



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 104 No. 49

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, December 8, 1993

State says Jackson Twp. must recycle

Prison puts population over 5,000

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Mark Twain is quoted as saying there are, "lies, damn lies and statistics." Officials in Jackson Township would agree.

Nestled in the hills of the Back Mountain, Jackson Township

boasts 5,336 residents, according to the 1990 Census, with a population density of more than 300 persons per square mile and a ratio of 3.19 men to every woman.

Before all the area's single women converge on this quiet farming community, they should remember that 52 percent of the population, or 2,765 men, live at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID). Less than half of Jackson Township's men (1,273) don't live at SCID.

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has used these statistics to say that Jackson

Township must now implement mandatory curbside recycling.

The township meets the requirements: a population of more than 5,000 and a population density of more than 300 persons per square mile.

Although people may think that these statistics paint a highly inaccurate picture of Jackson Township's rolling farmland and upscale subdivisions, the Census Bureau and the state say they're accurate.

It doesn't matter that more than half the population is already recycling, whether they want to

not. As a state-run entity, SCID is required to recycle.

According to Act 101 of 1988, the "Recycling Law," any community with population of 5,000 to 9,999 and population density of more than 300 persons per square mile must implement mandatory curbside recycling.

If it doesn't, Act 101 says the state can withhold all state funding until it does.

The statistics say that Jackson Township is one of the communities which meet the law's criteria for mandatory curbside recycling - even if 52 percent of its popula-

tion lives in a state prison over which the township has no control.

As long as a person lives in a municipality for more than six months of the year, they're considered residents, whether or not they pay taxes.

It doesn't matter whether or not there's a jail in the community, according to DER's recycling specialist Todd Tejack. "They're residents no matter if they live behind barbed wire or a picket fence," he said.

"This is an accurate statistical number," said Mike Behney, di-

rector of the PA State Data Center. "It doesn't matter if all the residents live in one building. We don't care if they're all in one place standing on each other's heads - it still works out to the correct number of people per square mile. It's a correct statistical piece of information from a demographic standpoint, even if you see something different when you drive through the town."

"We get no compensation at all from the state for these inmates," said Jackson Township supervi-

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99 years.. and counting

Mrs. Florence Crump celebrated her 99th birthday last Wednesday, at a party given by her friends from the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Mrs. Crump served as children's librarian until 1965, was president of the book club for 15 years, and operated the book booth throughout the first 43 years of the annual library auction.

During the party last week Mrs. Crump was presented with a plaque from State Senator Charles Lemmond, and the library presented a framed commendation for her many years of service to the library.

Mrs. Crump now lives at the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas.



State says bridal shop broke vows

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The state attorney general's office says that Tammy Slater, owner of an area bridal shop, broke her vows.

She failed to provide bridal gowns ordered by eight women, according to a press release from Attorney General Ernie Preate's office.

Slater, the operator of Tammy's Bridal and Veil Works, was named as a defendant in a suit which Preate's office filed in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas December 3.

Formerly located at 63 Memorial Highway, Shavertown, Slater's shop recently relocated to 127 West Eighth Street, Wyoming, but as of December 6, its telephone was disconnected.

According to a press release from Preate's office, Slater is accused of:

- Accepting total payments of \$1,068 from six women for bridal

or bridesmaids' gowns which she never delivered.

- Receiving \$320 for a gown which she didn't deliver on time, resulting in the customer having to buy another gown from another bridal shop.

- Accepting \$820 in deposits on an order for "six dresses made by a certain manufacturer," but delivered "dresses made by an unspecified company with counterfeit labels glued onto the dresses."

The suit asks the court to order Slater to make restitution to consumers and to pay civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for each violation of the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

"If she is found guilty, the judge will decide how many violations took place," said Preate's assistant secretary Jack J. Lewis.

Before going to court, the attorney general's office would first try to negotiate a settlement between Slater and the complainants.

See BROKEN VOWS, pg 16

'Merrie Olde England' lives in Madrigal Dinner

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

College Misericordia's Merrick Hall was transformed into "Ye halles of Merrick" this past weekend as the 24th annual Madrigal Dinner brought the Christmas pageantry of medieval England to the Back Mountain.

Decked out with imitation stone walls, large candles in wall sconces and a huge black stylized lion on a red banner hung behind the main table, Merrick Hall echoed with the sounds of medieval flute music.

Smaller banners decorated with fleurs de lis, fox heads, wolves and even ladybugs fluttered from the ceiling as "ye hosts of the Feaste," 15 faculty members, alumni and students entertained

the guests.

Joking and juggling, Jester Frank Casano, Jr., spread contagious laughter, his red and white hat trimmed with white lights, while trumpeters J.C. Link and Terry Newell blasted through five fanfares, their straight trumpets never missing a note.

This was the last year for Sister Mary Sharon Gallagher, RSM, designer of the hall's decorations. Although she's not retiring from the college, Sister Mary Sharon has decided to give up the Madrigal Dinner.

"People notice the decorations from year to year," she said. "Even though we use the same ones, we set them in different places. People have often commented about

See MADRIGAL, pg 3



Part 2: Rudolph is missing

Holly Carroll finds few clues to Rudolph's disappearance

By GEORGE BAILEY
Special to The Post

The mood was somber in the Claus household. With Rudolph missing, Santa dreaded his annual trip around the world. If he should run into fog or a storm, he would have to fly his sleigh on experience and instinct, just like in the old days before Rudolph came to him.

But Santa, Mrs. Claus, the elves and the other eight reindeer were depressed for reasons besides the difficulty of the trip ahead. Rudolph had become a family favorite, always ready with a prank and also always ready to lend a hand and get whatever needed doing done. After the annual Christmas eve delivery around the world, some of the other reindeer would sometimes be tired and cranky (we won't say which ones). But Rudolph was always cheerful, even when he had bags under his eyes from lack of sleep. That was because Rudolph remembered the days when his bright, glowing nose made him the butt of jokes. All that had changed once Santa took him onto the

team, and Rudolph never forgot.

But now Rudolph was missing. And standing in the Claus living room was Inspector Holly Carroll, one of the finest detectives in the Royal North Pole Mounted Police.

Santa, Mrs. Claus, the elves and even the reindeer tried hard to answer all of Holly's questions. But there weren't many answers they could give. Rudolph seemed fine the night before when he and the other reindeer went into the heated stable after a day of frolicking. He gave Santa his usual goodnight lick on the nose. None of the other reindeer had heard or seen anything out of the ordinary. Of course, the night before Christmas Eve the reindeer routinely slept well as something inside them told them they had better stock up on rest for the night ahead.

The snow had blown hard all night, so if there had been footprints outside the stable they were long covered over. And the sound of the wind would have drowned out almost every other noise.

In short, Rudolph was missing and there was not a clue to his

See RUDOLPH, pg 3

Mountaineers will play for state title

Complete pre-game coverage, a look at the opponent, on pages 11-12.

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