

# BUSINESS

## Opinion

### County can help with growth planning

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

The role of the Luzerne County Planning Commission should not be forgotten in the rush to develop an areawide planning approach in the Back Mountain. The Planning Commission consists of nine individuals appointed by the Luzerne County Commissioners, with the responsibility to help guide the growth and development of the 905 square mile area of Luzerne County. Formed in 1957, the Planning Commission currently has a staff of eight, headed by Commission Director Adrian Merolli. Over the years, the Commission has coordinated, carried out, accomplished, or motivated a series of studies designed to determine the county's future regarding sewerage, water supply, zoning, and a myriad of other factors which dictate the way in which the County can best grow and meet its future obligations. A number of studies have been undertaken to examine the County by community planning areas, and to facilitate the creation, maintenance, and implementation of a Countywide Land Use Plan.

A substantial amount of data is available in the Commission offices which can be useful in helping to assess conditions, both current and future, in the Back Mountain. The Planning Commission staff participated in the town meetings sponsored by the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus, and continues to play an important role in advising on land subdivisions and zoning changes which are proposed in Back Mountain municipalities. In the case of one Back Mountain municipality, Lake Township, the Planning Commission has the responsibility and authority for zoning. The Commission's files contain information relating to zoning ordinances for each of the Back Mountain municipalities, and its review and advisory function can help determine the extent to which development proposals impact upon a variety of factors including transportation, land use, and sewerage and water facilities.

The 1975 County Comprehensive Plan provides specific information by community planning area, and suggests ways and means by which the County can and should direct growth and development.

Some of the information found in that report titled "Land Use Plan Year 2000", which impacts the Back Mountain is outlined below, but should be viewed in the context of the dramatic increase in development activities in recent years.

#### Back Mountain land expected to be developed

Developed land use in the Back Mountain Area is expected to rise 3,702 acres, from 10,623 in 1975 to 14,325 by the year 2000. Almost a third of this (1,218) is forecast for Dallas Township, but substantial amounts should occur in the townships of Franklin, Lake, Kingston, Lake, Kingston, Jackson and Lehman.

(a) Residential. Most growth in developed land will occur as a result of residential expansion, which is forecast to be 2,045 additional acres in this 25 year period. Dallas Township is predicted to have the largest growth, almost one-third of the total followed by the townships of Franklin, Lake, Kingston, Jackson and Lehman.

(b) Commercial. Land use for commercial purposes is anticipated to increase 218 acres between 1975 and the year 2000.

(c) Industrial. Only 53 additional acres are proposed for the Back Mountain Area in the next 25 years. Most of this is proposed for Dallas Township.

(d) Transportation. There are 517 acres of transportation land use that will be needed between 1975 and 1990, mostly to service residential development. About 45% will be needed in Dallas Township, almost one-fifth in Kingston Township, nearly one-tenth in Jackson Township, with 42 to 46 acres each in Franklin and Lake townships.

(e) Public and Semi-Public. Since Frances Slocum State Park already exists, and because Ricketts Glen State Park and Moon Lake County Park are easily reached by Back Mountain residents, only 85 additional public and semi-public acres are suggested for the Back Mountain Area between 1975 and 1990. Thirty acres each is proposed for Dallas Township and Harveys Lake Borough, and 25 acres for Lehman Township.

The County Planning Commission has much to offer Back Mountain planning efforts and should be utilized and involved extensively as the process continues toward new directions for managing growth in the area.

Howard Grossman is executive director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania

### Fino's celebrates 25 years in business

Dominick and Ruth Fino will observe the 25th Anniversary of Fino's Pharmacy, Friday, November 25.

