

Wycallis defends snow cancellation policy

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

The cancellation of classes in the Dallas School District several weeks ago due to a late morning snowstorm has prompted some concern by parents about the district's policy for calling off classes due to inclement weather.

A late morning storm on November 11 caused the district to cancel classes for that day, but not before students had already been picked up to be taken to their respective schools. Before they reached their destination, however, the students were returned to their pick-up points.

Some parents complained that the situation was not handled properly in some instances, but school superintendent Gerald Wycallis said there wasn't much else that could be done.

"In most cases, we try to make a decision by 6 a.m. if classes will be cancelled," Wycallis explained. "The forecast didn't call for heavy snow for that morning and it didn't become heavy until after 7 a.m., and by then it was difficult to do much about it."

"Leon Emmanuel (bus contractor) recommended to me that we cancel classes because he felt it was unsafe to try and get to some of the stops at the higher locations. But that was at

about 7:30 a.m. By the time we contacted the bus drivers, it was getting close to 8:00."

One parent's complaint came after a bus carrying her children was in an accident due to slippery road conditions and that the students were told to walk to the next bus stop where they would be picked up by another bus. The parent said, however, that the children were dropped off near the Echo Valley Trailer Park and had to walk to the Fernbrook area.

But Emmanuel said the driver who came to the aid of the disabled bus was not familiar with the route and that the students never informed him where they lived.

Another parent, who was at work when she heard of the dismissal, said she was not happy over the way her 8-year-old daughter was treated when she informed a bus driver that her mother was not home and had nowhere to go. She was eventually taken home by another student.

"That situation could have been handled by using the two-way radio where a call could be placed here (to the school) and something could be done until some sort of arrangements were made," Wycallis said. "We do have the telephone numbers where parents can be reached in situations like that."

Little Kim has changed their lives

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

"There is no love like a mother's love" is true in the case of Stephanie Reisch and her 9½-month old baby daughter, Kimberlie Marie. The deep love between petite, dark-haired, dark-eyed Kimberlie Marie and Stephanie is very evident when in their company.

Stephanie and her husband, Gerald Reisch of Trucksville, are born Americans but their tiny daughter, Kimberlie Marie, is a Korean baby given up at birth for adoption by her mother.

The Reischs became interested in adopting a child after Stephanie realized she could never have a baby of her own. While still living in Boston, they applied to the Catholic Social Service, but heard nothing until they moved to the local area.

In 1984, Stephanie saw a television program explaining that there were children in New York City available for adoption. Stephanie called the number given and was told she and her husband would have to have a home study done in their own state before they could be considered.

The Reischs put that idea aside and applied to an agency in Luzerne County. They received no results from the agency so the couple went to the area Catholic Services and requested a home study be done. Shortly after, Regina Gallagher of the Catholic Services contacted Stephanie and asked if she would adopt a Korean child. Stephanie didn't hesitate.

A home study was started in May, 1985 and continued until October, 1985. In April of 1986, the Reischs were notified they would be getting a Korean baby, whose Korean name was Hae Im Kim meaning "Sea of Tranquility and Peace." It was a coincidence that the Reischs had already decided to name the baby Kimberlie Marie prior to that time. Her husband had selected that name 10 years before if Stephanie ever had a baby girl.

Kimberlie was 4½ months old when she arrived at J.F. Ken- (See KIM, page 6)



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

A new home for Kim

Stephanie Reisch of Trucksville smiles lovingly at her 9-month-old daughter, Kimberlie Marie as they pose for a photo.

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Seniors may get new building

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Seeking a permanent site for the Dallas Senior Citizens Center has resulted in one disappointment after another. But, this time there may be a genuine reason for optimism.

Charles Adams, Director of the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Bureau of the Aging, told The Dallas Post last week that, although he won't specifically name the building currently being looked at as a housing for the center, he is cautiously optimistic that it will finally be the permanent site that has been sought for quite a while now.

"We have it down to one facility," Adams said. "But nothing has been finalized. That's why we don't want to say exactly where it is. We have been disappointed too many times in the past."

Adams did say, however, that the proposed center is located in Dallas Borough at a 2,000 square-foot, one-story building.

Adams said the county has

sent an architect to inspect the building to see what modifications have to be made. The plans still have to be submitted to the owner of the site and to the Department of Labor and Industry before work can begin.

"I'm confident they (the plans) will meet the specifications of our architect," Adams said. "That will probably take until the first of the year. But, if everything goes well maybe we could have it (the center) ready for around March."

Adams said the Bureau has looked at approximately eight locations, including the former Back Mountain Memorial Library on Main Street in Dallas.

For now, the center will continue to operate from the Huntsville Christian Church which has been serving as a temporary center since June 30. The Seniors used to meet at the Mercy Center on the campus of College Misericordia until it was closed to provide expanded services for the Mercy Sisters.

"We have been very satisfied with the arrangements that have been made at the Huntsville Church," Adams noted. "Those in charge have been cooperative. Now, we're kind of settling in for the winter."

He also said that carpeting has recently been installed at the center and some other improvements have been made.

Richardson is board director

James Richardson was named president of the Dallas School Board at that group's reorganization meeting Monday evening.

Richardson, 40, of Pheasant Run, Dallas, was named to the post by a 5-4 vote with Ernest Ashbridge receiving the other

four votes. Tex Wilson, of RD 4, Dallas, was named vice-president at the meeting.

It was also voted on by the board to hold monthly meetings on the first Monday of every month.

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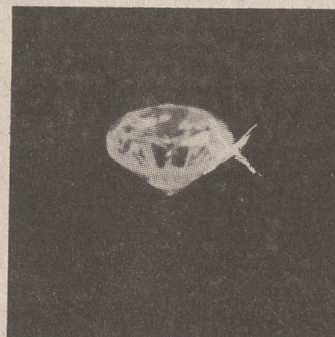
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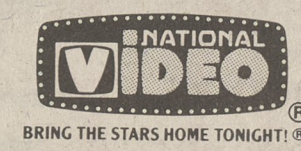
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