

THE DALLAS POST

BRIGHTON BINDERY CO
BOX 336

BRIGHTON, IA

52540

Vol. 99, No. 21

Wednesday, June 1, 1988

25 Cents

Parades and services marked Memorial Day in the Back Mountain

American flags flew in the breeze on homes, businesses and in cemeteries this past weekend throughout the Back Mountain, in honor of the thousands of American veterans killed in military action since the time of the Civil War to the present.

Parades in communities of the Back Mountain traditionally honored the deceased veterans and services were held at honor rolls and in cemeteries where wreaths were placed on the gravesites.

As they have done for more than 20 years, Jackson Township Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary held its annual Memorial Day services, Saturday, this year in front of the fire hall's honor site on Chase Road.

Irene Kasko Preslipki, who has assisted in coordinating the services for many years, participated in the service. The Very Rev. Herbert Nahas offered his traditional memorial prayer and the Rev. Laurence M. Olszewski, C.S.C., vice president of external affairs, King's College, delivered the spiritual memorial address. Captain Henry Chance, U.S. Army Reserve, was the main speaker. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts also took part in the memorial service.

A panorama of red, white and blue fluttered in the wind at Chapel Lawn along the Harveys Lake Highway where tall flags reached toward the sky and small individual flags on each veterans grave paid honor to the servicemen buried there.

The parade of flags at Chapel Lawn have become an annual tradition and is an awe-inspiring sight to passersby.

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672, Dallas, held its annual Memorial Day Parade, Monday,

beginning at 9 a.m. from the American Legion Post Home. The Legionnaires, members of the Legion Auxiliary, Honor Guard, Dallas High School Band, Dallas Fire Company and scouts participated.

A memorial service was held at the honor roll in the center of Dallas after which the marchers proceeded to Warden Cemetery where services were held for the veterans. The trumpeters then marched to Chapel Lawn where a service was held.

It would not be Memorial Day without the Sweet Valley Firemen's parade which has been held for more than forty years. Marchers paraded along the main road to the Ross Township Elementary School for the Volunteer Firemen's Carnival beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Floats, the Lake-Lehman Band, boy and girl scouts, fire companies and other units participated and fireworks were scheduled for 9:30 p.m.

A Memorial Mass was held at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton with Holy Communion distributed at 10:00 a.m. Families and friends of deceased loved ones had spent days putting flowers on graves and placing lighted vigil candles beside them. The candles burn for seven days and when people drove by Monday night, hundred of candles flickered like red fireflies in the darkness of the night.

Parades were not held in every Back Mountain community but all the cemeteries from the smallest and oldest to the newest and largest displayed flowers or plants of every color and flags commemorating veterans waved in the breeze, honoring those who died in the service of their country.



REMEMBERING — Several services and parades were held in the Back Mountain to commemorate Memorial Day. In the photo above, Leonard Harvey addresses the crowd at Warden cemetery during the 53rd annual service organized by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 of the American Legion. Below, a Jackson Township ceremony included a wreath placing. Shown are, from left, Irene Kasko Preslipki, Cpt. Henry Chance, 402nd MP, Sam Wilkes, Boy Scout Troop 232, Dallas, Bill Puchalsky, Cub Scout Den 4, Trucksville, Ricky Macri, Den 5, Rev. Laurence M. Olszewski, C.S.C., King's College, Very Rev. Herbert Nahas and Grace Fielding, president of the Jackson Township fire department auxiliary.

Taxpayers may challenge Dallas school board vote

BY CHARLOT DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas School Board's adoption last week of a tentative budget of \$11,394,711 which increases real estate taxes by 10 mills, if adopted, has met with the protests of many taxpayers. And some residents are planning to investigate whether the meeting violated laws for the conduct of public meetings.

William Bachman, who has two children in the Dallas Schools, had the initial impression that the school board was in violation of the Sunshine Laws in the manner in which the directors conducted the meeting.

"Having been active in municipal government and chairman of a municipal board, I know how parliamentary law should work," Bachman said. "The purpose of the meeting should be explained and there should be an opportunity for public input."

