



Back Mountain members of the board of directors for the Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society are, from left, Shirley Conyngham, Petsy Huyghue, David Kaufman, Barbara Toczko, Russell Roberts and Susan Demidovich.

## Singers

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Valley residents. Two other names will also ring bells to newspaper readers: Sylvia Cutler and Roy Morgan. Each often faithfully covered and reported on Oratorio concerts for many years.

Current director, Dr. Stephen E. Barton, D.M.A., also is director of the Singers' Guild in Scranton and Choirmaster of St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. Dr. Barton maintains a private studio and is also in demand as a vocal recitalist.

The Society's chorus has 19 sopranos, 17 altos, and 10 each tenor and bass. Both the chorus and their board of directors are heavily sprinkled with Back Mountain residents. David Kaufman of Shavertown is vice-president. Shirley Conyngham of Pioneer Avenue and Russell Roberts of Jackson Road are advisors.

Sweet Valley's Vicky Gallagher, who is with the Wilkes-Barre Partnership, is on the society's board of directors and also in her fourth year as a soprano in the chorus. Vicky studied in New York and says of director Barton, "It's awesome what he does. I've soloed and sung in both small and large groups, so I know what I'm talking about. I am continually amazed at what this man can get out of people, even out of the ones you would call 'shower singers!' He is just remarkable."

Shavertown's Shirley Forney agrees. She says, "To rehearse with this man is like having a free vocal lesson every week." Other chorus members from the Back Mountain, universal in their praise of their favorite pastime, are: Shelli Holt Macey of Dallas, Petsy Huyghue of Bulford Road, Leigh

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## Westmoreland

(continued from page 1)

board didn't consider the needs of the children and the parents' wishes.

Banks said she has several concerns about placing another building on the campus. "With the buses and parents' cars dropping children off and picking them up, traffic at the Dallas Elementary School is already a disaster without building another school there."

Several parents in the audience agreed with her.

"I don't really care for the present Westmoreland site," she added, suggesting that the board instead consider condemning the present central office and former Dallas Township school on Church Road and placing the new building there.

"Having a building here will insure that we keep the Little League fields," she added. "We don't know what future boards will decide - it's too tempting to sell vacant land if money is needed."

Finn said using the campus for the new building could some day paint the district into a corner. "If the forecasts for development in the district are in error, we'll have no more space if we need to build another school. We'd leave ourselves no room to react," he said.

Other board members disagreed. "Why should we spend more money on engineering studies when there's only one feasible site?" said board president Ernie Ashbridge.

In other business the board unanimously approved lists of coaches, activities advisors, substitute teachers, custodians and high school aides; set the noninstructional substitute aides' wages at \$5 per hour and ap-

pointed mentors for new teachers.

Former board member and Dallas Township resident Clarence Michael questioned the board on hiring procedures for teachers, asking if call-in columns' accusations of nepotism were true.

"In my eight years on the board I believe every appointment was legitimate," he said. "How are you selecting people for jobs now - is any relationship to board members factored in?"

Wycallis described the selection process of posting the jobs, considering all applications and several sets of interviews with candidates before the board appoints employees.

"Then is what I read in Tell-A-Thought a fallacy?" Michael fired back.

He also questioned expenditures of \$4,488 for a subscription to *USA Today* and more than \$7,000 paid to Kuc's Fitness Center for a total fitness system.

Board members said the 180-day *USA Today* subscription provides one copy of the newspaper for each student in each of three high school classes, while the total fitness system was bought for the wellness center, which is near the high school's gym.

"With a \$19 million budget, this is a very expensive school system to operate," said Joseph Kunec.

Ten members of Boy Scout Troop 281 working on their communications badges and first class rank and their leaders attended the meeting. The boys ranged in age from 11 to 14 years old.

The work session and meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m., began at 8:10 p.m. because the board was discussing "matters of personnel and employee relations which are very important," Ashbridge said.

## Rt. 309 will be tied up for Carverton Rd. construction

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**TRUCKSVILLE** - Drivers making the daily commute to the valley will face major traffic delays on Route 309 starting next week because of road construction.

