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## Tupper sworn in as justice

### Moves office to Dallas Twp.

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

After District Magistrate James Tupper was sworn into office January 3, he didn't waste any time getting to work.

He had to swear in municipal officials from Dallas Borough and Lehman and Kingston Townships at their annual reorganization meetings that night.

His first hearing is January 5 at 10 a.m.

"I've had two months to learn the entire operation," he said. "It's been worth the time to do it this way. It doesn't feel so new."

After the November election and the sale of his business, Tupper was in the office every day, sitting in on hearings with retiring District Magistrate Earl Gregory, learning the computer system and helping out with civil complaints while one of the secretaries was out on sick leave.

He also discussed the cases with Gregory and visited other area magistrates to observe how they operate.

"You soon develop your own individual style," he said. "You have to be fair and honest in upholding the law, but you also must be compassionate."

The next few weeks will continue more of his transition - he must attend a mandatory school for new incoming magistrates January 10-14. Then it will be time to take on his office's high case load.

To help, Tupper has leased new quarters for his office, in the Village Center in Dallas. Having larger quarters will be a definite plus, Tupper said.

The staff moved the entire

See JUSTICE, pg 12



"TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF MY OFFICE" - District Magistrate James Tupper was sworn in at the Luzerne County Courthouse January 3.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

## Season's 1st major storm brings havoc

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The year's first big snowstorm arrived nine hours later than originally forecast, but it quickly made up for the delay, dumping two to three inches of snow an hour around midday Tuesday.

The snowstorm closed area schools and some businesses; Meals on Wheels was cancelled.

At 11:30 a.m. the storm had left at least six inches of the slick white stuff in Dallas Township, while the outlying areas got more.

"Travel is highly discouraged" came over the police scanner as part of an announcement at 11:30 from the Luzerne County Emergency Management Office.

Firefighters from Lehman and Jackson townships battled slippery roads and poor visibility on their way to a house fire at the Koons' farm on Sutton Lane.

The house was fully involved, according to calls on the scanner.

Scanner calls indicated that Kunkle had been asked to send a tanker after the Lake Silkworth Fire Company had been called to help out but couldn't get a tanker driver.

Harveys Lake was later called to send a tanker after Kunkle's truck couldn't get out due to

*"I'm sort of on standby, waiting for a call from the supervisors, getting out my lists and keeping tabs on everything."*

**Gail Ide**  
Lehman Twp. emergency services coordinator

mechanical problems.

Jackson Township also sent an engine to Penn State's Lehman campus to refill the tankers, according to Jackson Township assistant police chief Jerry Leedock.

"It's pretty hairy out there," Leedock said. "Don't go out unless you have to."

He added that he had heard a call on his radio shortly before 11:30, requesting all Luzerne County emergency management personnel to report to the courthouse.

"It's really coming down," said Lehman Township's emergency

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## Jackson Twp. seeks funds to pave 2 roads

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

If a federal grant is approved, residents may see improvements to two Jackson Township roads.

Newly-elected supervisor chairman Walter Glogowski announced at the regular January 3 meeting that Smith's Pond and Bonkotown roads meet federal funding guidelines for drainage, culverts and ditch work.

"Bonkotown Road looks like they've been holding artillery practice out there," he said. "It has some pretty deep craters."

Although Bonkotown Road is currently a private road, the township can acquire it, then use the federal grant to bring it up to township standards, Glogowski said.

Glogowski announced that under the newly enacted federal Cable Television Act, municipalities are allowed to regulate cable television rates within their boundaries.

Interested municipalities must

first form a local cable television commission to do business with the cable company.

The supervisors requested that anyone interested in serving on such a commission contact them before the January 31 work session.

In other business, the supervisors voted to:

- Accept Sutton Farms Road and release developer Dale and Dale from its \$10,000 bond, posted a year ago when corrective work began on the road to bring it up to township standards.

- Accept the resignation of John Trescavage from the Municipal Authority with regret.

The supervisors requested that anyone interested in filling this vacant post contact township secretary Henry Zblek.

- Work with the Back Mountain Citizens' Council on a free feasibility study for a regional police force. Walter Glogowski was appointed as representative to the organization.

## Gregory gives last words of advice

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

All that it takes is a little common sense.

Be fair, be compassionate. Remember to keep your sense of humor.

This was retiring District Magistrate Earl Gregory's final advice to his successor, District Magistrate James Tupper, who was sworn in January 3.

