



# The Dallas Post

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vol. 104 No. 46

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, November 17, 1993

## Firefighter union donations don't aid Back Mountain

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Back Mountain firefighters are asking residents receiving telephone solicitations from firemen's benefit groups to check with their local fire station before making donations.

A recent telephone solicitation campaign by the Luzerne County Paid Firefighters' Local 840 has nothing to do with the Back Mountain Firefighters' Association, according to its president Jack Dodson.

According to a copy of a letter from Local 840, it is selling tickets to a holiday variety show performed by a Florida entertain-

ment and promotional group to raise money for the local.

Although Local 840's letter urges residents to contact their local fire stations to be sure of the telephone solicitors' validity, Dodson said that none of the money that it raises benefits Back Mountain fire companies or firefighters.

"They're telling people on the phone that these funds help reimburse the Back Mountain fire companies for gasoline and oil when they respond to calls in the valley as part of the mutual aid agreement," Dodson said.

"This is not true. We aren't reimbursed or paid at all. We're all-volunteer, non-profit organizations and don't get paid for

our work."

The letter also states: "Local 840 is the only organization that represents firefighters in the Luzerne County area."

Not so, Dodson said. The Back Mountain Firefighters' Association is made up of 16 area all-volunteer fire and ambulance companies.

Local 840 has nothing to do with it. George Thomasak, Local 840's first vice-president and engineer for the Edwardsville Fire Company, said that his organization represents paid firefighters only.

"We're mostly drivers in fire stations in Plains, Edwardsville, Larksville, Jenkins Township, Kingston and Plymouth," he said.

"We sent letters and free tickets to fire chiefs all over the valley. We're not out to hurt the volunteer organizations—we have to live with them. We've done a lot for the Back Mountain, assisting on calls and lending cascade systems to refill their air packs at fires."

Thomasak also said that he didn't know who had told Back Mountain residents that Local 840 is the only organization representing firefighters in Luzerne County. "They shouldn't be telling people that," he said. "Telephone solicitors who deviate from what they're supposed to say are let go."

Thomasak said that the Back Mountain

Firefighter's Association did not ask Local 840 to refrain from soliciting in the Back Mountain, although area firefighters say that the association had contacted the local and made that request.

Unlike Back Mountain fire companies, where all of the money raised goes directly to providing emergency services, only a small percentage of the money raised by Local 840 ever reaches the group, Dodson said.

"Before you donate to a firefighters' group, check with your local fire station to see that your money will directly benefit your local firefighters," he said. "We're the ones who take care of you."