This week traffic was shifted to one lane in each direction between Harris Hill and Carverton roads so a concrete divider can be installed between the north and southbound lanes.

By October 21 traffic flow will be reduced to one lane each way on Carverton Road so the bridge can be widened five to six feet to accommodate a pedestrian walkway and turning lane onto Route 309 north. A right turning lane from the highway's northbound side onto Carverton Road will also be added before the end of the construction season.

"Traffic will move very slowly," said transportation construction inspector supervisor Patricia Maguschak of the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT). "We'll set up additional warning signs for drivers not familiar with the area. We'll adjust our contractor's working hours as much as possible, but suggest that people allow extra time for their trips to the valley."

The widening of the bridge over

Toby's Creek involves removal and replacement of the existing deck and its support beams in sections, with a new pedestrian walkway added on its north side. The space which was the old walkway will be used for a third lane allowing drivers to turn onto Rte. 309.

Carverton Road will also be slightly widened to feed onto the new bridge.

Next year's road work will challenge drivers with a detour around Church Road, which will be closed in order to realign the intersection. Drivers using Church Road will use a detour on Huntsville and Sutton roads. Bus pull-offs on both sides of the highway, new traffic signals and a concrete median extending from Carverton Road to Knob Hill will also be added.

PennDOT last replaced the Carverton Road bridge about 20 years ago.

The only alternate route around the construction zone is over Bunker Hill on Dug Road, which can become very slippery during the winter.

The \$560,000 project is part of a state and federally-funded highway improvement project which has added or upgraded traffic signals at seven Back Mountain intersections on the Route 309/118 corridor.

## Dinner Oct. 19 at Ruggles UM Church

Ruggles United Methodist Church, Rt. 29, behind Harveys Lake will hold a Roast Beef Dinner, Oct. 19, 4:30-7 p.m. Adults \$6; children \$3. Takeouts available.

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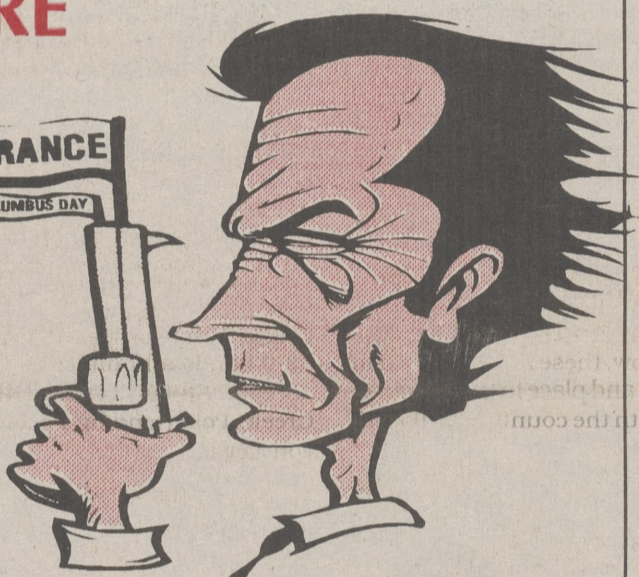
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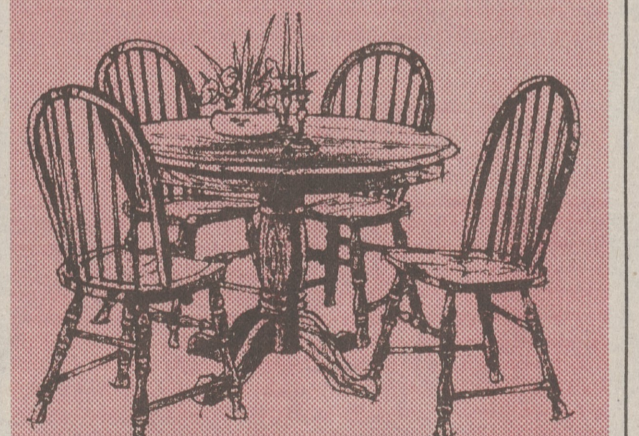
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