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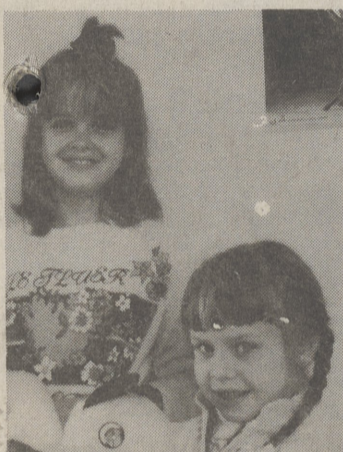
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Searles dares DAMA to arrest them

But C&K Sanitation is said to have dropped customers in DAMA territory

By GRACE R. DOVE
 Post Staff

More than 60 people filled the East Dallas Methodist Church to capacity at a meeting of the Back Mountain Taxpayers Association Sunday, August 30, where they voted to enter into a class-action suit against the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) and to request an audit of the

authority's financial records by state Auditor General Barbara Hafer's office.

The majority vowed to continue using their private hauler instead of Danella Enterprises, DAMA's designated hauler and recycler.

"Attorney Medico told us on the telephone last week that we should continue to do business as usual and let the municipalities arrest us. It's up to them to prove where

we are acting criminally in operating a business in the community," said Fred Searles, Jr.

"We're picking up any customers who have been left without a hauler now that C&K is out," said Mrs. Peg Searles. Both Searles and C&K have been recycling in compliance with Act 101, the state's new recycling law, since it went into effect, Mrs. Searles said.

The Searles family said that

Medico told them that pursuing the matter through further civil action would be too expensive. The Searles family estimates their legal fees so far to be more than \$10,000.

The Searles family said that C&K Sanitation, one of the original three plaintiffs in the case, had decided to withdraw from the dispute and has dropped customers in the three municipalities. Dave's Sanitation withdrew from the suit in

December, 1991.

On August 12, Luzerne County President Judge Patrick Toole set aside the lawsuit by the haulers, stating that the plaintiffs hadn't provided enough information to back up their allegations. The haulers have 30 days to file an amended complaint with additional information.

See DAMA, pg 14

Water stinks, customers tell hearing

By ERIC FOSTER
 Post Staff

They brought dirty water filters, tales of foul smelling water coming out of their faucets, and complaints about high prices.

About 100 customers of the Dallas, Shavertown, Harveys Lake and Noxen water companies attended a Public Utility Commission (PUC) hearing Tuesday, August 25, at the Dallas Middle School to learn about the proposed rate hikes which could double the cost of water for many customers.

About two dozen customers testified before Administrative Law Judge Richard M. Lovenwirth who presided at the hearing. Their message was that they don't like the quality of the water they have now, and they don't want to pay more for it.

"The water is absolutely brutal," said Arthur Rosenberg, of Village Drive Shavertown. "The taste, the color. The water is absolutely bad."

"If my water was the quality of water I could drink, maybe I wouldn't be so upset," said Donald Gavigan, a Kingston Township supervisor, of Ridge Street, Shavertown.

Robert Lopasnick, of Hemlock Street, Dallas, brought a water filter which had been in use for a week at his home. It was a muddy brown color.

"Usually I let it go three weeks until my wife gets on me," said Lopasnick. "I don't think they deserve any rate increase at all. I

See WATER, pg 14



Trying her hand

Michelle Maskalis, age 5, of Sweet Valley, took her turn drawing at Arts At Hayfield, held Sunday at the Penn State Campus in Lehman. Additional photos on page 14.

(Post photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

Laid-off teachers back on the job

Union still may file complaint

By ERIC FOSTER
 Post Staff

More than a year after they were furloughed, all five of the full-time teachers furloughed or reduced to part-time status by the Dallas School District are back working in Dallas classrooms.

The furloughs resulted in a rancorous hearing at which the school board ruled that it had acted legally in furloughing the teachers because of changes in the school's curriculum, and the threat that the furloughs would be appealed to Luzerne County Court.

