

Dirt road

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children. They must walk on the road to get to the bus stop. There aren't any sidewalks and the road is very narrow. I can't see the bus stop from my house."

She drives her children to and from the bus stop every day so she knows they'll be safe.

"As the community grows, the school district may have to study a new bus route," Arnaud said. "I don't see why they can't at least send a mini-bus out here."

Sandy Walton lives nearly half a mile from the bus stop.

"I asked the superintendent and transportation coordinator if they would send the school bus down Reservoir Road," she said. "They told me they don't want to because the bus might break a shock or something."

Her solution is to pick her children up at a different stop on Machell Ave.

"There are five children from our road who presently ride the school bus," Walton said. "Within the next four years there will be eight. There are four homes back here which pay a total of at least \$12,000 a year in school taxes. In the past five years I've paid more than \$18,000 in taxes. Numerous streets in Dallas have been repaved - why can't the borough pave our road?"

She added that although police patrol the road, residents have seen people who don't belong there pulled over drinking in cars. Walkers continually find smashed liquor bottles along the roadside.

"It's a wooded area," Walton said. "Anyone could be there - it could become dangerous for the children."

She said the district told her it uses the vans only for special needs students.

of the road last week to check out the situation.

"It's narrow in places," he noted.

He has obtained information on the availability of a van, usually used for special needs students or to transport students out of the district, to send to Reservoir Road and expects to report to the board at its October 2 work session.

Although paving Reservoir Road is the obvious solution, it's more complicated than it appears to be, according to borough manager Milton Lutsey.

"Paving the road isn't the whole story."
Milton Lutsey
Dallas Borough manager

"Upgrading and paving Reservoir Road could cost more than \$90,000," he said. "I doubt if we could get a state or county paving grant, which is based on the residents' income, because most of the families on that road earn more than the \$21,000 limit."

Although the borough gets state money from the Motor Tax Fund for its 14 miles of paved roads, Lutsey said the eligible roads must meet state specifications, which Reservoir Road doesn't.

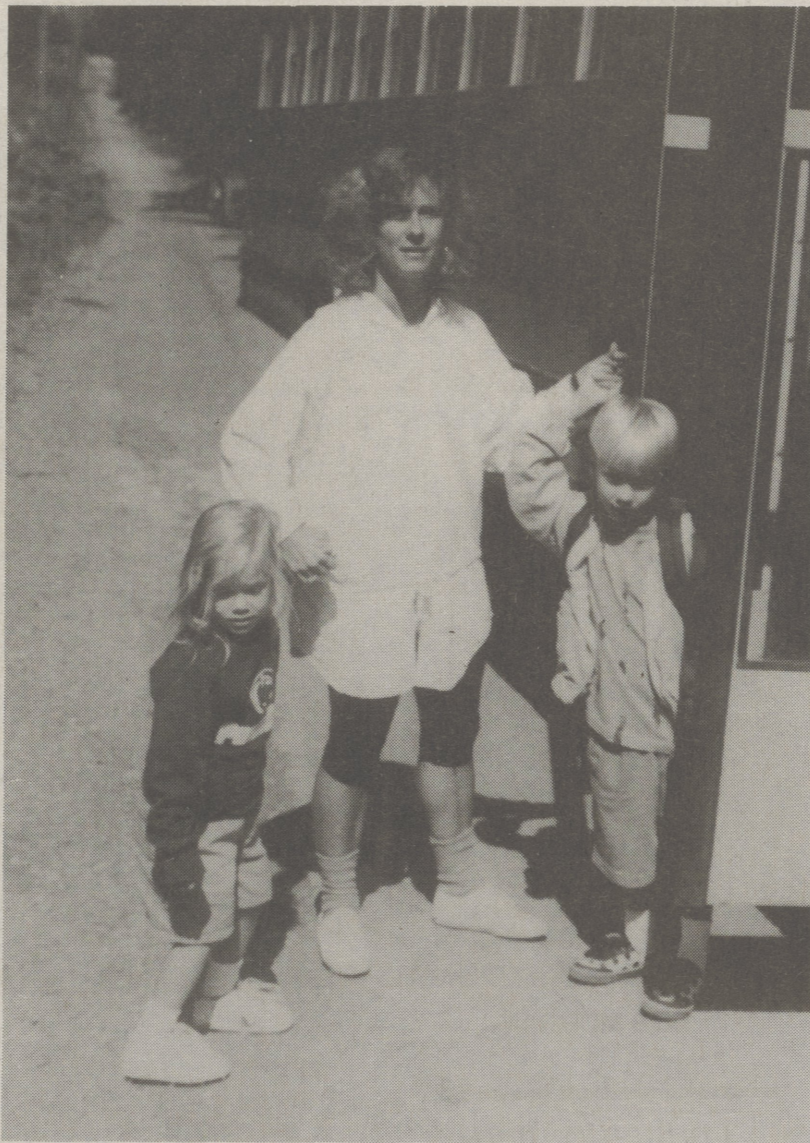
Based on a formula of \$1,200 per mile of roadway and \$7 per borough resident, the borough receives \$43,000 a year from the state.

"That's my budget for paving, maintenance, snowplowing, road salt and anti-skid for the entire borough for the whole year," he said. "I budget about \$28,000 a year on paving projects alone."

The borough already spends about \$1,200 a year laying gravel and calcium chloride, an anti-dust material, on Reservoir Road, Lutsey added.

When a heavy rainstorm washed out a portion of the road several years ago, the borough spent \$21,000 - nearly the entire paving budget - getting it back in shape, he said.