"It didn't take the board members more than one and a half minutes to approve the tentative budget after director Ernest Ashbridge's financial report. There was no discussion among the board members and the budget appeared to be just pushed through. I checked with the Department of Community Affairs later and the official in that office said there might have been a violation. If that proves to be the case, we can't let the future of our school district be based on an improper and illegal act."

Bachman said that anyone who wants to accompany a group of parents who plan to determine the validity of the meeting, is welcome to do so.

Unlike past protests by taxpayers, the increase in millage in the 1988-89 budget is considered too low by a number of taxpayers contacted.

The consensus of opinion from those taxpayers surveyed by The Dallas Post was that although they were not pleased about higher taxes, they realized that in order to provide quality education to students an increase in millage was a necessity.

"Over the past three years there has been only a five mill increase in the Dallas District when other districts around us have increased their millage as much as 30 mills," said one taxpayer, who asked to remain anonymous.

Taxpayers are opposed to the recommended cuts in the senior high school programs such as driver's education, secondary in-school suspension, a part-time science teacher and a part-time business teacher, and a three-quarter time nurse.

Bachman and several other taxpayers objected to the 10-mill increase explaining that the cuts being made are in key subjects such as science and business. Bachman also commented on the

remarks made that enrollment in senior high was on the decline. "Because there is a decline in one or two classes in the senior high school should not mean reducing financial support of other classes in the lower grades," he said.

A retired board member, who asked not to be identified, said that another problem is that there is a need for boiler repairs in the school that will cost an additional \$250,000 but there is not \$250,000 in the budget nor is there a special fund for replacing boilers. There has never been a depreciation fund and he claimed the district is sitting on a powder keg without such a fund.

There were approximately 50 students at the board meeting, who requested that courses be left in the senior high program. These students were concerned about their future.

Several parents said after the meeting that it was unfortunate that they will have to seek legal injunction on the board action but they will do what they have to do to resolve the problem. They also plan to encourage qualified district residents to seek election to the board in the future, citizens who will be willing to do what needs to be done to improve the district.

Lee Williams, who also has children in the district, was the first person to pick up the fact that the board might be out of order.

"They have failed to do long range planning over the years and have not sought adequate advice," said Williams. "Without long range planning, Dallas can't keep up with surrounding districts."

Williams sees no legal excuse for the district to reduce more classes in order to hold down taxes. He said he doesn't like to pay higher taxes any more than anyone else but in order to support the school district, higher taxes are necessary.

"There may be a decline in enrollment in senior high but what about the increasing enrollment in elementary classes," Williams said. "They will be coming up to the high school in time. If everything in the school was perfect, there would be no need for a tax increase but that is not the case. There is an important need to build up the science program and add necessary equipment," he said. "If there had been an increase of five mills each year, there wouldn't be a need to raise the millage all at once. The district sold three schools but not as it should. Now they have a problem of overcrowding in elementary classes and no funds to finance any of the recommendations made by the consulting firm they employed," Williams said.

