

## Passing motorist pulls man from flaming car

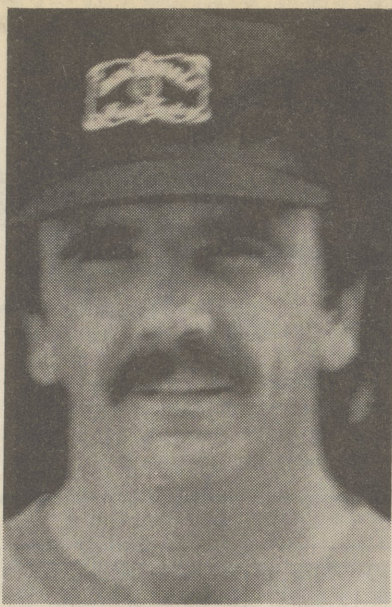
When John Pasternak, 38, of Centerville saw a blazing automobile lying on its roof, he didn't think twice about what to do — he worked to get the driver out.

Along with another man, Pasternak stopped at the scene of an accident May 9 on Mount Olivet Road involving Hugh T. Jones III, 48, of Orchard Street, Exeter.

Jones had been driving south on Mount Olivet Road late that Saturday night when for an unknown reason his car left the road and traveled about 50 feet before striking a large tree.

After hitting the tree, the car rolled onto its roof and burst into flames.

"It was already blazing," said Pasternak of the scene when he arrived. "He was pinned behind the wheel, we had to get the door open."



JOHN PASTERNAK

It took several minutes to get Jones from the car, as the door was stuck, remembers Pasternak. Though Pasternak and another man, reportedly from New Jersey, pulled him from the car before it became completely engulfed in flames, Jones didn't survive the accident.

## Correction

Due to a copy editor's error, Lake-Lehman sophomore Michael Teetsel, who saved a neighbor, John Grady, from choking on a piece of candy while on the way home from school on the bus, was incorrectly listed in the headline as a sixth-grader. Teetsel is in tenth grade.

## Police report

### Dallas Borough

#### CHAIN-REACTION ACCIDENT ON RTE. 415

According to Dallas Borough police, a 1985 Mercury XR4TI operated by Mark J. Valanski, 24, of Dallas, a 1991 Chevrolet Caprice Classic operated by Warren E. Daubert, 75, of Shavertown and a 1975 Chevrolet Nova operated by John Ellsworth, 21, of Dallas, were involved in a three-car chain reaction accident Monday, May 11, shortly before 4:15 p.m. Police said that all three vehicles were traveling north on Route 415, with the Valanski and Daubert vehicles stopped for traffic, when the Ellsworth vehicle collided twice with the Daubert vehicle, pushing it into the Valanski vehicle.

Patrolman Mike Krzywicki investigated the accident.

#### WOMAN ARRESTED FOR RETAIL THEFT

According to Dallas Borough police, Margaret Christine Biggs, 38, of Dallas, was arrested Sunday, May 17, and charged for retail theft. Police said that store employees observed Ms. Biggs attempting to remove merchandise from Rea & Derick Drug Store without paying for it.

Patrolman James Drury investigated the incident.

### Kingston Twp.

#### CHARGED WITH DUI AFTER ACCIDENT

Alex Bentacur, 23, of Linden Street, Luzerne, was charged with drunken driving, leaving the scene of an accident, driving without a license and following too closely after a two-car accident on Carverton Road May 13, police said.

According to police, Bentacur drove into the rear of a car driven by Donna Jan Meza, of East Broadway, Larksville, at about 2:30 a.m. Meza told police that she was waiting for the light to turn green on Carverton Road so she could turn onto Route 309 when her car was struck from behind by a van. Bentacur got out of the van, Meza told police, warned her not to call the police and not to take down his license plate number, and then fled the scene by driving south on Route 309.

Meza said that she followed Bentacur to get his plate number, but was pulled over by police. Bentacur was pulled over several minutes later by another officer.

A passenger in Meza's car corroborated what Meza had told police.

