

## J.W.J.

### Housing project takes local dollars away

By J.W. JOHNSON

When is America going to realize that it is, in fact, 'we the people' who are supposed to be in charge here, but who in reality are only providing tax dollars?

That realization apparently is only now hitting home northeast of here in Honesdale Borough, Wayne County, where a just-about-to-be-opened federally subsidized housing project is threatening to permanently eliminate at least some free enterprise there.

What's happening is that owners of the 58-unit housing project for the elderly, are actually going around to local tenants and, with the carrot of tax dollars in the form of subsidy, are luring those tenants from privately rented apartments into the federally financed Stourbridge Square Elderly Housing project slated to open there May 1.

Succinctly put, tax dollars are being used to compete with local landlords, effectively taking money from the local economy, and putting it into the pockets of the developers who are from Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

Not only is this unfair competition with private industry absolutely wrong, the whole notion of subsidized housing in general, its focus and tenor, is all wrong. Oh it's easy, and especially around the holidays, to be moved by rhetoric espousing the cause of the alleged homeless, or talking lovingly about that great "they" who don't have 'adequate housing.'

But history has shown that subsidized housing is at best an economically and socially immoral political band-aid for the problem. The entire notion of subsidized housing finds its proponents riding on a sightless white horse.

To wit, and while it's politically expedient to promote being one's brother's keeper, not everyone can or should be a brother. Put another way, subsidized housing has

caused a conceptual destruction of 'doing' it locally. That destruction began with the notion that it was for the government to do, what in reality, was really a local responsibility. A local responsibility, for whatever reason, could not or would not be funded by local taxpayers, supported by local community groups, or guided by local schools and churches.

As that relates to the housing authority, we now have a federal agency telling us that everyone is guaranteed 'decent, safe and sanitary' housing. Our tax dollars are purloined to fund this notion.

However, the sad history of public housing can be seen in derelict inner city projects, fraud and corruption in its management, and more to the point, a guarantee that with such projects our future holds more of the same.

Before the vote buying politicians and the now unaccountable bureaucracy became entrenched, the strength of this nation was always people coming together with different needs, while finding the best and brightest among us to fulfill those needs through rewards of the free enterprise system.

What we have with collectivized housing is a grouping together of people who, with the same needs, really cannot help each other; consequently, another need is created...more tax dollars, and the continued employment of a bureaucracy and politicians which perpetrated this fraud upon a self-reliant America in the first place.

Visited a housing project lately? At night?

Since when is every citizen, and according to HUD, owed "decent, safe and sanitary" accommodations?

Where is it written?

What the Constitution guarantees is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, not the guarantee.

Then again, we have an unaccountable bureaucracy, left largely to their own devices by a cowardly

Congress. Bureaucrats operate outside the constitutional process, and seemingly exist to make one-size-fits-all regulations which defy logic, and which borrow against common sense in premise and application.

Congress has discovered in the bureaucracy a way to remain pure and chaste, unsoiled by the acceptance of mandated responsibilities to make tough political decisions. Congress simply sloughs off those responsibilities to a faceless nameless mob and says: "Who, us?" And then, in the case of former Congressman Dan Flood, and current Congressman Joseph McDade, so fill us with federal pork, thus tempering our ability to see Congress for what it really is: cowardly dispensers of bribes with our own tax dollars.

What Congress does is pass a vaguely worded statute that simultaneously creates a rule making body. In most cases the statute's goals are as worthy as motherhood and apple pie so that no reasonable person (or those wanting something for nothing) could oppose it, the political theory being that re-election is thus assured for the legislator whose name appears on the statute.

Then enter the rule making body—the bureaucracy; that petty horde of regulation loving hacks who often don't have the faintest notion of the realities of the problem addressed by the statute. The bureaucracy writes rules and the citizen and businessman are left to die on the beach, victims of belligerent benevolence.

In the case of housing subsidy and, to a lesser degree, the homeless, most governmental attempts to address this problem has the long term effect of perpetuating the poverty class by collecting and grouping together people who have little to offer one another except the same need.

And that's simply a nightmare for the American dream.



### Back Mountain police will cook up a benefit breakfast April 26

The Back Mountain Police Association will sponsor its 9th Annual Ham n'Egg Breakfast on April 26, according to Chief Paul M. Sabol, Chairman. The "all you can eat" affair will be held at the Dallas Senior High School cafeteria, with serving from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children up to age 12 and may be purchased from any member of the Back Mountain Police Association or at the door. The proceeds will be donated to the Luzerne County Association for Retarded Citizens. The breakfast, as well as an annual golf tournament, are the ways the police association shows its support for the ARC.

Pictured making preparations for the breakfast are from left, John Appel, Paul Sabol, Chairman; Lerry Leedock, Debbie Moravec, Jim Balavage, Jim Martin, President of the Back Mountain Police Association; Chuck Rauschkolb, Vice President; Mike Moravec.

### Coloring contest winners selected

Winners have been chosen in the spring coloring contest sponsored by The Dallas Post and six area businesses. Judges were Nathan Sullum, owner of Artgraphics in the Country Club Shopping Center and Charlotte Bartizek, associate publisher of The Dallas Post.

In addition to The Post, the contest was sponsored by Pizza Hut, Gino's Shoe Store, Pizza Perfect, K-W Carpet, Hanover Bank and Friendly's Restaurant.

The following winners and two

honorable mentions were selected. Judges comments are included. Photos of the winners will appear in next week's paper.

**Age 5 and under.** First Place - Tracy Pavlico, 5. "Liked the detail of white color on whiskers. Used a variety of strong colors."