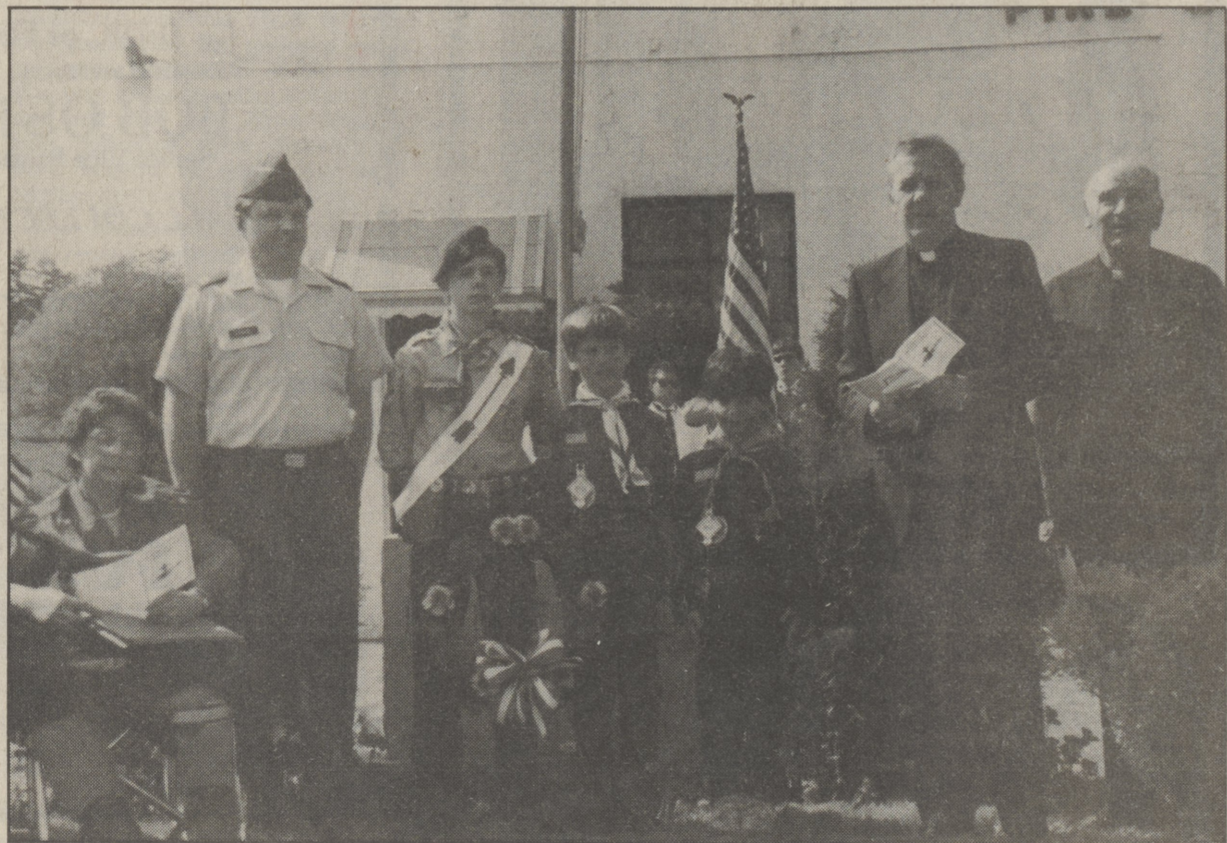
"I agree with those taxpayers who realize that 10-mills is an insufficient increase for quality operation of the district. High taxes are not favored but are necessary to improve programs and maintenance," he concluded.

Lake-Lehman graduation date is set for June 10

The senior class of Lake-Lehman High School has scheduled its commencement and class activities.

Commencement will be on Friday, June 10 with picture, information and practice sessions to be held between June 3 and June 10. Speakers will include Mrs. Jean Lipski, a teacher at the high school; Matthew Reinert, Valedictorian; Lori Rogers, Salutatorian, and Rev. Michael Shambora, pastor of the Lehman United Methodist Church.

Other activities include moving-up day and the senior brunch on June 3, Class Night at 7:30 p.m. on June 8 and the senior picnic on June 9.



Lehman United Methodist confirmation set for June 5

The Lehman United Methodist Charge Youth will be confirmed at special ceremonies on June 5 at the Town UMC at 10 a.m. and the Lehman UMC at 11:15 a.m. by Rev. Michael Shambora.

The youth have fulfilled their requirements by attending classes, doing assignments, participating in various field trips, and being instructed in church history and the history of the UMC. Those being confirmed are: Joani Ide, Sarah Sorber, Amanda Jones, Jason Gearhart, Tracy Margellina, Robert VanGorder and Ron Edwards. Those participating with the class were: Mrs. Judy Dawe as co-teacher, Mrs. Genevieve Hall, and Mr. Curtis Swanson, Mr. Jim Lee and Rabbi Shovlin of B'nai B'rith.

Families and friends of the youths are cordially invited to attend the celebration, as the young persons confirm the vows made for them at their baptism. Then, on June 12 the youth will lead in the worship services.

