



Guide to the BACK MOUNTAIN



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Budget fails on first try

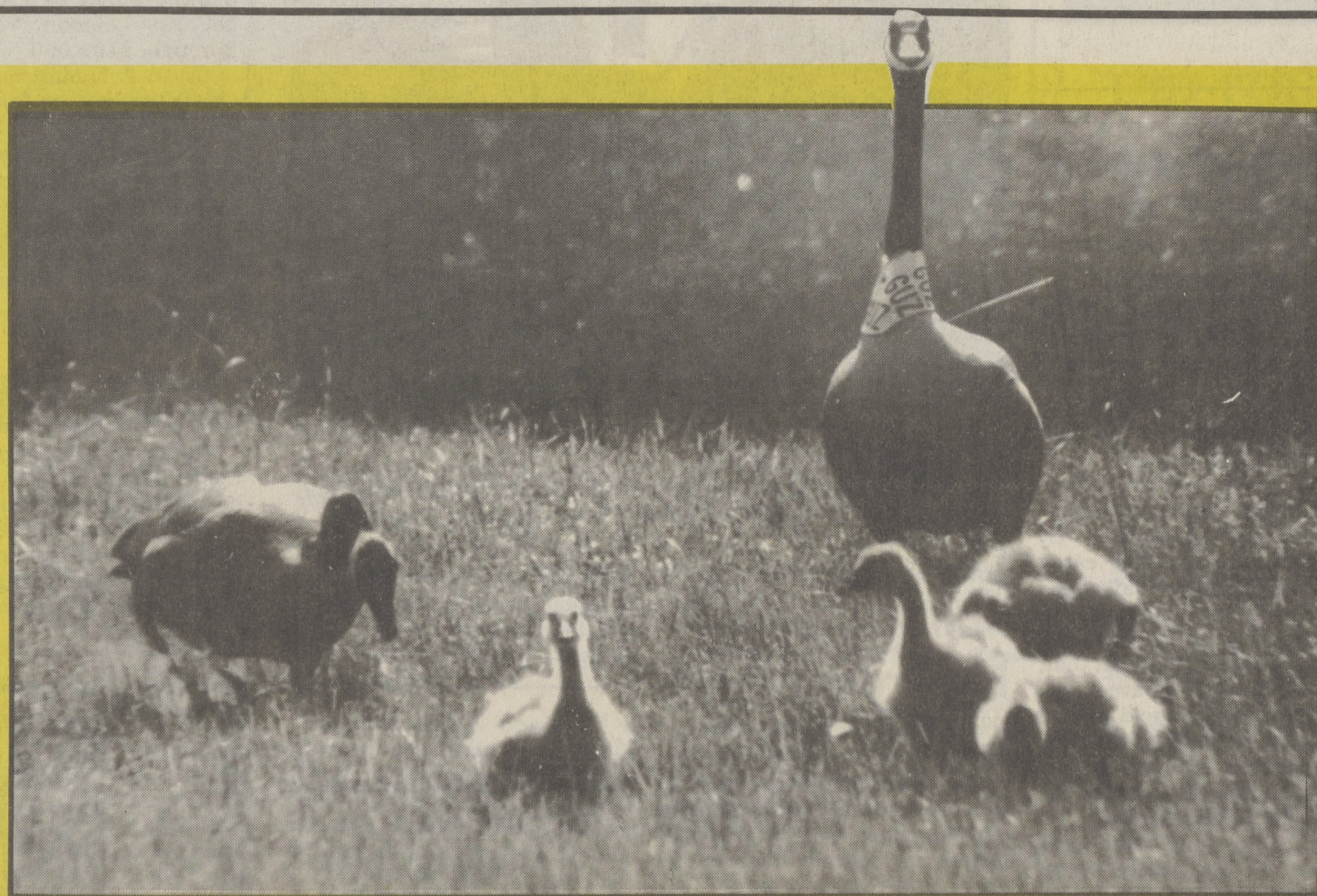
By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN - They thought they couldn't. They thought they couldn't. And they didn't.

After a two-hour special meeting wrangling over the tentative 1995-96 budget, Lake-Lehman school board members didn't adopt the spending plan and recessed until May 25, when they will consider it again. The stalemate occurred when four board members supported adopting the budget, which can be modified before final approval, and four opposed adoption. The absence of

Lake-Lehman Budget Meeting
Thurs., May 25,
7:30 p.m.
Lehman-Jackson School library

See BUDGET, pg 8



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK

The family, goose

A pair of Canada geese has established a home near a pond alongside Upper Demunds Road in Dallas Township. The family has grown by four in

recent weeks, with a quartet of goslings joining mom and dad. The friendly clan was browsing on the fresh grass last weekend.

PG&W's land sale may be felt here

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - The proposed sale of watershed land now owned by Pennsylvania Enterprises, Inc. may affect how some Back Mountain acreage is used.

Two reservoirs and two filtration plants in the Back Mountain are included in the 7,000 acres of watershed land which Pennsylvania Enterprises, Inc., owner of the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company (PG&W), plans to sell to Pennsylvania American Water, a large publicly-owned water company headquartered in Hershey.

The Casetown (Chenery) Reservoir at Pikes Creek and its new filtration plant are in Lehman Township, while the Huntsville Reservoir is split

See LAND, pg 8

Dallas school board sought parity with latest raises

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Large raises given to Dallas school administrators simply bring them up to the bottom rung of salaries for comparable positions, says the president of the Dallas School Board.

