

309

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could turn into Bill's Diner. Sabol said that crossing traffic had created many accidents.

Now, a raised concrete median divider has been installed, making such turns impossible. While that may not have pleased the restaurateurs, it has eliminated one area of congestion.

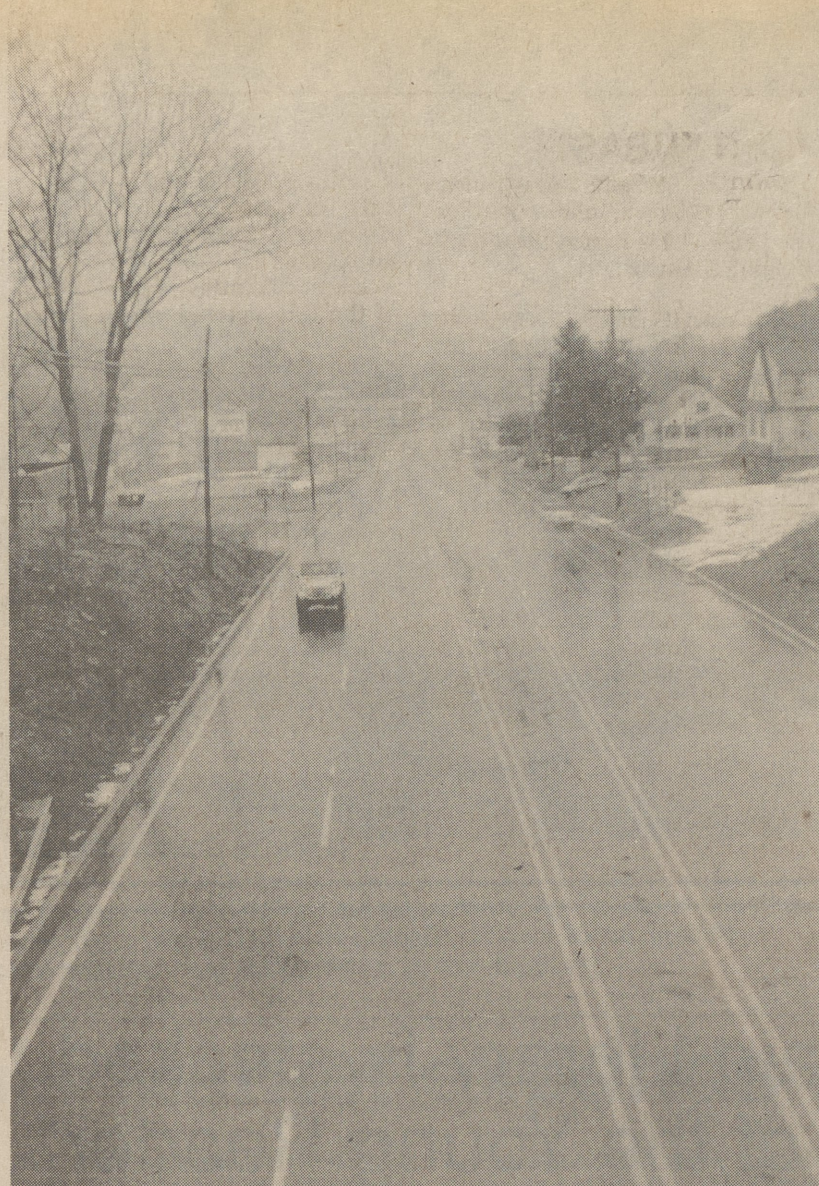
Miers reported that auto accidents have been on a downtrend in Dallas Township, also. He said the total number of accidents has decreased in each of the past three years and that 1989 has continued the trend, with three fewer accidents so far than at this time in 1988.

While Miers wasn't given the time needed to compile actual statistics for use in this story, he was confident that route 309 is safer, and that now the majority of accidents in the township occur off the highway.

Chief Sabol also thinks the changes in the road may reduce the severity of some accidents that do occur on it. "The dividers will make them less serious," he said when asked about the new concrete median dividers installed on the lower part of the highway. The concrete dividers replaced metal guardrails, and extend over a longer stretch of the roadway. "It keeps them (cars) from going across into other traffic," he continued.

If there is a downside to the improved road, it would appear to be the increased difficulty of crossing route 309 now that it is wider. Both Sabol and Miers felt crossing the highway now called for extra care, especially if another motorist was in the turning lane.

