

SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

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FIFTEEN CENTS

Teachers' strike threatening

The possibility of a teachers' strike in Donegal School District seems more likely as we go to press Tuesday morning.

In a new development, the School Board has revealed the size of its "final offer" to the teachers: a \$110,000 total salary increase (about 7 percent). The offer is for a one year contract.

Teachers rejected that offer on Tuesday, Sept. 14, and voted to authorize a strike "whenever necessary."

Since the board has publicly announced that its offer of \$110,000 was

"final," a strike seems quite likely. One remaining ground for compromise is the possibility of a more generous 2-year settlement.

Informed sources say that little agreement has been reached on other negotiating items like fringe benefits and working conditions. The teachers are asking that their pay be raised close to the Lancaster County average. Donegal teacher are among the county's lowest paid.

If the teachers do strike, the courts will probably order them back to work in a few weeks or less. The

court action will end the strike since teachers who disobey the order can be fired.

There is almost no chance that Donegal teachers will disobey a court order. The main purpose of teacher strikes is to generate publicity for the teachers' point of view.

Graduation might be delayed a few days since the state requires schools to operate 180 days a year. Teachers are unlikely to lose any pay since judges always order striking teachers back to work in time to finish the school year.

Final offer to teachers revealed

The Donegal School Board has released the following statement.

The board of school directors of the Donegal District believes it is obligated to inform the public that a final offer on a 1 year contract was made to the Donegal Education Association and rejected on September 14th. The con-

tents of that offer included several options for improvement of salary from \$700 to \$900 together with improvements in hospital-medical and life insurance benefits.

These increases in life insurance and hospital-medical benefits would be in addition to the current fringe benefit package pre-

sently costing \$222,600 a year. This offer could provide an average increase of \$850 in salary. This package represents a 7% increase which was allocated in the 1976-77 budget. The \$110,000 cost of this offer amounts to 7 mills of real estate tax, which is the amount of the millage increase for the current district budget.

Greider explains teachers' view

"Donegal teachers don't want a strike," teacher's union president Ted Greider said in an interview last week.

Ted is the president of the Donegal Education Association, which represents the teachers of Donegal School District. The teachers recently authorized their negotiators to call a strike "whenever necessary."

Ted explains that the teachers will strike "only if they believe that the School Board is no longer negotiating in good faith. We hope that point never comes."

The union has not made public their demands, but the teachers' basic goal is no secret. "We want the average that teachers in the county are getting," Ted Greider says.

"No one in the county has settled for a package as low as what our board wants to give us. In fact, I don't know if anyone has offered that little," he says.

"It's tough to come back

and say, 'You're not worth what the other teachers are worth,'" he adds.

"We have a good staff," he continues. He points out that Donegal always wins the lion's share of prizes in the county Science Fair, and that the mid-states evaluation program gave Donegal's social studies department an almost perfect rating.

Donegal teachers also work longer days than most teachers. "The taxpayer is getting more for his dollar from Donegal teachers than most taxpayers are," Ted Greider says.

Pointing out that Donegal administrators are among the highest paid in

the county, Greider says, "We feel that if we can be number one for administration, we can at least be in the middle of the pack for teachers."

A starting teacher at Donegal earns \$7,500 a year. The county average is \$8,800 (not counting Donegal, which pulls the average down.) The average teacher in Donegal earns \$11,500.

Ted Greider says, "When the Board gets bills, prices are going up. They have to pay them. They don't have any choice."

"The only place they have a say is teachers. (continued on Page 2)

Plan to light fields

Mrs. Vivian Carroll of the Donegal Adults' Booster Club has announced a project to install lights on the athletic fields behind Donegal High. The group plans to solicit \$12,000 for the project.

Lights could be used for

night games by the tennis, baseball, football, soccer and track teams. The lights will also be useful for band marching.

Mrs. Carroll hopes all students and parents will get involved in the project.



Ambulance crew members Mary Hoffmaster, Rose Grove and Nettie Germer tend fireman Leo Shank, who was "electrocuted" in the mock accident staged by Friendship Fire Co. last Sunday.

Firemen learn at fake accident

Friendship Fire Co. staged a mock "accident" last Sunday to give their fire and ambulance crews a chance to practice.

A two-car "crash" was staged near the water tank in Mount Joy. One car was set afire with a gallon of Charcoal lighter.

Inside the other car were 4 volunteer "victims," including Bill Hall, John Hall, Andy Raudabaugh, and Lancaster fireman Kent Leid.

"It was a little scary when they set the other car on fire," one young volunteer admitted.

An electric cord, representing a downed power line was draped over the car containing the "victims." When a fireman began spraying the burning car, he was "electrocuted."

Barb Hedrick added a note of realism by playing the part of an hysterical

mother who interferes with the firemen's rescue ef-

forts. Chris Snyder, who helped "restrain" Barb (continued on Page 2)



One car was set ablaze in the mock accident. The Friendship firemen want to thank 3 local businessmen whose free services made the training exercise possible. Abe Weidman of Mount Joy Citgo and Earl and Jack's Auto Parts provided the cars. George Greiner's garage towed the wrecked vehicles.