According to state aid ratios, which determine how rich or poor a school district is, Dallas is the richest district in Luzerne County,

while Lake-Lehman is third from the bottom. (The lower a district's aid ratio, the richer it is.)

Ironically, Dallas administrators are the lowest paid in Luzerne County, said to board president Dr. Richard Coslett. "Their salaries were so low that they were below the salary ranges of most other districts in the county," he said. "We gave them raises this year to bring them up to the bottom."

"We gave them raises this year to bring them up to the bottom."

Dr. Richard Coslett
Dallas School Board president

Describing Dallas administrators as "the finest in our area," Coslett said the board recently approved a three-year administrators' contract, which provides for raises keyed to the cost of

living, between 2.5 and 4.5 percent, and merit incentives for the next two years.

Lake-Lehman administrators' salaries will increase by a flat 3.75 percent this year, said busi-

ness manager Ray Bowersox. But most are already higher than for comparable positions in the Dallas district.

Unlike the teachers, who are represented as a bargaining unit by one of two statewide teachers' organizations, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals (PAESSP) works with all school principals and assistant principals to help negotiate salary and

benefit packages with local school boards.

Superintendents, assistant superintendents, business managers and certain other personnel (buildings and grounds supervisors, food services directors, etc.) must negotiate salaries and benefits with the board on their own. "The board usually gives us approximately what the princi-

See SALARIES, pg 8

Recycling cans into fire truck

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Discarded aluminum cans will one day mean a new fire engine for the Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company, which has taken recycling to heart.

Company members are collecting aluminum cans to help raise money to buy a new state-of-the-art aerial ladder/pumper truck, the first of its type in the Back Mountain.

According to fire chief Gary Beisel, the truck will have a 75-foot ladder with a built-in hose and water nozzle which firefighters will be able to operate from the ground.

"It's the only piece of equipment the Back Mountain doesn't have," Beisel said. "It's a safe, fast way to get water to taller buildings and roofs, which will help us fight fires in buildings up to six stories high. We have at least half a dozen churches with tall steeples in our coverage area which could benefit from it."

The fire company wants to continue to provide its high quality of fire protection for the continued growth anticipated in the Back Mountain. Insalaco's is expected to expand, while George Isaacs is planning to build a business center on Route 309, he said.

Similar trucks from Kingston and Edwardsville have been called to the Back Mountain before - the December fire at the Back Mountain Shopping Center and the Labor Day, 1992, fire which destroyed Daring's Market in Dallas Township.

See FIRE TRUCK, pg 2



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK

ONCE A HOBBY, NOW A LIVING - Dennis Oliver's gourmet food business grew out of the former architect's hobby. Ironically, his specialty was designing restaurants. He is shown above with Michelle Baur, head chef at the Dallas establishment.

Oliver's hobby is now his work

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

There is a lucky man in the Back Mountain who makes his living by working at his hobby and his name is Dennis Oliver.

His business is D.H. Oliver Foods Company, located in the Dallas Corners Building at the foot of Machell Avenue, where it meets Memorial Highway. There are seven other tenants of various pursuits - among them is Domino's Pizza - all comfortably settled in a fairly new building which features lots of glass and always looks cheerful and inviting.

Oliver, 50, is trim, balding and sports a small mustache of the type which used to be known as a

"cookie duster." A former architect, he had offices in Philadelphia and California. Among his clients were McDonald's - he designed a completely new interior for their Keyser Avenue location in Scranton - and the City of New York, for whom he designed a restaurant in the World Trade Center. Restaurants are his specialty.

Architect Oliver found himself, as he recalls, spending much too much time in airports and motels. Not a life at all, and I said one day it had to change. So the transition to put his hobby of gourmet cooking to work led to his present setting in Dallas, although "jump" is probably a better word than "transition."

Locating a place to live here was a bit unusual. Divorced, with a grown son Edward (and a grandson Wesley, four) living in Seattle, Oliver nevertheless wanted a large house with "elbow room and some land."

His family was from Sweet Valley and had a cottage at North Lake, so he knew the area. By coincidence when he was looking, Sweet Valley's Church of Christ congregation had outgrown their church quarters. The architect in Oliver said, "that would be fun to convert into a home," and so he did.

See OLIVER, pg 2

Paid ambulance wants entry to Jackson Twp.

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

JACKSON TOWNSHIP - A paid ambulance service has announced its intention to expand coverage into Jackson Township, but municipal officials and volunteer ambulance personnel know little about the plan.

Donahue Ambulance Service recently announced plans to enlarge its coverage area to include any municipality within a 20 minute drive of its base in South Wilkes-Barre.

Jackson Township was on its list of new municipalities.

"What you're telling me is the first I've heard about it," said

Jackson Township ambulance chief John "Jay" Wilkes, Jr. "We're the recognized emergency services provider for the township. If anyone else wants to come in here, they must get approval from the supervisors first."

None of the township's three supervisors - Walter Glogowski, Carl Aston and Andrew Kasko - knew anything either. They rely on the township's volunteer ambulance company, they said.

Donahue presently serves the State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID), located in Jackson Township, an 18 minute drive

See AMBULANCE, pg 16

■ **Yuck!** Westmoreland School students recently learned the ins and outs of a frog. Page 3.

■ **Game of the year** Dallas nipped Lehman 4-2 in 12 innings in last week's softball action. Page 9.

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