Increased speeds do not seem to be a major concern at this time, although Sabol said he felt speeds on the road have increased since the improvements. Speed limits are 35 miles per hour from Center Street in Shavertown to Hildebrand Road in Dallas; and 45 miles per hour from Center Street towards Luzerne. However, signs have not yet been posted in the 45 MPH zone. Sabol said he expects them



A safer Route 309?

Police say Route 309 in Kingston and Dallas townships is safer since being widened. Readers aren't so sure. See their comments on page 4. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

to be installed this spring.

Miers said that speed checks done on route 309 in Dallas Township had shown motorists there moving at an average of 43 MPH, above the posted limit.

Both Miers and Sabol said their departments enforce the speeding laws more strongly on occasion to remind motorists to stay within

limits. Because they - like all municipal departments in Pennsylvania - cannot use radar, both departments usually use a VAS-CAR timing device or speed tapes to measure speeds. There is now a bill before the state Legislature to allow local police to use radar, and both chiefs said their job would be much easier if it becomes law.

Shawn Murphy finds her role with Planned Parenthood

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

"The aim of Planned Parenthood is to prevent abortion," said Shawn Murphy, regional director of Planned Parenthood of Northeastern Pennsylvania when interviewed recently. Ms. Murphy is also vice president of community services for the organization. "We believe education is the key to prevention."

She described the organization this way: "Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the largest national voluntary family planning agency in the United States, and through its community based affiliates provides medical, educational and counseling services to more than three million individuals each year. We advocate reproductive rights for every individual regardless of race, age, sex, disability or economic circumstances."

Shawn Murphy is a tall, slender, well-educated woman. Married for the last 26 years to John Murphy, Dean of Students at Penn State, Wilkes-Barre, she is the mother of three daughters, ages 25, 21 and 11.

Originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, Shawn Murphy attended college in Marietta, Ohio, where she met her future husband. He was from Stratford, Connecticut.

When John Murphy accepted the position at Penn State, Shawn became active in public relations for Fete Champetre at the university. They first lived in Loyallville and later purchased a home at the corner of Lehman Avenue and Spring Street, next door to The Dallas Post's location at that time.

After finishing with the events at the local campus Shawn came to work at The Post as a reporter. Shawn worked at The Post for many years, then left to work with Upward Bound at Wilkes College.

Working with Upward Bound she worked with students and it was from that experience that she came to understand the role of Planned Parenthood and was elected to its board and later became executive director.



Shawn Murphy

"Young people who see themselves as having a future are much less likely to get pregnant."

Shawn Murphy
Planned Parenthood of N.E. PA

"After a year or so, I realized that I had found what I wanted to do," She said. "I realized there were ways I could help people, especially young people."

Planned Parenthood provides a complete routine of gynecology services for women. The choice of whether to use birth control or not is up to each woman, according to Shawn. "We screen for diseases including AIDS. We have a vigorous education program because we believe education is the best protection. We do pregnancy testing as well-no one benefits from teenage pregnancy," she said.

"It's a sad fact many teenagers become pregnant and are terminated before they are aware of it," Shawn said.

She explained that tragedy of-

ten changes the life of the young men as well as the women. She says that Planned Parenthood encourages abstinence and that education plays an important role in a young person's ability to make proper choices about sex.

Shawn said that the attitude of parents towards sex education is beginning to change and that a recent poll showed that 85 percent of parents wanted sex education in the schools. According to her, parents are the prime teachers.

Planned Parenthood now has a program for mentally retarded children and parents of these youth, so they may better understand the importance of education for children. It is one of the most rapidly growing problems within the Federation.

"It sometimes becomes discouraging because of the violence of some protestors," Shawn explained. "Then I look at the fine people supporting Planned Parenthood and realize it is all worthwhile."

If children are sexually active they need a plan of birth control and the best plan is to say "no", according to Shawn.

"Young people who see themselves as having a future are much less likely to become pregnant. If a pregnancy does occur and the parents give their support, the outcome is usually successful."

"Planned Parenthood believes a woman who is pregnant is a private person and has the right to her own decision as to what she will do with her life," Shawn continued. "It is not our decision. Teenage pregnancy on the increase? I don't think it is any more prevalent than in the past. I just believe that we are more open talking about it and recognizing that it is a fact."

Shawn Murphy does not believe making abortion illegal will stop it. Instead, she believes that it will make women turn to illegal abortion where they may die or be maimed for life, or that more children will bear children.

"It is a woman's choice how she should live her life-not the government's decision," she said.

