



# DALLAS POST

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## Insurance Story

### COMMUNITY



**Scouts sail** Lake George. Page 6.

**Citizens' Council** sponsors home beautification award. Page 5.

### SCHOOL



**Sherlock Holmes** comes to Dallas High stage. Page 8.

### SPORTS

**Black Knights** win quarterfinal soccer match. Sports page.

**Dallas** loses field hockey playoff in overtime. Sports page.

**Early deadlines** for next issue. All news and advertising copy should be in by 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 20. Our office will be closed at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 25 and all day Thursday and Friday, November 26-27.

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## Trash fees come up \$100,000 short

By BILL HARPER Post Staff

With over \$100,000 in overdue accounts, the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) and member towns don't all agree on how to collect the money. About 800 of the 6,400 households that are serviced by DAMA's garbage and recycling program are delinquent in payment to the authority, owing a total of \$103,979. Tom Bagley, DAMA's executive director, says it's up to member

municipalities to collect the money, but Kingston Township manager Jeffrey Box disagrees. Bagley said that under a service agreement between the authority and its members, DAMA can bill the municipalities in order to make up any shortfall. But Box said the agreement calls for DAMA to bring the money in. "The service agreement between DAMA and the municipalities gives the responsibility for collecting on all delinquent accounts to the authority," Box said.

Attorney Theodore Krohn, who serves as solicitor for Dallas Borough, said Tuesday that under the service agreement, DAMA can call on the municipalities to collect on delinquent accounts. Each municipality can then require individual homeowners to pay the money which is owed. Dallas Township solicitor Frank Townend said that a 10 percent delinquency rate was acceptable and expected. Bagley says the current overdue amount is lower than the 15 per-

cent delinquency earlier this year. "In July, we reported 1,700 customers were delinquent, that figure is now down to around 800," Bagley said. "We originally figured that five percent of our bills would be delinquent, and nationally, there is a five to eight percent delinquency rate," Bagley said. Box said that DAMA has no specific pool of money to help pay for delinquent accounts. Lacking such a reserve, the authority has taken some steps to collect the money

which is owed to it. DAMA collects garbage and recyclable materials in Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, and Kingston Township. The authority also is responsible for sewer service in those towns as well as Lehman and Jackson townships. Some of the non-payers are among those who have protested the DAMA program from its start in 1991, claiming that the authority lacks the right to tell people who will pick

See DAMA, pg 3

## Lights, more in road plan

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

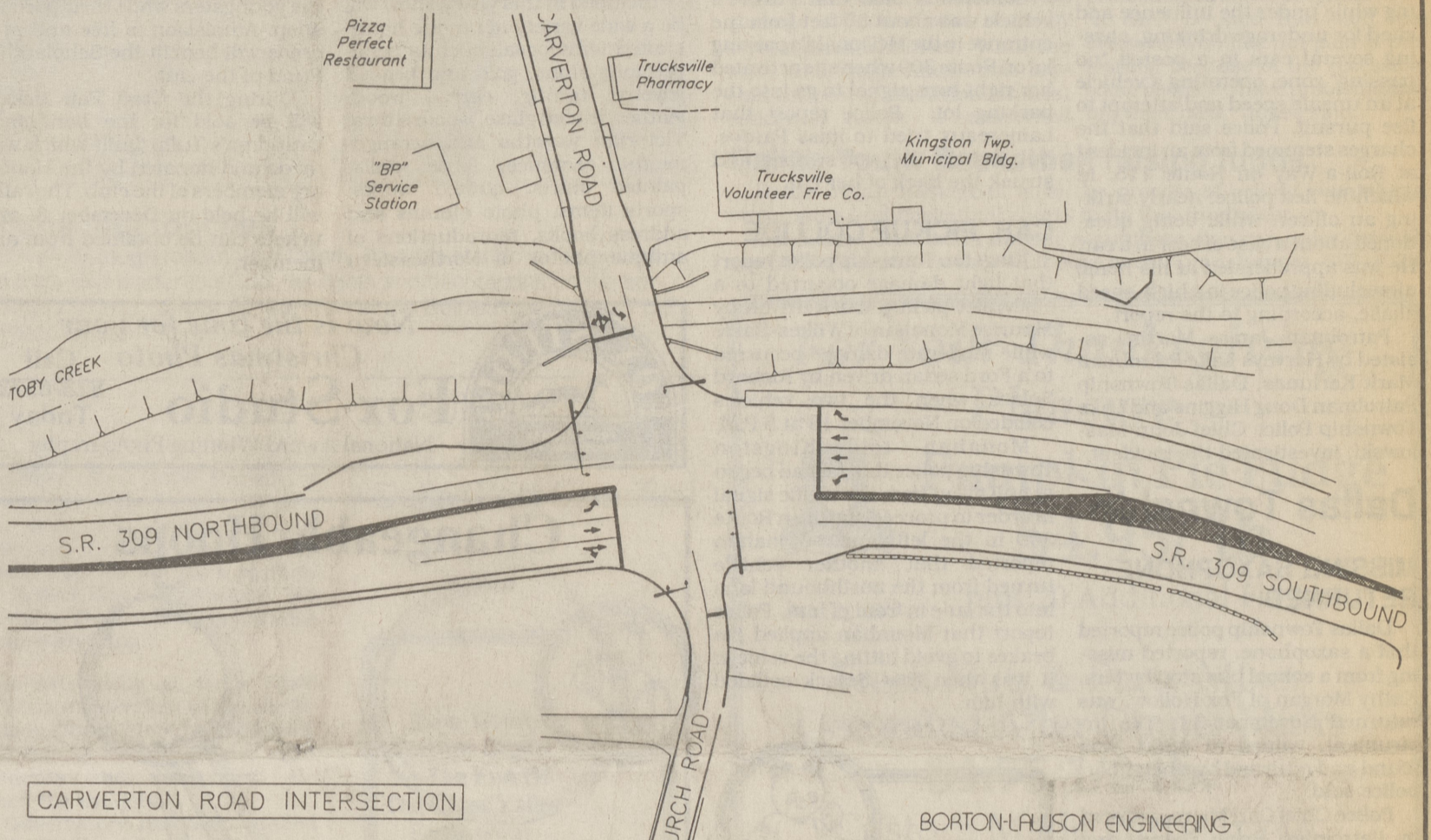
Motorists using routes 309 and 415 in the Back Mountain area expect to see major improvements and traffic lights at eight intersections, if plans unveiled at the Transportation Management Association meeting Thursday, November 12, are approved.