Investigating officer was Ptl. Robert Parrish with Ptl. Frank Zeigler.

#### FOUR INJURED IN MANOR DRIVE CRASH

Four people suffered moderate injuries after a two-car accident at the intersection of Mount Olivet Road and Manor Drive May 11, police said.

Theresa M. Wozmak, of West Palm Beach, Florida, was driving east on Mount Olivet Road at about 1:45 p.m. when her car was struck by a car driven by Myra A. Carlin, 89, of Ransom Road, Dallas, police said.

Carlin had been driving north on Manor Drive, which is controlled by a stop sign at the intersection of Mount Olivet Road, police said.

Carlin was cited for driving through a stop sign and driving without a license, police said.

## Trooper Scoble cited for defusing domestic problem

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

State trooper John Scoble of Kingston Township was commended for extraordinary action at a ceremony May 15, as 30 soldiers of law gathered to honor their own.

According to Captain Francis Panuccio, commander of Troop P, Pennsylvania State Police Wyoming Barracks, Scoble assisted state police from the Dunmore Barracks in a domestic dispute in Lackawanna County involving an inebriated man with a handgun.

Scoble spent an hour talking on the telephone to the man, who had fired the gun inside his house and threatened to commit suicide. Scoble finally was able to calm him down so that officers could enter the house and take him into custody.

### Genealogical Society will meet May 26

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will meet May 26 at the Osterhout Library, 71 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre in the 2nd floor Conference Room from 7-9 p.m. The guest speaker will be Lydia Hirmer, who is the Regent of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of D.A.R. Lydia is a professional genealogist with over 35 years of experience. She also has served on the national level of the Daughters of American Revolution organization in addition to now serving as head of the local DAR Chapter. She is a direct descendant of one of the original "Mayflower" passengers. The public is invited.

"It was a very emotionally charged situation," Scoble said. "I feel good that it turned out well."

"Many police officers feel that they are only doing their jobs, rather than going beyond the call of duty. It is good to recognize those who have done extraordinary work," Captain Panuccio said. Friday's ceremony was part of Troop P's tenth Police Memorial Day service to honor the memory of state troopers who had died or were killed in the line of duty.

As part of the observance, policemen throughout Luzerne County wore a black stripe across the top of their badges in mourning for fellow officers killed in the line of duty. The memorial observance ended National Police Week, May 11-15, a nationwide tribute to police officers.



A JOB WELL DONE — Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers, right, shakes hands with Patrolman Bob Jolley, left, after receiving a letter of commendation from the Pennsylvania State Police. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

## Dallas Twp. police praised

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers received a framed letter of commendation for his department's work on the Deborah Van Leuven murder case as part of a ceremony May 15, at the Pennsylvania State Police barracks at Wyoming.

"Chief Miers and his men went out of their way in all aspects of the investigation to see that justice was served. This was a classic case of how a criminal investigation should be handled," commented Captain Francis Panuccio, commanding officer of Troop P, Pennsylvania State Police, Wyoming Barracks.

"A wise commanding officer takes advantage of all community

law enforcement resources," Panuccio continued. "The real work begins after the arrest, when police and the district attorney's office work together on the investigation."

"This isn't just for me. I'm accepting it on behalf of everyone who worked on the investigating teams," Miers said. "I have always had great admiration for the Pennsylvania State Police. All police forces must work together to protect and serve the public."

Chief Miers and Patrolman Robert Jolley represented the Dallas Township Police Department at the ceremony, which also honored all deceased Pennsylvania state troopers, those who had retired and those killed in the line of duty.

### ACCIDENT AT FRANKLIN ST. AND HUNTSVILLE

According to Dallas Borough police, a 1986 Chevrolet Sprint operated by Melissa Marie Kohli, 22, of Shavertown and a 1988 Honda Accord, operated by Joseph Persico of Shavertown were involved in an accident Sunday, May 17, shortly before 5:30 p.m. Police said that the Persico vehicle, traveling east on Huntsville Road, apparently swerved in an attempt to avoid the Kohli vehicle, which had stopped at the stop sign on Franklin Street before turning onto Huntsville Road. The Persico vehicle crossed the roadway, leaving approximately 59 feet of skid marks, and impacted with the guard rail on the westbound side of the road, skidding an additional 7 feet before coming to rest, according to the report. The Persico vehicle sustained moderate damage and was towed from the scene.

