years, also sees the need for the light.

"We have 550 people at this plant," Richardson said. "They are the main reason why I got involved in trying to get this light. A number of people working here approached me and asked what can be done about the problem. It's a disaster here when the 3:30 shift gets out. This is a very busy road to begin with."

Richardson said Offset had a private survey done a year and a half ago and found that 3,000 vehicles enter and leave the plant per day using the Route 309 entrance.

Marilyn Sult, owner of the Mark II Restaurant along with her husband, Bernard, also sees the area as a troubled spot.

"It is very bad," Sult said. "I don't even let my son on that road when I send him to the store. I tell him to use Overbrook Avenue. I don't want him attempting to make that turn."

And that's not the only problem the Sults have experienced. "When we returned to this area years ago and moved back here we found that our car insurance went up considerably," Mrs. Sult explained. "When I asked the company what the reason was, they said it was because of this road (Route 309)."

Two weeks ago, PennDOT officials met with leaders of the Back Mountain and said that a resolution must first be adopted by the township and borough before any money can possibly be obtained to help fund the project. Meanwhile, PennDOT says it will continue to work on the study which should be completed sometime this month.



Dallas Post/Jane Renn

Quilt viewers

A few of the several hundred people who attended Quilt Show '86 at the Lehman campus of Penn State University admire one of the quilts on display. The Pennsylvania Quilters sponsored the two-day event this past weekend.

Christmas in October Pennsylvania Quilters display their artwork at Quilt Show '86

By JANE RENN
Staff Correspondent

It was Christmas in October in one room of the Hayfield House last weekend at Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus.

The Pennsylvania Quilters, a group with almost 300 members, and the campus co-sponsored "Quilt Show '86," a biennial show originating in 1982.

"Country Christmas" was one of several themes at the large quilt showing. Softly playing Christmas songs led viewers to a room vividly decorated with almost every quilted Christmas item imaginable.

Avis Kocher's "Twelve Days of Christmas" quilt held a prominent position among the holiday reds and greens. Kocher, of Lehman, said it took her three months to make the wall hanging for her daughter.

"I made it because 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is my favorite Christmas song," she said.

Christmas exhibits were only a small part of the show, which was held October 11 and 12. Nearly 200 quilts and scores of other items such as pillows and "burp pads" were on view.

Workshops in stenciling, applique and various

quilting methods were held in other buildings both days. Vendors in the Hayfield Commons sold quilting material, stencils and other related aids.

Few of the quilts on exhibit were for sale. According to show coordinators Clara Slembariski and Jill Ann Space, most quilters give their work away to family members, although a few do sell them professionally.

The quilting group sponsors workshops and trips to other shows throughout most of the year. Because of the large number of members, however, they do not sew as a group. There is one exception: the raffle quilt made each year is a group effort, and the proceeds go to charity.

One club goal is to help members learn. "It's an educational experience because there's always professional teachers coming out with new ways of doing it, or new designs, or new quilt patterns, or new fabrics, or new techniques," said Slembariski.

"There are no two quilts alike," she added. "Even if the same pattern is used, differences in material, stitching and design make each quilt unique."

Members called quilting relaxing and addicting. Many began their quilting career after retirement.

Dallas man is \$15,000 richer

Last Saturday afternoon at the King of Prussia Mall in Montgomery County, Dallas resident Joe McGrady found himself in a position the rest of us only dream about.

McGrady, along with nine other individuals representing eight counties across the state, was one of the finalists chosen to compete for the \$1,000,000 Pennsylvania Lottery grand prize.

Even before the drawing, McGrady said he felt good knowing he had already won at least \$5,000. But as the first six names of \$5,000 winners were called and McGrady's name among them, the pressure became nerve-racking.

"It was like being in a frying pan," the 35-year old supervisor at the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre stated. "The heat was on. After they called the first five names, who were each guaranteed \$5,000, things really became intense. I was the seventh one called, but I'm happy about the way things turned out."

McGrady, who made the trip along with his wife, Elaine, their son, Ryan, age six, one of two children, and McGrady's father, Joseph, returned \$15,000 richer.

The first five contestants called each received \$5,000, the sixth received 10,000, the seventh 15,000,

the eighth 20,000, the ninth 25,000 and the tenth, \$1,000 a week (\$1 million guaranteed).

"Everybody in the family will get something," McGrady said. "Something in particular we all had our eye on for a while. But I'm not sure what we will do with the rest of the money."

McGrady said in a telephone interview Monday he is glad the pressure is off and that he feels good, but nothing much has changed in his family's life. "You can probably hear the kids yelling in the background," he laughed.

— JOHN HOINSKI

Dallas School Board to hire aides

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

The Dallas School Board Monday night unanimously passed a resolution for the possible hiring of three instructional aides to alleviate crowded conditions in two district schools.

The board appointed superintendent Gerald Wycallis to look into the matter. Wycallis plans to meet with principals from the Westmoreland and the Dallas Elementary schools.

Jay Pope, a teacher in the Dallas

school district, voiced his concern over the matter along with other teachers and concerned parents, saying that 29 students in one classroom on the first grade level are too many to care for to provide the best education possible.

Currently, there are four teachers handling 103 students in the Westmoreland school and three teachers instructing 80 students on the third grade level. At the Dallas Elementary school, 111 first-grade students are being taught by four teachers.

Initially, the concern only involved the education on the first-

grade level, but may now include third graders, too.