Sichler's call for review of LIU candidates meets success

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Liz Sichler has written her letter of resignation from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 board of directors and has also notified the Lake-Lehman School District Board of Directors of her intent to resign as the district's representative on the LIU board effective June 30, 1989.

"I asked all of the LIU directors at the January meeting to submit their resignations to their districts and give them an opportunity to reevaluate their district representative and decide whether they wanted to appoint a new representative or reappoint the present one. The appearance of politics among some of the board members concerned me and that is why I made the request," Sichler said.

Sichler said she felt it was best to let the districts reevaluate and decide. None of the directors resigned, however, except Sichler. Four of the directors terms expire June 30, 1989. These are Charles Adonizio, Sr., Wyoming Area; Pat Capece, Hazleton; Jack Glushefski, Hanover Area; and Michael Rushton, Wilkes-Barre Area. Rushton was reappointed for a three-year

term at Wilkes-Barre Area's meeting Feb. 21.

In January, the LIU Board voted against retaining Dr. Thomas F. O'Donnell Jr. as executive director of the LIU 18 by an 8-5 vote. At that time Sichler recommended a search committee for a new executive to replace O'Donnell. She suggested a committee comprised of a PSBA representative, three retired superintendents and three LIU board members. She said she wanted a screening committee to keep politics out of the hiring process.

The LIU board members did not approve her first suggestion because they did not want to spend the money to hire the PSBA. Sichler said the board also felt there weren't that many retired administrators in the LIU area.

"They then came up with the recommendation of a screening committee made up solely of the 12 superintendents within the LIU District. These are the superintendents from Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Area, Pittston Area, Nanticoke, Northwest, Wyoming Valley West, Crestwood, Dallas, Tunkhannock, Hanover, Hazleton, and Lake-Lehman. This committee is not exactly what I wanted but it is

better than none at all," Sichler said.

Superintendents will be asked to notify the LIU if they will serve on the committee by March 10. They will be given the authority to advertise the position in the appropriate professional journals, PSBA's weekly digest and in the newspapers.

Applications from interested candidates must be submitted by March 27 and will be initiated by Wilbur Troy, Wyoming Valley West representative. The committee of superintendents will screen the applications and resumes and recommend five finalists to the LIU board members, who will interview the candidates and come to a decision.

Sichler also told The Post Monday that at the first meeting she attended in March, 1988, the first words she said as a representative were "Let's hire an engineer to advise us on the purchase of a building". According to Sichler, this was before they had discussed a particular building, but she still believes the LIU should hire an engineer in order to advise them on any work that may need to be done.

Officer Jolley goes from Borough to Township

The Dallas Township supervisors met at the Dallas Township building Tuesday, February 21, and in a meeting that lasted less than an hour approved payment of bills and the appointment of Robert Jolley, former Dallas Borough police officer, to a full time position on the Dallas Township Police

Department.

Jolley replaces Jeremy Torr, who resigned from the township department February 28 to take full charge of a business of his own.

Police officer Jolley's appointment with the Township is effective March 5.

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Kanjorski says PA banks sound

Based upon information provided to him by federal regulators, U.S. Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA) recently declared Pennsylvania's financial institutions to be "fundamentally sound."

Kanjorski's comments were based on information provided by officials from the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and industry representatives, during his examination of the health of the state's savings and loans (S&Ls), banks and credit unions.

"I have been assured that nearly all of Pennsylvania's institutions receive high marks for financial health," the Congressman said in a just released summary of his examination.

Kanjorski, a three-term member of the U.S. House Banking Committee, said, "Whether we look at net worth, the safety of their investments, or any other measurements of financial health, Pennsylvania's institutions appear to be in good shape. Just as important, no fraud or criminal activity has been found in any of Pennsylv-

vania's S&Ls."

"Pennsylvania has 169 S&Ls. According to the regulators, as of the end of 1988, only five of these failed to meet the federal capital standard," Kanjorski said. "None of these five are based in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and FSLIC indicated it expects they will be merged with healthy thrifts without jeopardizing either service to their customers or their depositors' savings."

"We in Pennsylvania are extremely fortunate that the management at so many of our institutions has been prudent," Kanjorski said. "Similarly, I have been assured that our state regulators have kept a close watch on institutions to make sure they stay out of trouble, and our state legislature has been cautious in granting new powers," the Congressman noted.

Kanjorski concluded, "The information I have received makes it clear that if all financial institutions across the country were run as well as those in Pennsylvania, we would not today be facing these serious problems in the nation's thrifts and banks."

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