Kingston Township Sergeant James Balavage investigated the accident.

### MAN ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK OFFICERS

According to Dallas Borough police, Thomas Fela, 37, of Meadowcrest, Trucksville, was arrested Tuesday, May 4, and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, disorderly conduct, engaging in fighting and tumultuous behavior and public drunkenness. The charges stemmed from an incident in which police observed him walk-

ing with a companion along Route 309, weaving and walking into the highway's driving lane. When police attempted to question and detain him, Fela screamed a continuous barrage of obscene and abusive language and attempted to kick an officer in the back of the head, according to the report. Police had to place him in handcuffs and leg irons. Fela is currently lodged in the Luzerne County Prison.

Patrolman James Drury, assisted by Dallas Township patrolmen Doug Higgins and Wayman Miers and Kingston Township patrolman Frank Ziegler, investigated the incident.

### TWO-CAR ACCIDENT AT ROUTES 309 AND 415

According to Dallas Borough police, a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria operated by John Yellitz, 79, of RRI Benton was involved in an accident with a 1989 Buick LeSabre, operated by Gloria McAdara, 45, of Shavertown, Friday, May 8, shortly before 3 p.m. at the

junction of Routes 309 and 415. Police said that the Yellitz vehicle, which had been traveling south on Route 415, attempted to turn left onto Route 309 at the traffic light when it was struck on its right rear fender by the McAdara vehicle.

Patrolman Mike Krzywicki investigated the accident.

### ACCIDENT AT MEMORIAL LANE AND 415

According to Dallas Borough police, a 1985 Ford Escort operated by Marie Santarelli, 27, of Dallas, was involved in an accident with a 1989 Eagle Premier operated by Heather Malonis, 18, of Dallas Sunday morning, May 10. Police said that the Malonis vehicle had turned onto the highway from Main Street and was unable to avoid colliding with the Santarelli vehicle, which had turned onto Route 415 after stopping at the stop sign on Memorial Lane.

Chief of Police Jack Fowler investigated the accident.

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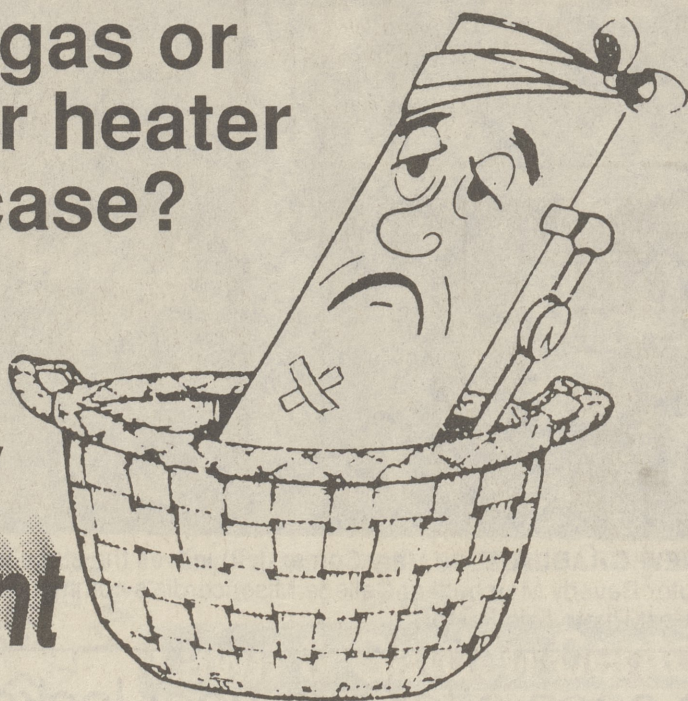
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