Even more impressive, the proposed \$2.5 million project will be funded totally by state and federal grants.

Construction could begin as early as the end of 1993, according to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) officials.

Plans call for installation of traffic lights on Route 309 at Hillside Road, Carverton Road, Franklin Street, Main Road at Offset Paperback and the Center Hill/Upper Demunds/Hildebrandt

See HIGHWAY, pg 14



HERE'S THE PLAN - Big changes are planned for several Back Mountain intersections. Above, an engineer's drawing of the Carver-

ton Road/Route 309 intersection shows additional lanes and lights. Several other spots will receive similar treatment.

## Area man finds his Irish roots

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Many people are interested in their family's origins; a few have the good fortune to actually track down their ancestors.

Dallas resident Dr. Sidney J. Curran, a retired orthopedic surgeon, has not only traced his family 200 years back to Ireland, but also has found what he believes to be credible historic accounts of the events which prompted one branch of the family to immigrate.

He recently located a chronicle of the Potato Famine, *Paddy's Lament*, by Thomas Gallagher, which he believes to be one of the most authentic accounts of the disaster.

"It's written by an Irishman, not an Englishman," he said. "The English tended to gloss over the scope of the famine, which killed at least two million Irish peasants."

Dr. Curran began tracing his family tree several years ago, a task complicated by the poorly kept church records in Ireland and the destruction of most census records in a fire in Dublin in 1922.

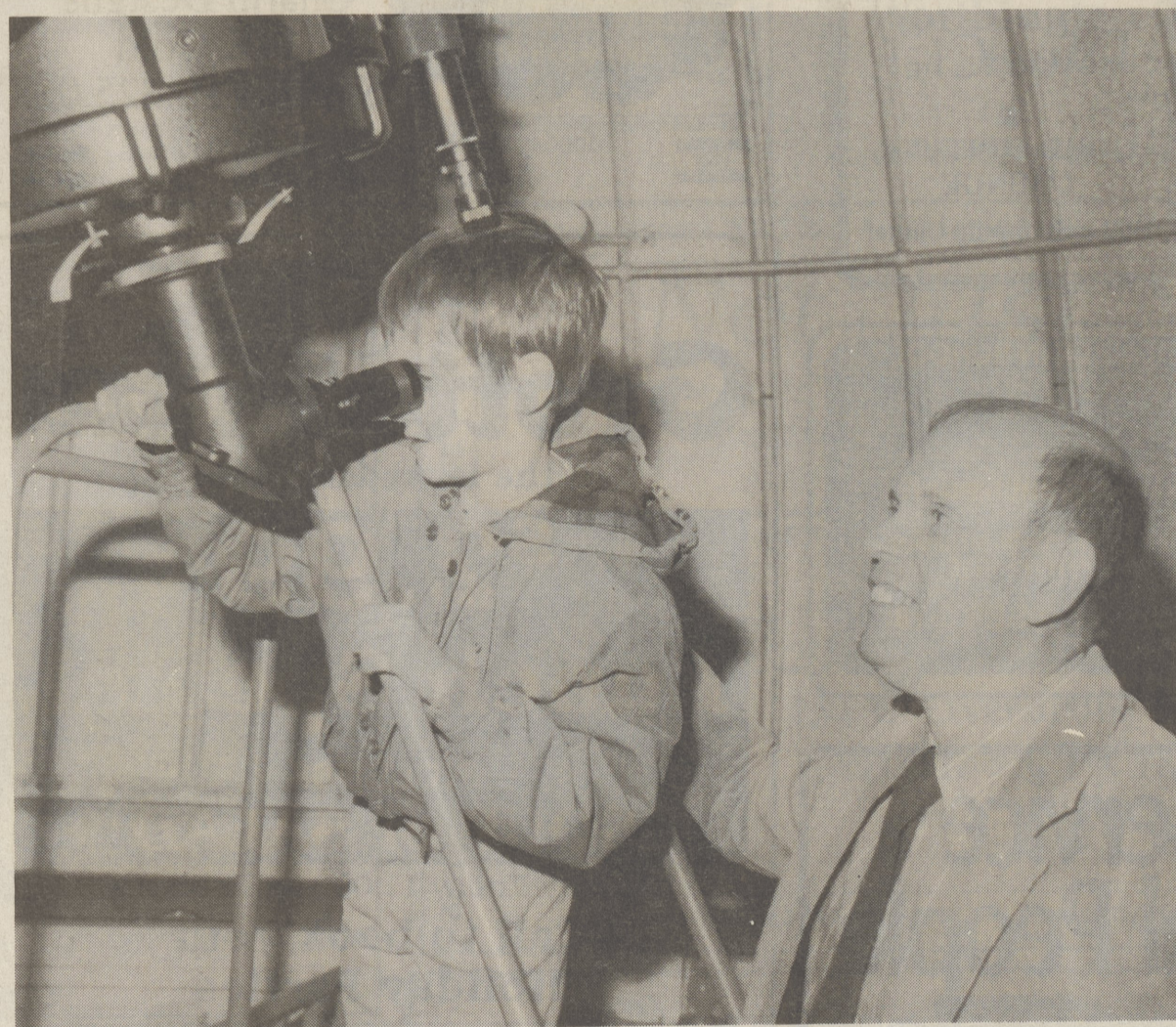
He found that the Curran branch of the family originated in County Clare, where their records date back to the 1790's, while the Tierney branch of the family immigrated from Ballyluby in County Tipperary in 1851 to escape the ravages of the Potato Famine.