Machell Avenue proposal is withdrawn, will be resubmitted

BY CHARLOT DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas area residents who attended last Thursday's hearing on the proposed construction of 15 townhouses on Machell and Sterling Avenues came away with their questions unanswered when the developers abruptly withdrew their request for a variance and said they would reapply immediately.

Developers Flack, Wallach and Moreck Ltd. of Kingston had originally requested the hearing before the Dallas Zoning Board after Zoning Officer Drew Fitch had denied a building permit because he was of the opinion the construction of the 15 townhouses on the 5½ acre parcel of land required a variance of the borough's zoning law.

Borough solicitor Robert Opel presided and explained the purpose of the meeting to the more than 100 persons attending.

Atty. Mark McNealis, counsel for the developers, stated that since the area was zoned R-1, it was his

clients contention that single or two-family dwellings could be built on the Machell Avenue properties without a variance, whether detached or semi-detached, separated by vertical walls, with the exception of mobile homes. Atty. McNealis stated that protesting residents must bear the burden of proof that the proposed two-family dwellings would be in anyway injurious to the neighborhood.

Zoning officer Fitch advised the need for a variance because of the necessity that there must be a minimum sideyard of at least 10 feet for a single dwelling and 20 feet for a double dwelling.

Atty. McNealis stated that each side yard would be in excess of 20 feet so his clients believed that a variance was unnecessary. In answer to Atty. Opel's question whether or not the developers had a sketch of the project, McNealis said that the developers had presented drawings of the plot plan to the zoning officer and requested that these be posted, which was done.

Flack, Wallach and Moreck Ltd.

planned to build one dwelling on the lot bounded by Machell Avenue and the other units on 100x150 feet lots, according to Atty. McNealis.

McNealis then stated that his clients believed that the zoning officer was in error in advising the developers that a variance must be requested before a permit could be granted and asked that the zoning board appeal the firm's application.

Atty. Chester Newhart, who represented a group of residents opposing the townhouses, challenged part of McNealis' presentation claiming that McNealis was introducing a new argument which was not publicly advertised.

At that point Atty. McNealis requested that the developers application be withdrawn with the understanding they could reapply immediately without prejudice, and the board granted the request.

Once an application is filed, the zoning board will schedule a new hearing within 30 days and hand down a decision within 45 days from the date of the hearing.

New owners publish The Post this week

The Dallas Post has new owners this week. The Post and its sister newspaper, the Abington Journal have been purchased by Bartsen Media, Inc., a company formed by Ronald and Charlotte Bartizek of Kingston.

The newspapers had been owned by Pennaprint, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Press-Enterprise, Inc. of Bloomsburg, since 1979. Press-Enterprise publishes the daily Press-Enterprise in Bloomsburg and Berwick, the Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal, and Underwater USA, a national magazine for the diving industry.

The Dallas Post is one of the oldest newspapers in northeastern Pennsylvania; it will enter its 100th year of publishing next year. A.A. Holbrook started the newspaper in early 1889 after resigning his position with the Wilkes-Barre Times. Holbrook published the newspaper until 1895. In the years since, The Post has been owned by several individuals including Howard Risley and his wife, Myra, who bought the newspaper in 1930. Risley and his wife published The Post until his death in 1962. Myra Risley continued as publisher and

editor until 1968. Among others who have published the newspaper was former Governor William Scranton. Scranton sold the newspapers to Ray Carlson in 1975 and Carlson then sold them to Press-Enterprise in 1979.

Ronald Bartizek was advertising director of The Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre for 4½ years prior to purchasing the Post and Journal. He and Charlotte have both been in the newspaper industry since the early 1970's, having worked at daily and weekly publications in New England before moving to Kingston in 1983.

The Dallas Post now occupies an office in the Route 309-415 Plaza on Memorial Highway, only two doors away from its previous quarters there. Pennaprint continues to hold its office for use by personnel involved with the Business Journal. Both The Post's mailing address, P.O. Box 366 and its phone number, 675-5211, remain the same.

No changes in publishing schedule or format are planned for The Post. The new publishers' plan to strengthen local news coverage and to gradually redesign the pages to make them easier to read and more attractive.