Second Place - Laura Neiman, 3. "Bold use of color. Good technique for age."

Honorable Mention - Adam Filion, 5. "Restrained, controlled technique."

**Age 6 to 9.** First Place - John

Cyprich, 9. "Deliberate, alternating color scheme was interesting."

Second Place - Ruth Ann Sizemore, 9. "Horizon line in background was a good technique."

Honorable Mention - Deanna Hedges, 8. "Outlining technique added interest."

**Age 10 to 13.** First Place - Rachel Hiller, 11. "Muted color scheme used shading."

Second Place - Betsy Rosenthal, 10. "Strong colors and good technique."

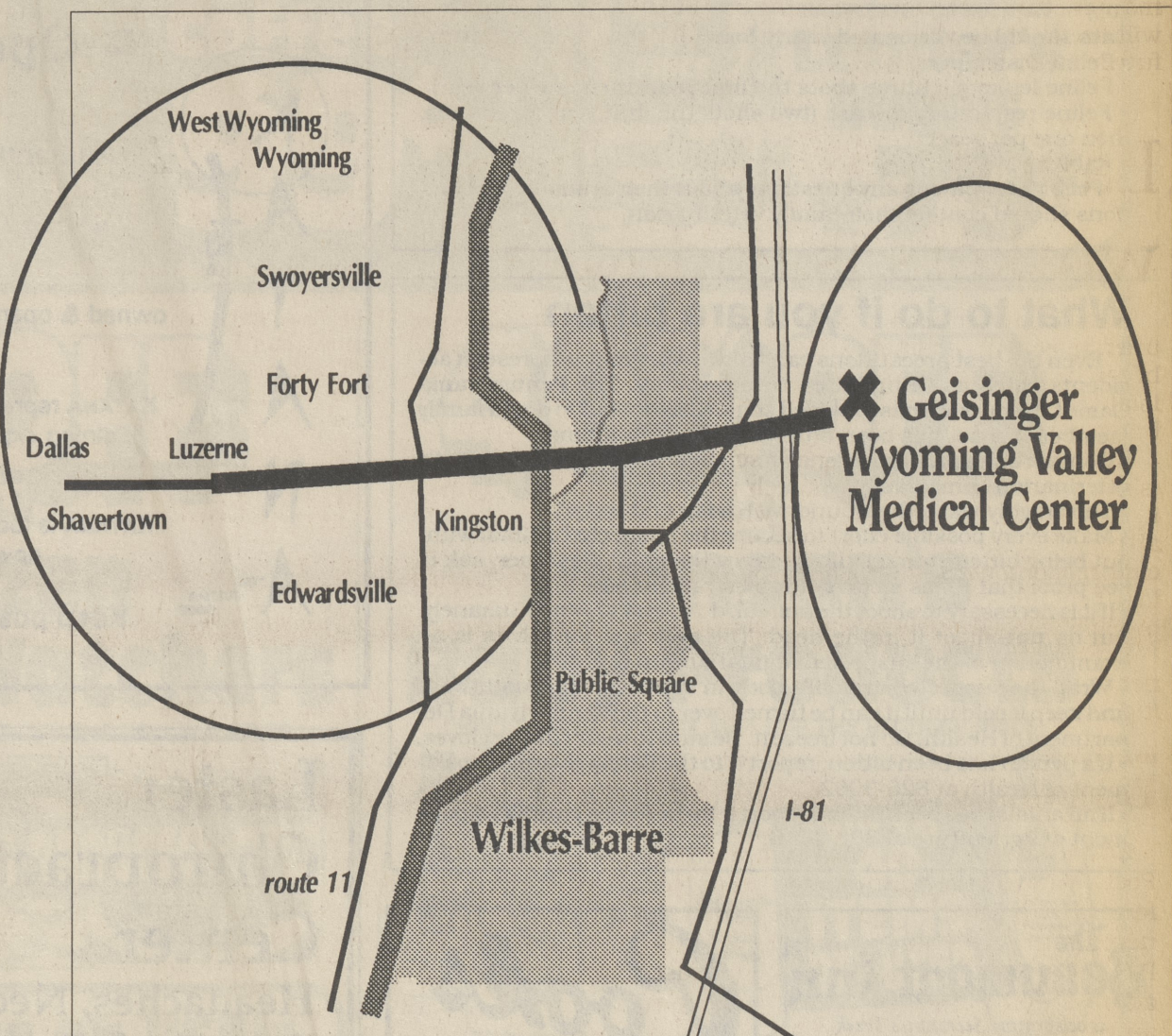
# SECURE

Because we offer investment concepts which have proven track records and because all our clients accounts are handled through Bear Stearns & Company: and

because we are locally owned and committed to the community in which we all live.

**GAGER & ASSOCIATES**

HIDDEN ACRES • SUITE H • RTE 415 • DALLAS, PA • PHONE: 717-675-7200 • FAX: 717-675-0747



## Geisinger quality

### 10 minutes from the Back Mountain on the Cross Valley Expressway

For information about services at  
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center  
call 826-7890

GEISINGER WYOMING VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

## THE DOUGH COMPANY

Pizza & Pasta  
Near 309-415 Intersection

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

Every Monday & Tuesday Special  
**Spaghetti & Meatballs** \$2.99

Every Wednesday & Thursday Special  
**Ziti w/Meat & Salad** \$3.99

Lunch Special

Hoagie \$2.99

Choice of Meatball, Italian Sausage, or Tuna & Soup (or Salad)

Entire Menu Available For Take-Outs  
**675-7347**

Open Daily 11:00 - 10:00  
Friday & Saturday 'til 11:00