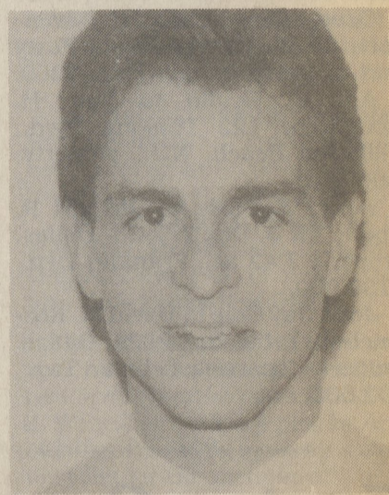
Mary Ann Storz who was furloughed as teacher of the in-school suspension program, will be teaching social studies in the high school.

This year, Nancy Ferko, who was changed from full, to part-time status, is back at full-time.

Margaret Schuler, a physical education and health teacher, and Paul Brown, a physical education and health teacher, as well as basketball coach, have both been made long-term substitutes at the Dallas Elementary.

Catherine Wega returned to teaching English in January at the Dallas Middle School after an opening was created when Anthony Martinelli became the Middle School Principal in the spring.

Carol Harding, a part-time teacher who was furloughed, but withdrew her request for a hearing, has been appointed as a long term substitute kindergarten teacher at the Westmoreland Elementary School.



WILLIAM WAGNER

Schuler and Ferko both went on sabbatical during the furloughs, while Wega was on sabbatical until the new position opened in the Middle School.

William Wagner, president of the Dallas teachers' union, said the union is still considering what action to take over the furloughs.

Wagner said that while the union agrees that Paul Brown should be classified as a long-term substitute because he has only emergency certification in elementary education, Ferko has gained certification in elementary education, and should be listed as a permanent employee because she has seniority over other elementary teachers.

"Something will be done about it. Even if it's to put in a notice saying we don't agree," said Wagner.

Local police plan to push for universal seat belt use

By GRACE R. DOVE
 Post Staff

"I don't like them."
 "They don't fit."
 "They wrinkle my clothes."
 "Uh...I forgot."

These are only a few of the many excuses that police have heard from drivers not wearing seat belts.

As a part of "70x'92," a national campaign to increase seat belt usage to 70 percent of the driving population, three police

departments in the Back Mountain are planning a public education program aimed at the driving public.

According to chiefs Jack Fowler of Dallas Borough, Carl Miers of Dallas Township and Paul Sabol of Kingston Township, officers have noticed only between 30 and 40 percent of drivers wearing seat belts, leaving 60 to 70 percent not belted.

"It's the law: drivers must wear seatbelts. Officers who stop a

Cops hear creative excuses for not wearing belts

Page 14

vehicle for any violations may also cite any driver who isn't belted," Fowler said.

Chief Miers added that it is the driver's responsibility to make sure that all front seat passengers and any children under age 18 wear

seat belts.

Although the seat belt law is currently a secondary violation — one which police can only cite drivers for after they have been stopped for something else — various police organizations support a bill to make not wearing a seat belt a primary violation, for which officers may stop drivers and cite drivers without having committed any other Motor Vehicle Code violations, Miers said.

The three police departments

are waiting for the approval of a grant to fund seat belt safety checkpoints, driver/passenger surveys and materials to distribute to drivers in shopping center parking lots as part of a public education campaign.

Officers also will visit area schools to educate students of all ages in the importance for anyone in a car to wear a seat belt.

"Aside from it being the law,

See SEAT BELTS, pg 14

Just like in the old days

Joe Dixon of Orange and his registered Morgan mare Mollie take a break after a trot through Country Village Trailer Park this weekend with Dixon's new Amish buggy, built in Lancaster.

(Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)



Reflectors being stolen

One of the reasons that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) installed guard rails around Harveys Lake early this summer was to keep people from accidentally driving into the lake.

But, because the guard rails have been almost continuously vandalized, drivers may have a tough time seeing the rails on dark or foggy nights to avoid colliding with them.

Reflectors, mounted on the guard rails to make them more visible are being stolen.

Anyone having information about the missing guard rail reflectors is asked to call the Traffic Unit of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at 963-4819, the State Police at 693-2443, or the Harveys Lake Police at 675-4650.