



Hillside Farms holds barnwarming party

About 100 people turned out for Hillside Farms' Barn Warming Party June 22 in Jackson Township to celebrate the opening of Hillside Farms' new modern heifer barn. Shown from left are George Conyngham and Frank Conyngham, of Hillside Farms; Warren Sutton, Hillside Farms manager; William L. Conyngham, Hillside Farms; Robert Strait, barn builder; David Conyngham and Wil Conyngham, Hillside Farms. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

Probe

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Lionel Bulford that the television set in the police department's office may have been a bribe.

According to the probable cause arrest affidavit filed by state trooper Leonard Dorrance Jr., Peter Joseph Achey, 33, of Dana Street, Wilkes-Barre, was stopped for drunken driving on Lakeside Drive in the Sunset section of Harveys Lake on December 15, 1991.

Ptl. Karlonis provided state police with a report signed by Spock and Achey on December 15, acknowledging that Achey refused to have a blood alcohol test performed, the affidavit said.

Under Pennsylvania law, a driver who refuses to have a blood alcohol test performed automatically loses their drivers license for one year.

Karlonis also provided state police with records from the Back Mountain Communications Center that showed Spock had stopped a driver for drunken driving on December 15 at 9:30 p.m. at Sunset.

Harveys Lake Ptl. Jeffrey Butler told state police investigator Leonard Dorrance Jr. that before the Christmas holidays he arrived for work and asked where the television came from. According to the affidavit, Butler was told by Spock that it came from the driving under the influence stop the other night.

Achey told state police that the day after he was stopped for drunken driving, he called a friend who lives in Harveys Lake, Mark Kline, to see if there was some way

he could avoid being charged with drunken driving, said the affidavit.

Kline was interviewed by state police, and said that he went to Spock's home and asked him what he could do for Achey.

According to the affidavit, Kline told state police that at first Spock didn't want to do anything, but eventually said that the police station could use a television.

Achey went to the borough building December 19 at 2 p.m. where he met Spock, according to the affidavit. Achey asked if he could make a donation to the police department. Spock said, "Sure."

Achey told state police that when he brought the television into the borough building Spock and a woman behind the counter unwrap the box, and Spock said, "Oh, boy, a T.V."

Achey told police that he said "Merry Christmas" and left the station, and as he was leaving, Spock told him, "The paperwork is lost."

Achey was never charged with drunken driving.

District Attorney Olszewski said that he doesn't expect any charges to be filed against Achey in connection with the case.

"The investigators and I don't feel it would be appropriate," said Olszewski.

Boice said that he was unaware that there was a new television set in the police station until it was confiscated by state police on May 13.

"I was unaware of the new TV until the state police office took it," said Boice.

"When the TV was confiscated, we thought it was the old one we had donated," said Boice referring to an old television he had given the police department some time ago.

Harveys Lake Borough Council suspended Spock with pay June 25, the morning after his arrest.

"I'm not going to crucify the guy because Spock has been a good officer up until this situation," said Boice. "I'm confident that it will all work out. I'm saying that from what I know of Spock. I don't get to see the reports. Hopefully he won't take anything for himself. I don't think he would. If I'm wrong, I'm wrong."

Spock started working as a borough police officer in 1986. He's paid \$7.45 an hour. With overtime he made \$23,798 in 1991. Police Chief Lionel Bulford is paid \$7.80 an hour.

"If we have a problem here it's going to be checked out to the bottom of it once and for all," said Bulford. "That's why we have courts. That's why we have investigators. Nobody's above the law."

After his arraignment before District Justice Earl Gregory June 24, Spock was released without having to post a \$10,000 bond. A preliminary hearing has been set for July 16 at 10:30 a.m. before Gregory.

If convicted, Spock could face a maximum of seven years in prison and fines of up to \$15,000.

Teacher strikes

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ever is later, then non-binding arbitration is required. If the arbitration is rejected, and the teachers strike, districts can hire any substitutes they can find.

Keith Coslett, a Republican who is challenging Mundy for state Representative in the 120th district, also feels that there shouldn't be restrictions on the substitutes school districts can hire in the event of a teacher strike.

"I would vehemently argue that school boards have the right to hire substitutes," said Coslett. "I can tell you that I think Act 195 is a bad law."

Coslett called Bill 727 a "step in the right direction," but without the specifics of the bill before him, couldn't say how he would vote if he were in the state house now.

Despite the controversy over restricting districts from hiring strike breakers, Lemmond says that the good far outweighs the bad.

"I think we need to understand that there is no such thing as a perfect bill," said Mundy.

Hasay said he voted for the bill because even though it may not go as far as some people would like, it's a beginning.

"I wish that teacher strikes could be banned totally," said Hasay. "I'm supporting it, very much so," said state Senator Charles Lemmond. "The good points are so good."

Under 727, teachers would be prohibited from calling selective strikes, shutting down only one building, or striking for only part of the day. They would also be required to give 48 hours advance notice before calling a strike.

The bill seeks to stop school strikes before they happen by establishing an earlier timetable for negotiations, and prohibiting strikes until fact-finding and arbitration have been requested.