## Sickler going to trial

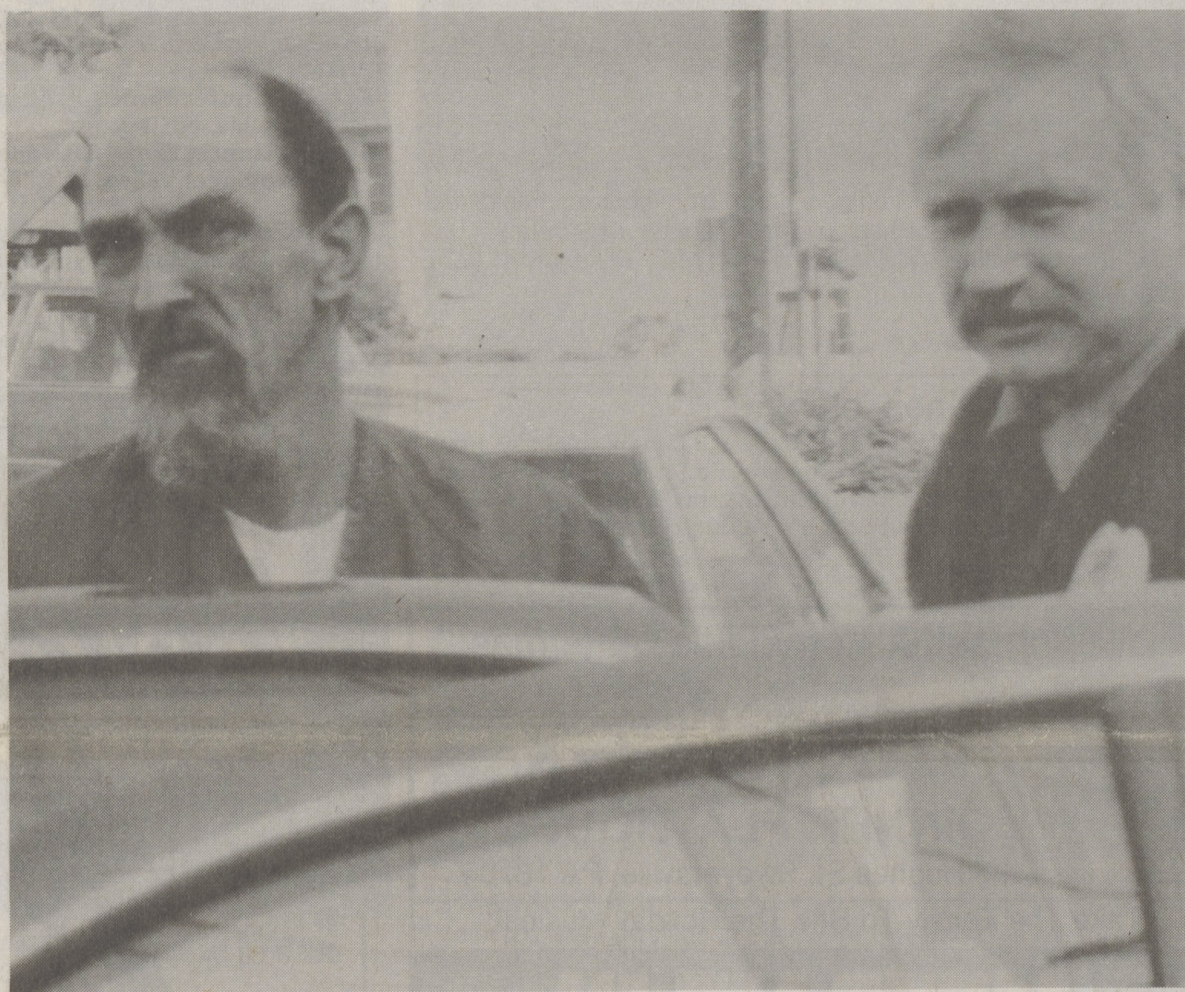
### Faces 6 sexual abuse charges

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Seven charges against Douglas Sickler, 38, of Harveys Lake, accused of sexually abusing a child, were bound over to Luzerne County criminal court at a preliminary hearing November 10 before District Magistrate Earl Gregory.

Arrested October 25, Sickler will be tried on two felony counts of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, one felony count of statutory rape, two misdemeanor counts of indecent assault, one misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of children and

See SICKLER, pg 14



TO STAND TRIAL — Harveys Lake resident Donald Sickler, accused of sexually abusing a child, is escorted back to the Luzerne County Prison by Harveys Lake assistant chief Ronald Spock after his preliminary hearing before District Magistrate Earl Gregory November 10.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

## Lehman Township cuts police costs

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Lehman Township supervisors approved the \$493,605 preliminary 1994 budget with no tax increase at their regular meeting November 15.

The present 14-mill tax rate is the highest allowed by law for second-class townships, according to treasurer Alvin Cragle. Municipal tax rates are determined by the state based on size and population.

According to the draft budget, the township expects to end 1993 with \$15,000 cash on hand and \$40,000 carried over from unused Liquid Fuels Tax money for road work.

An additional \$10,000 is expected in earned income tax next year, a six percent increase, bringing in \$160,000.

The township expects to receive \$111,605 from the state for road work in 1994, which combined with \$1,500 in interest and

the \$40,000 left over from 1993, will mean \$153,105 for road paving, repairs and maintenance.

Road repairs and street paving are expected to cost \$110,000, while \$23,105 has been designated for equipment and repairs. Snow removal has been budgeted at \$20,000.

Planned major equipment purchases are a new police cruiser to replace the one destroyed in an accident and a new plow truck.