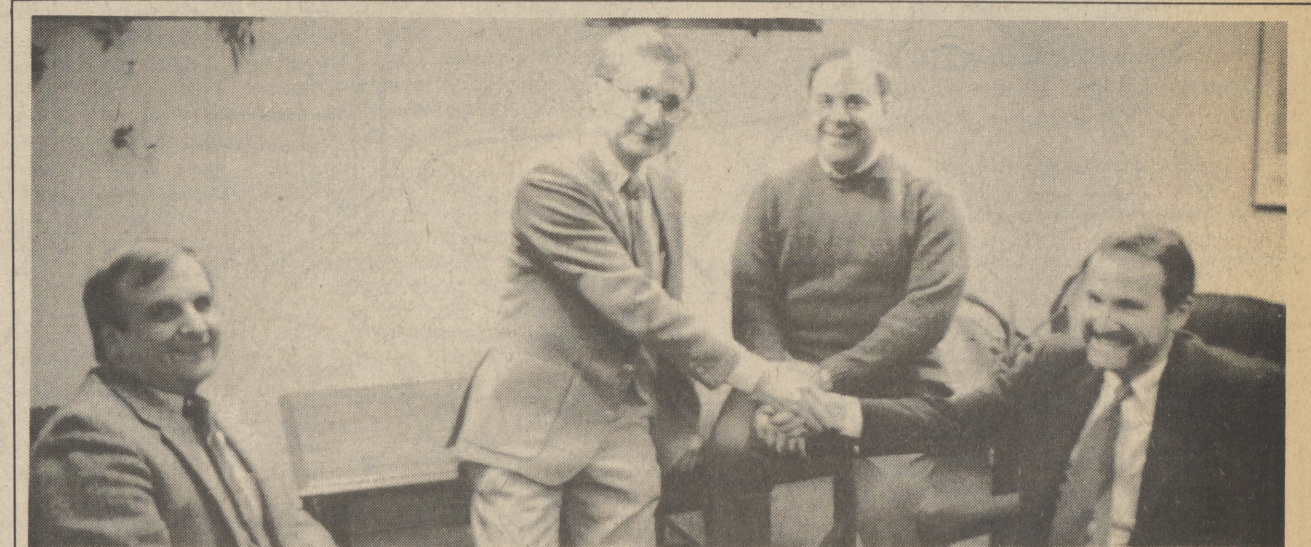
Fino purchased the pharmacy located at 3 Main St., Dallas, Nov. 25, 1963, from Lillian Kuehn and her son, Frank following approval

by the late Jean Kuehn, widow of Gus Kuehn, former owner of the business known then as Kuehn's Drug Store.

At that time, the drug store had a soda fountain and was a popular meeting place for youth of the area.

The renovated pharmacy is a

family business in which the entire family is involved including their two sons, Dominick and Michael; and daughter, Leigh Ann. Two of their employees, Patti Burdette and Patty Baberski have been with Fino's since they opened their business. Congratulations and Best Wishes for the future.



### Associated Internists open Back Mountain branch

Shown here are physicians with the Associated Internists of Wyoming Valley, Dr. Thomas Baker, M.D., cardiology; Dr. Paul Latzko, M.D., family practice, Dr. Lanning Anselmi, M.D., family practice; and Dr. Durelle Scott, M.D., Internal/Pulmonary Medicine. Associated Internists is a private group practice of 13 physician specialists serving as personal physicians - in family practice, internal medicine, cardiology, gastroenterology; and pulmonary disease. Dr. Latzko and Dr. Anselmi are family physicians in the Back Mountain office of Associated Internists at 206 Calverton Road in Trucksville. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