In other business:

— Carl Miers, whose daughter attends the Dallas Elementary School, said he would like the Board to have collapsible tables removed from the school. Miers, who is the Dallas Township police chief, said his daughter sustained a fractured arm when the tables collapsed during music class and caused another girl to have her teeth knocked loose.

— Approved the salary raises for employees in extracurricular activi-

ties that have been set for the next five years. The first year will call for a 9.7 per cent increase, with 7½ per cent increases for the following years.

The move was approved 6-1 with Board member Ernest Ashbridge voting against the proposal.

"Whenever we ask for money for education the money isn't there," Ashbridge noted, "but when it comes to extracurricular activities there seems to be no limit."

— Recommended that a resolution be adopted to appoint Mrs. Linda Burd as a long-term substitute to replace Mrs. Eleanor Fleming who is on an approved sabbatical leave of absence for the first semester of the 1986-87 year.

— Recommended that a resolution be adopted permitting Clarence Ozgo, Senior High basketball coach, to attend the Binghamton Basketball coaches clinic in Binghamton N.Y. on Oct. 2, 3 and 4 at an approximate cost of \$215 plus transportation.

— Accepted the resignation of Mark Metz as a custodian in the Dallas School District, effective September 26.

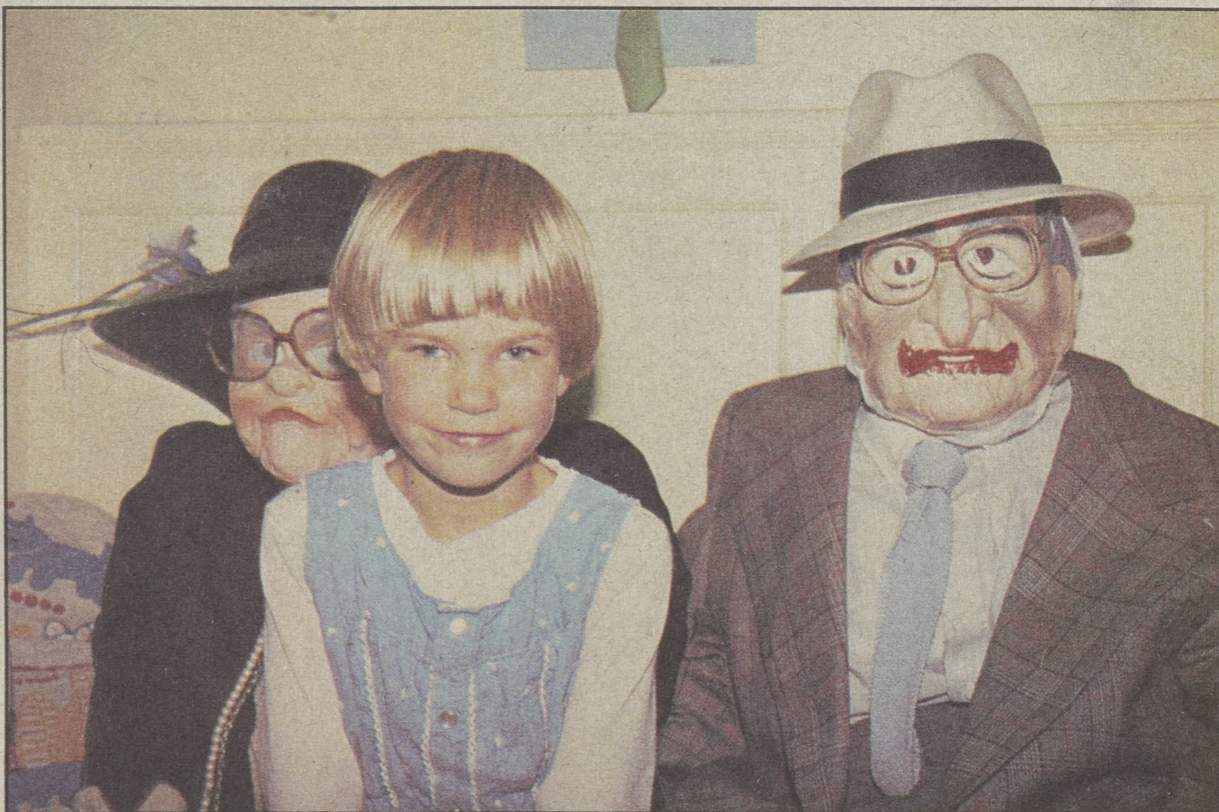
— Appointed Mrs. Mary Lou Bolton, RD 3, Lewis Road, Wyoming, as a temporary field hockey assistant coach at the Junior High at a salary of \$400.



Dallas Post/Jane Renn

Steady now, boys

Members of the Kingston Fire Department steady a ladder for one of their fellow firefighters as he climbs to the top during a drill conducted last week by the Dallas Volunteer Fire Company in observance of Fire Prevention Week. Local firemen converged upon a part of Main Street in Dallas which contains the Hearthstone Pub and was termed an area "hot spot" by Dallas Fire Chief Bob Besecker.



Dallas Post/Jane Renn

Are they for real?

Marla Brown of Dallas sits with a pair of "stuffed" grandparents during the Wyoming Seminary Day School Grandparents Day. Grandparents were allowed to visit the children in their classrooms to learn what they do in school all day. Marla, whose grandmother could not attend due to illness, made friends with the "stuffed" Grandma and Grandpa who met people at the door.

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