A total of \$61,000 has been earmarked for police salaries, a decrease of \$5,900 or eight percent from 1993. Chief William Goodwin will become a part-time assistant chief until his retirement, having been replaced by Howard Kocher, formerly a sergeant. Part-time patrolman Sev Newberry has been promoted to full-time, while patrolman William Purcell has retired for health reasons.

The budget is available for public inspection by appointment at treasurer Alvin Cragle's home.

## Harveys Lake zoning fight awaits decision

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Harveys Lake businessman James Drury says that Mark Sopp, owner of Creative Rooms, is operating a manufacturing business in a commercial zone, where manufacturing isn't allowed.

Sopp says that he isn't manufacturing, only "assembling," and that his operation is legal under the borough's zoning code.

This war of words came to a head at a hearing November 11 before the Harveys Lake zoning hearing board.

Represented by attorney Frank J. Aritz, Drury appealed borough codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes' June 29 decision that Sopp's operation conforms to the borough codes.

Creative Rooms is located next door to Drury's business, a deli and restaurant on Route 415 in a

commercial zone, where retail, service and recreational uses are permitted under the zoning code.

The building and property where both businesses are located is owned by Joseph Paglione, owner of Grotto Pizza. Both Drury and Sopp rent space from him.

Although attorney Frank Hagen, representing Sopp, objected to Drury's appeal because he said that the borough code prohibits appeals from tenants, permitting them only with the landlord's consent, zoning hearing board solicitor Susan Maza said that the hearing would continue, after she reviewed the section which Hagen cited.

Drury's appeal is based on the 1993 zoning ordinance's definition of light industry: "A use engaged in the manufacture, predominantly from previously pre-

See ZONING, pg 14

## Dallas High students stock food pantry

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Dallas High School seniors were ecstatic after collecting more than 1,400 cans of food on the first day of their drive to fill the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

With a goal of 4,000 cans of food, it was 1,461 down and 2,539 to go.

Coordinated by sociology teacher Jay Pope's classes, the food drive has been organized by homerooms, with a goal of 1,000 cans of food per class.

"We have spent a lot of time working with homeroom representatives, making and putting up posters and motivating the students," said steering committee member Abby Russin, who had arrived at school at 7:30 a.m. Monday to finish preparations for the first day of the drive.

"It was unbelievable — some kids brought in huge boxes packed with food. If the rest of the drive is like this, we'll run out of boxes by the end of the week. It's really exciting seeing the people in school being so generous."

Steering committee members said that the senior class had exceeded its goal already, but would continue to bring in food items until the end of the week. Some families had donated entire case lots of food.

And the movement has spread to the Westmoreland Elementary School, where students are also donating food items to help out.

Donations from both schools will be picked up and delivered to the Food Pantry Friday, November 19.

Steering committee members talked with the students in the cafeteria during each lunch period, urging them to help out.

"It's a pleasant surprise to see everyone getting together," said senior John Thompson. "We've made a good start. I'd like to see

this happen at Dallas more often."

"The seniors really got into it," Russin said. "We wanted to let the underclassmen know that it's a good thing to do. It's really important for young people to show that they care about others who aren't as privileged as we are."

Volunteers Walter Meade and George Gaylord, who work year round packing the grocery orders for the Back Mountain Food Pantry, were pleasantly surprised by the students' enthusiasm.

"I can't believe this — it's really great!" Meade said. "Usually we run low on supplies during the summer and have to go out and buy them, but with a good 4,000 items coming in, it may carry us

through right into early next fall."

"I'm not too sure what we're going to do with 4,000 cans," joked Rev. Charles Naugle, pastor of Trucksville United Methodist Church, which coordinates the Food Pantry.

The food drive had grown from discussions in sociology classes, Pope said. Originally organized by the student council, the food drive was taken over by the sociology classes as a service project.

"This class has really embraced this food drive, like no other class here before," Pope said.

The top homerooms in each class are competing for special prizes.