Gregory figured that he had heard an average of 4,500 cases every year for the past 20 years and signed his name hundreds of thousands of times.

But being a district magistrate is more than making legal decisions, Gregory said.

"This office alone does three-quarters of a million dollars in business every year," he said. "We have to save everything. In many instances using the computer system is double work, because we still need to store paper copies of everything for three to seven years."

His wish list for Tupper: two more office workers and a second computer.

Although the county picks up the tab for office supplies and equipment, Gregory said they still can be expensive. "They objected to my using carbonized paper so that I wouldn't have to sign my name so many times," he said. "But the expense was worth the amount of time and work that it saved."

*"At first it'll be tough for Tupper, but he'll learn the job by doing it. He'll do fine - he's a sensible person."*

**Earl Gregory**  
Retiring District Magistrate

Running for re-election, which Tupper will have to do in four years, has also become expensive.

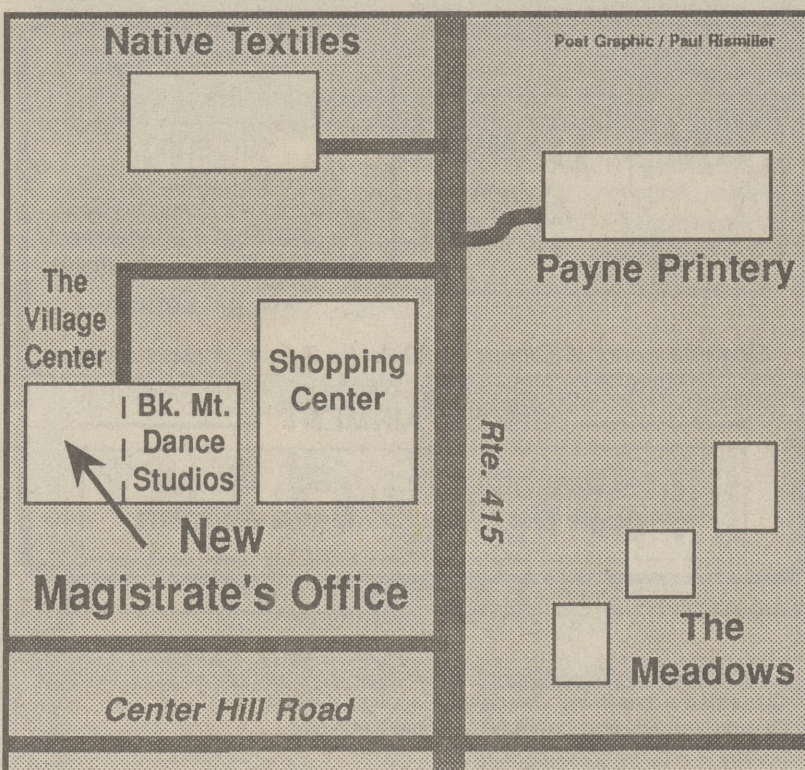
"In the past I usually spent less than \$270 on my campaign, but the last one cost me about \$7,000," he said. "You have to do this every four years if you want to keep the job and retire from it."

A district magistrate's life can be hectic, Gregory said.

"There's a lot of stress, a lot of pressure. You're making decisions every day that will affect other people's lives, their income and their criminal records," he said. "At first it'll be tough for Tupper, but he'll learn the job by doing it. He'll do fine - he's a sensible person."

Only the defendant truly knows how guilty he is, Gregory said. Occasionally they try to give the magistrate a "sob story" to try and beat the charges or pay lower fines.

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## Office moved to Dallas

Back Mountain residents accustomed to going to the district magistrate's office on Franklin Street in Shavertown won't find it there any more.

Because it has outgrown its old quarters, the magistrate's office has relocated to The Village Center next to the Back Mountain Dance Studio, behind the small shopping center on Route 415 opposite the former Daring's Market.

The new offices, twice the size of the old quarters, have a separate waiting room with a telephone for visitors, more space to store case files, a staff break room, a larger work area for the secretaries, a bigger courtroom and a room for attorneys to meet with their clients before hearings.

Luzerne County pays for the office space, furnishings, equipment and staff, according to District Magistrate James Tupper.

Although the location is different, the phone number is the same: 675-2338.

The new mailing address is 63-D Gerald Ave., Dallas, PA 18612.

■ **Violence** was the topic when Sen. Charles Lemmond met with Lake-Lehman students. Page 3

■ **Lehman and Dallas matmen** are looking forward to successful season. Page 9.

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