Pennsylvania regularly leads the nation in school strikes, accounting for nearly one third of all striking teachers in the nation this year, according to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Across the state, teachers in 35 districts have gone on strike during the 1991-92 school year.

To put that in some perspective however, William Wagner, president of the Dallas teachers union says that the average Pennsylvania student is affected by a teacher strike for only two days of all their years in school.

The bill also gives the Secretary of Education the authority to ask a judge to order an injunction to stop a strike. Under current law, only one of the parties involved, the teachers or school board, can request an injunction.

"Addressing the selective strikes is absolutely at the top of the list," said state Senator Charles Lemmond.

While there have never been teacher strikes in the Back Mountain, Lemmond said that in western parts of the state school districts are experiencing teachers' strikes right now.

Bill 727 now awaits Governor Robert Casey's signature to become law, and Lemmond said that he expects the governor will sign.

"It was a long road," said Mundy, a member of the House Education Committee who worked with the bill in the House, pushing for the

ban on selective strikes. For Kunec, it's not enough. He would like to see Act 195 revoked entirely.

"It should never have been put on the books in the first place," said Kunec. "Granted the teachers were underpaid in years back. But two wrongs don't make a right. Going overboard with ridiculous salaries and fringe benefits."

However, eliminating Act 195 just isn't very feasible, say Lemmond and Mundy.

"This is a very strong labor state," said Mundy. "People believe very strongly in negotiating rights."

"Down here where you have to get votes from all factions, to go all the way would be very difficult," said Lemmond. "This is absolutely the first time we've been able to make any changes to Act 195. I think this compromise will give our school boards the tools they need. This is as far as we can go in any event at this time."

Wagner wonders if the concern over whether a district can hire strikebreakers isn't misdirected.

"I don't see why that's the big hangup," said Wagner. "I would think that people would like to see the strike end and get back to education."

Wagner questioned the quality of education a district would be able to offer when manned entirely by substitute teachers.

"727 is a compromise. It's to help the bargaining process along. We're giving up some of our power too," said Wagner. "We know what the history has been without bargaining rights. No one had anything. No one offered any kind of raises or benefits."

Lehman tax

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"The entire community must work together, with everyone willing to take cuts for the common good," Presper said. "I don't believe that we've reached the best compromise or balance point among everyone involved in the budget."

Changes in administrative positions calculated to save the district approximately \$30,000 included cutting the full-time positions of curriculum coordinator Dr. Steve Boston and coordinator of federal funding Pat Peiffer back to half-time each, both to be filled by Dr. Boston. Ms. Peiffer, a certified reading specialist, will return to the classroom.

Home and school visitor Michael Toole will cover the position of a social studies teacher on sabbati-

cal leave during the second semester; his work will be divided among the clerical staff.

The audience of about 100 people at the meeting cheered when Superintendent Nancy Davis voluntarily refused a salary raise for the coming year. Mrs. Davis was not available for comment after the meeting. Other administrative raises will average four percent instead of the 8.3 percent originally proposed.

Cuts in supplies for the extra-curricular activities programs saved the district an additional \$15,000, according to school board president Liz Sichler.

The district plans to use its entire budgetary reserve fund, anticipating that its preliminary estimates

of state funding were too low. Sichler did not have any dollar figures available, but said that any additional money from the state will go back into the budgetary reserve fund.

In other business, the board approved:

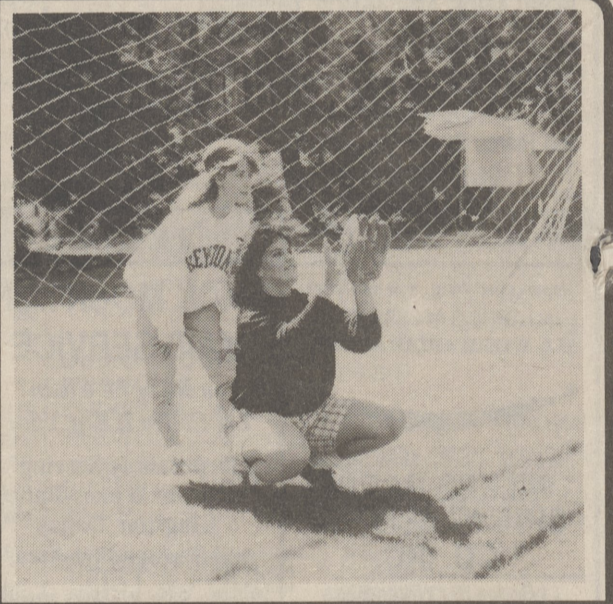
- The resignation of part-time cafeteria worker Margo Oncay.
- Appointments of tax collectors and establishment of late tax penalties.
- Appointments of coaches and activities advisors for 1992-93.

The school board scheduled its next committee-of-the-whole meeting for Tuesday, July 7, at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium, to be followed by a special meeting at 8 p.m.

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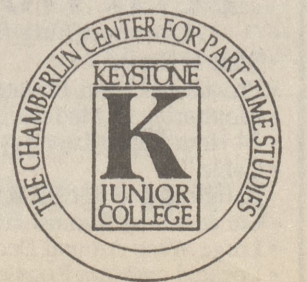
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