

Tommy Johnson, nearly hidden behind a wall of white, cleared a record snowfall from the walks at the Dallas Post Office Monday morning. Back Mountain residents spent most of the day digging out. More photos on page 8.

POST PHOTO/
RON BARTIZEK

Snow didn't stop burglars, but was too much for plow

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - As a record-setting snowfall (more than 20 inches in 24 hours) brought a manic Monday to a screeching halt, local officials had other problems to contend with.

• Dallas Borough police nabbed two accused burglars in a foot chase through the knee-deep snow near the Pmmp 'n Pantry on Route 415 Monday around 4:15 p.m.

Police said Dallas residents Jason Bealla, 20, and Timothy Nichol, 18, were spotted in a Terrace

See SNOW, pg. 12

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Driver escapes injury when truck tips over

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

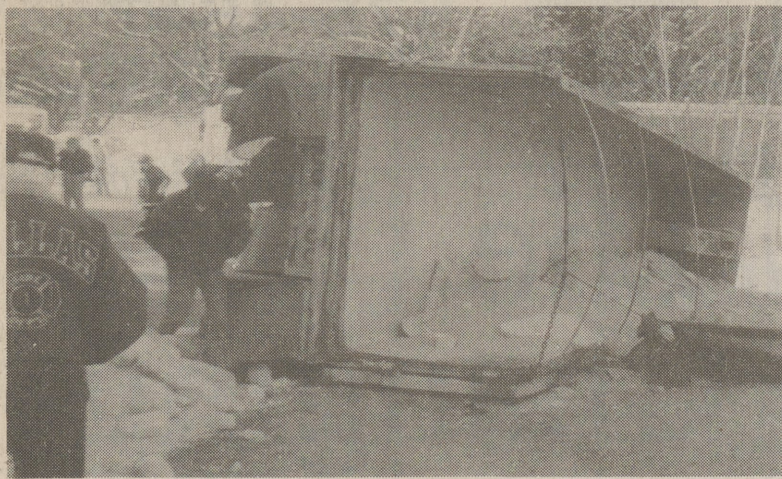
DALLAS - The driver of a dump trailer delivering 25 tons of road salt to Dallas Borough was uninjured after his truck overturned Saturday morning shortly after 8:30 a.m. near the municipal garage.

Mark Phelps, 31, a driver for Southern Tier Equipment of Horseheads, NY, was trying to break large chunks of frozen

salt loose from the bed of the dump trailer by jerking the 1988 Peterbilt truck back and forth when the load shifted and the truck flipped on its side.

"I was out of my rig before Mark's truck hit the ground," said Jeff Easton, the driver of a second salt truck which had just finished making its delivery. "I saw it go over and hoped the trailer would twist off the

See TRUCK, pg 2



A large trailer filled with salt tipped over Jan. 6 by the Dallas Borough building when the driver, Mark Phelps, tried to jog



POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

frozen salt loose. At left, the truck lies on its side. At right, a Dallas fire fighter covered spilled oil and gas with sand.

Revenge, not race may be at issue

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - Supervisor Robert Redmond may be seeking revenge against the former planning commission chairman by publicly accusing him of making racist remarks, according to board of supervisors chairman William Miller.

Redmond released a letter January 2, which accused Ed Dorrance of making derogatory remarks against African-Americans during planning commission meetings between June and September and demanded his resignation from the unpaid position.

Dorrance resigned September 25. Another planning commission member, Frank Hilstolsky, was dismissed after a hearing September 26. Dorrance was reappointed to the commission January 2 to replace Stuben Granger, whose term expired.

Dorrance denied making the remarks and has refused further comment.

"I think Redmond is looking for revenge because Dorrance wanted to make the minimum lot sizes two acres in residential zones and three acres in agricultural zones when he (Dorrance) and the plan-

See REVENGE, pg 8

Mundy wants state to help fight bugs next year

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Representative Phyllis Mundy wants to help area residents besieged by caterpillars, but the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources says her program won't work.

Mundy had introduced House Bill 1766 to fund statewide spraying for tent caterpillars and the elm spanworm, which devastated the region last summer. It contained a \$5 million appropriation to reimburse counties for insect control spraying in residential areas which already meet the criteria for gypsy moth spraying. In an internal policy document

the DCNR said it was concerned the spraying wouldn't work due to a lack of experienced county personnel to conduct the program and the difficulty of surveying the extent of infestation, predicting outbreaks and predicting the success of spraying.

"Their reasoning is flawed," Mundy said. "County personnel have more experience with these insect pests than the state does. For example, Luzerne County director of environmental special projects Ron Rugletic had to become a caterpillar expert when the Back Mountain was inundated by the elm spanworms."

The pests have established

See BUGS, pg 8

Jackson Twp. pair are youngest local officials

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. - It's not unusual for a township to have a 47-year-old supervisor or auditor. But it is a bit unusual — perhaps unique — for one to have a supervisor and auditor whose combined ages total 47.

That's the case now in Jackson Township, where 25-year-old John "Jay" Wilkes Jr. of Chase Road serves as supervisor and 22-year-old Jim Hutchins of Cigarski Road is auditor. The two were sworn in prior to the reorganization meeting Jan. 2.

Wilkes is the youngest elected supervisor in the history of the township, according to Henry Zblek, township secretary/treasurer of 27 years, "at least since I've been here," he says.

In fact, an article in the July, 1994 issue of Pennsylvania Township News mentions only one elected supervisor younger than Wilkes in the entire state, a 22-year-old from Bucks County.

Township government and community service are not new to Wilkes. Born and raised in Jackson Township, he has been volunteering in the fire and ambulance

association since high school. Wilkes has held several different offices in the ambulance association, including secretary, assistant chief, chief and currently is president and assistant chief. He also serves as engineer for the fire department, and is familiar with other aspects of the township, having worked full time for the township road department for about seven years.

His first stint as an elected government official came two years ago when he was elected township auditor at the age of 23. "I wanted to get a better idea of how township government runs from the inside," he said, "instead of from the outside looking in." This seemed like the best place to start for Wilkes, who wanted "a better idea of how township finances worked and how the township spent its money."

Believing that "There's always room for improvement," Wilkes embarked on his next goal — supervisor. "It was something I've always considered," he said, "a long-range goal."

He brings a fresh outlook to the meaning of "supervisor," compar-

See OFFICIALS, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Creative snow sculpture

Jennifer Rosser, Gordon Ave. in Dallas, poses with a snow pooch which graces the front yard of the Seidel home on Hildonia Ave. The snow dog is taking his position against a fire hydrant in the winter artwork made by David Seidel and Theresa Jones while they were home from college. Thanks to Dallas fireman Brett Slocum, who told The Post about the amusing sculpture which he spied when clearing snow from hydrants.

■ **Knights pin**
Berwick in first regular season wrestling meet. Pg 9.

■ **Salute to Red**
Friends are planning a special evening to honor Red Jones. Pg 3

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