"Paving the road isn't the whole story," Lutsey said. "First you have to get the proper permits from the Department of Environmental Resources, then make sure the ditches and drainage are properly done. You'd spend a lot of money on equipment and manpower there. Then we'd need to lay sev-



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE
Karen Arnaud and her daughter, Ellen, met kindergartener Kyle at the bus stop at the end of Machell Ave. in Dallas. The family lives on Reservoir Road, which they say isn't safe for children to walk along.

"It isn't safe for the children. They must walk on the road to get to the bus stop."
Karen Arnaud
Parent of kindergartner

eral inches of binder material, at about \$22 a ton. Finally there's the wearing surface, which must be compressed to about an inch thick. Even with pooling manpower and equipment and the road materials purchasing cooperative, it would be very expensive. We would love to pave Reservoir Road, but we have to worry about our more populated and heavily traveled roads too."

Stabilizing soft spots where water tends to collect, such as near the power station at the fair-ground's back gate and at the bottom of the gully near the borough line at the road's opposite

end could end up costing more. The borough has already spent about \$7,000 just paving the short stretch between Yallick's farm and the back gate to the fairgrounds, he added.

"The people on Reservoir Road knew it was a dirt road when they bought their homes," Lutsey said.

Gasoline

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they must be either very low or completely gone."

As the gasoline component MTBE decreases in the surrounding wells, it's increasing in water coming into the treatment plant which the EPA has set up near a wetland behind the gas station, Fetzner added.

"This is good - it indicates we're pulling it in from the wells," he said.

The drought has affected the cleanup by lowering the water table, Heston said. "We can't pump constantly," he said. "The pond in the wetland has dried up and the ground water isn't being replenished by rain. But we plan to work here at least until spring, and possibly longer."

The EPA will continue to monitor about 20 nearby private wells and supply bottled water and materials for the affected residents' water purification systems until the cleanup is complete, he added.

The contamination was first discovered in 1991, when a Lehman Corners resident reported that her well water smelled like

gasoline.

After extensive testing of wells around the area, the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) concluded that two wells were contaminated with benzene, a cancer-causing volatile gasoline component, and 17 wells were contaminated with MTBE, an octane-boosting unleaded gasoline additive less dangerous than benzene.

Because MTBE dissolves so easily in water, it tends to stay in a water supply for a long time and travels with water as it seeps through the cracks in underground rock layers.

DER called the EPA for help in the cleanup in early 1994. The EPA's \$1.9 million cleanup, funded by a Superfund grant, began in October, 1994, in which it removed the contaminants from the water through a special well drilled behind the gas station.

Until the EPA stepped in, Lehman Sunoco owner George Macculough supplied bottled water and water filters to all the affected homes and paid for a new well at Bryant's Trailer Park.

Covert

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variety, and most important original ideas. Almost 1,000 letters came in which are sorted, read and evaluated. New members are then selected.

Board members answer surveys throughout the year, providing information about themselves and their peers, as well as reacting to proposed changes and story ideas. Many board members report the experience is fun.

K.C. was one of four members selected from Pennsylvania. His board membership is obviously not an empty honor. He has already been sent a lengthy questionnaire to fill out and return. He says, proudly, "They want my opinions on the '96 Olympics. And I already have a story suggestion they okay'd. It's on chemistry."

This newest board member lives at home on Village Circle, with brother Mark, 5, his Mom, Mary, and Kevin Sr., who owns and operates Overbrook Optical in Shavertown. His Dad can bubble over at the drop of a question

about K.C., saying, "This is a great kid. I'd say that even if he didn't belong to me! He just continues to amaze me, like he has started asking to be dropped at school a half-hour early (that's 7:30!) because he's got some project or other going."

K.C. is in the Gate of Heaven church choir, plays clarinet in his school band, skis in the winter and swims in the summer. This year he is beginning to show an interest in tennis, and he is also a volunteer with the Association for the Blind, an interest stimulated by having a blind grandmother. Another pet passion is chemistry. His mother says, "We have no problem picking a gift at Christmas...another Chemcraft

It is obvious that the Coverts are not short of dinner table topics to discuss, but that agenda is likely to be considerably more crowded. Brother Mark has begun to evolve into a perpetual talking machine, and could soon give K.C. a run for his money!

"If the borough would pave the road, we could change the bus route."
Gerald Wycallis
Dallas school superintendent

"If the borough would pave the road, we could change the bus route," said superintendent Gerald Wycallis. "We don't like to send our buses on dirt roads - it isn't in the best interests of the students' safety."

Wycallis and transportation coordinator Susan Farr drove part

K of C to host Rosary March Sept. 24

The combined Knights of Columbus of Wyoming Valley will host their 19th annual Rosary March, Sept. 24.

Marian devotions will be held at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's of Czestochowa Church, Shoemaker St., Swoyersville followed by Rite of Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The motorcade and march with the Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue will begin at 2:30 p.m. from Forty Fort Lumber parking lot at Murray and Slocum Streets, Forty Fort and proceed to St. Mary's Czestochowa Church.

Gate of Heaven PTG to meet Sept. 21

The Gate of Heaven PTG will hold its first meeting of the school year September 21 at 7 p.m. in the school gym. All parents are asked to attend.

This year's fundraisers will be discussed and volunteer signup sheets will be available.

Officers are Jim Reino, president; Susan Collini, vice-president; Roe Moen, treasurer and Maryellen Cusma, secretary.

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