"The English had been discriminating against the Irish peasantry since the time of Elizabeth I, denying them decent farmland to raise their own food and treating them worse than dogs," he said.

"Although they produced sheep, cattle, chickens, pigs and different grains on their landlords' farms, they weren't allowed to eat them."

Under English law, these crops were shipped directly to England, leaving the Irish only potatoes to eat.

See IRISH, pg 14



A PEEK AT THE UNIVERSE - Astronomy professor Walter Bennett shows Paul Luksa how to look through Penn State's new telescope. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

## Penn State telescope adds range

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

With the installation of a new telescope at the Penn State Lehman campus, area residents can now slip the bonds of Earth to see other planets in our solar system and many wonders of space - all without leaving the Back Mountain.

The telescope was introduced to the public in a "First Light" ceremony Wednesday, November 11, which featured tours of the Friedman Observatory and a photographic space tour narrated by astronomy professor Walter Bennett, compensating for the rainy night which prevented opening the dome to use the new telescope.

"People have some strange ideas about telescopes," Bennett said. "They can't see through clouds. We don't use them to look at the jet planes coming into and out of the airport at Avoca, or meteors."

But that doesn't mean the new instrument can't accomplish wondrous things. "Our new telescope is so sensitive that it can read a Baby Ben alarm clock two miles away," Bennett said.

As slides of the planets flashed onto the screen, children in the audience gasped and whispered the names of those that they recognized.

Bennett's commentary included many interesting facts:

Jupiter's cloud bands look like surrealistic paint swirls when seen close-up. Its Great Red Spot is actually a mega-hurricane at least 200 years old.

Saturn and Jupiter, with their many small moons, resemble mini-solar systems.

Uranus looks like a pale green pearl, while distant Pluto is only a pinpoint in the sky.

See TELESCOPE, pg 3

## Teachers help stock food bank

By BILL HARPER Post Staff

Organizations are lending a hand to the area's needy this holiday season by supporting local charities with food and fundraising drives.

The Back Mountain Food Bank in Trucksville recently received assistance from a food drive sponsored by local teachers.

"The Dallas Education Association does three community service projects a year, one of them being the food drive which we have completed for the Back Mountain Food Bank," association president William Wagner said. "People need to be aware of the food bank because there are needy families in the Back Mountain."

Food bank co-coordinator Kathy Barlow said that the charity is based at the Trucksville United Methodist Church and serves an area from Trucksville to Sweet Valley. "We require a community effort in order to keep the food bank's shelves stocked," Barlow said.

Barlow said that the food bank welcomes both individual and corporate donations. The food bank can be contacted by calling the Trucksville United Methodist Church at 696-3897.

Project coordinator Joan Makowski said that although drives in the past did involve students, the teachers did all of the collecting on this drive. She believes that this has a positive affect on all students in the district.

"Teachers need to be role models for their students, and I believe that we can help to motivate them to do community service," Makowski said.

Makowski said that people who need assistance from the food bank must be referred by a business, school district or pastor. Barlow said that the food bank requires this so that an accounting can be

See FOOD, pg 14