The top senior homeroom will be treated to breakfast cooked by

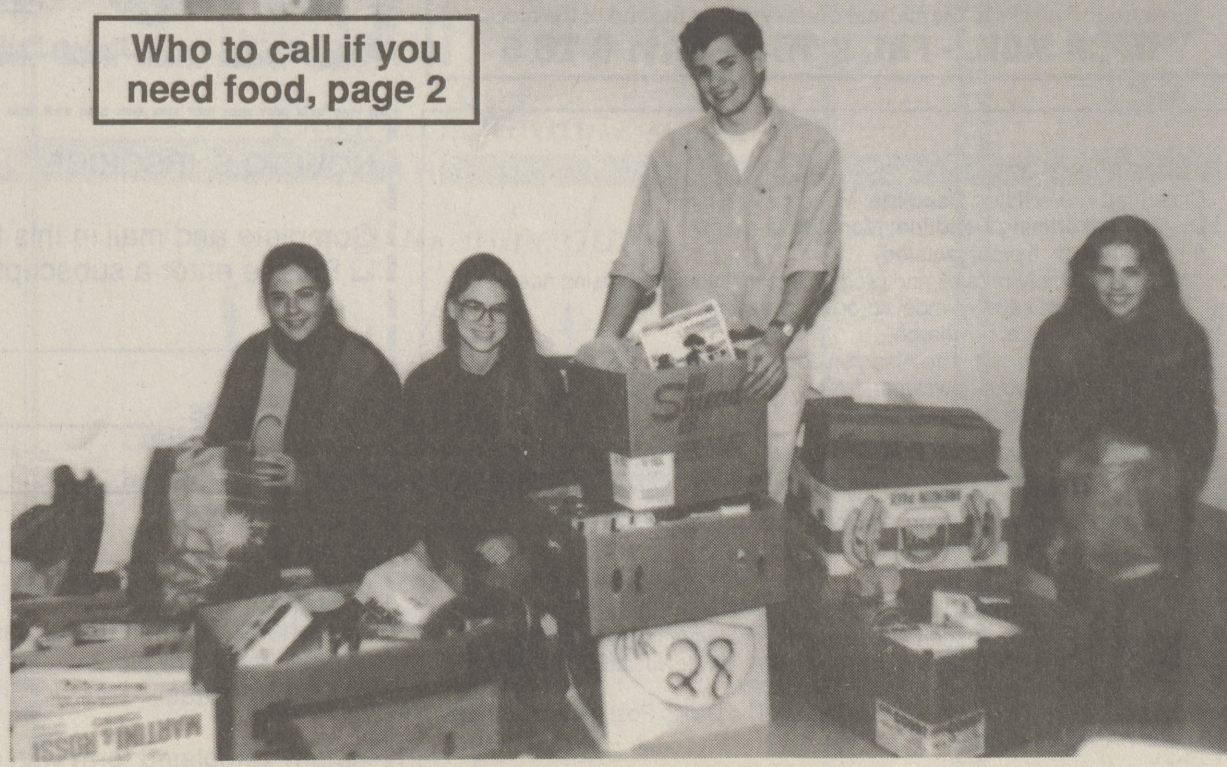
principal Frank Galicki and assistant principal David Bieri, while top junior, sophomore and freshman homerooms will have pizza parties.

"I heard that Mr. Galicki and Mr. Bieri put on a good spread," committee members joked. "At least that's what they told us."

Steering committee members are Michelle Siglin, Jessica Kerr, Lynn Hill, Becki Roan, Drew Bishop, Abby Russin, Eric Werner, Jeff Krehely and Kara Edwards.

Other food drive-related activities are Back to School night November 18, when parents of high school students have been asked to bring food donations with them, and a dance November 19 to collect more food items.

Who to call if you need food, page 2



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

THE FIRST WAVE — Members of the steering committee for the Dallas High School's food collection to benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry, Abby Russin, Becki Roan, Drew Bishop and Lynn Hill, check out the many items donated the first day of the drive.

### 75th Armistice Day observed

New plaque added to Dallas Honor Roll, page 3

### New column

"As I Was Saying" will present wide range of topics, often from a senior perspective, page 5.

### INDEX

14 Pages 1 Section Calendar.....	11
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	11
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	12
School.....	8
Sports.....	9-10

CALL 675-5211 FOR HOME DELIVERY, NEWS OR ADVERTISING

The Dallas Post

MAILING LABEL - Please enclose this label with any address changes, and mail to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612-0366