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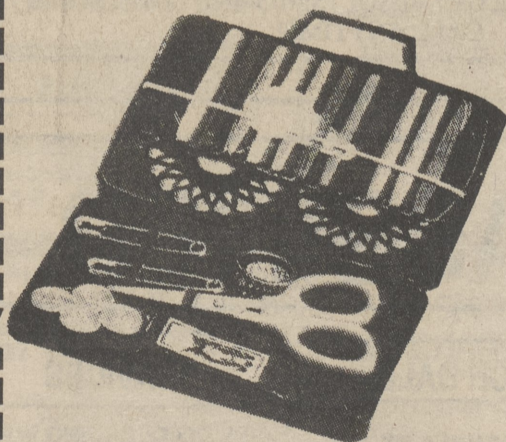
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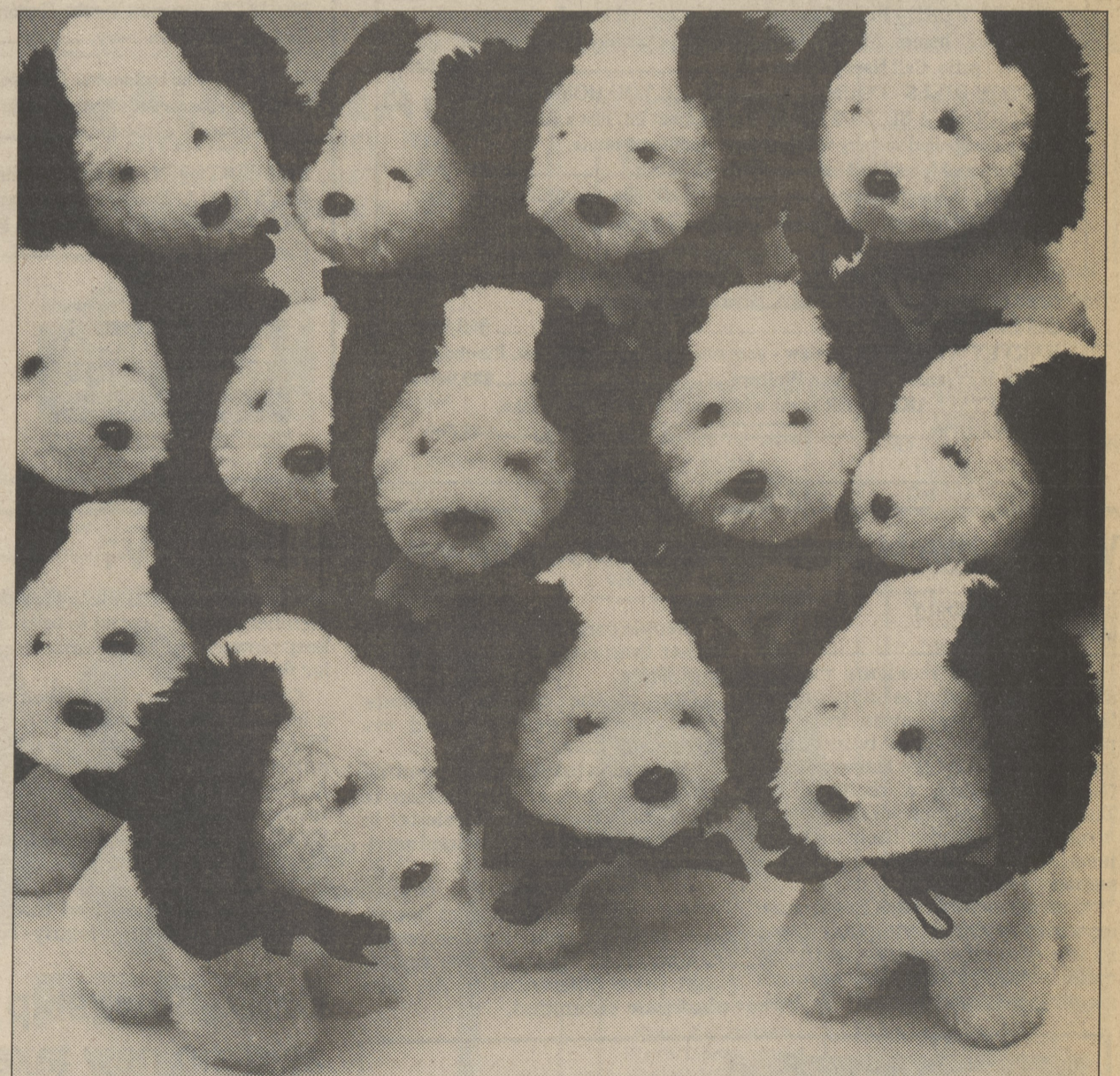
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