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# SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin  
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

Vol. 76 No. 44 November 3, 1976

FIFTEEN CENTS

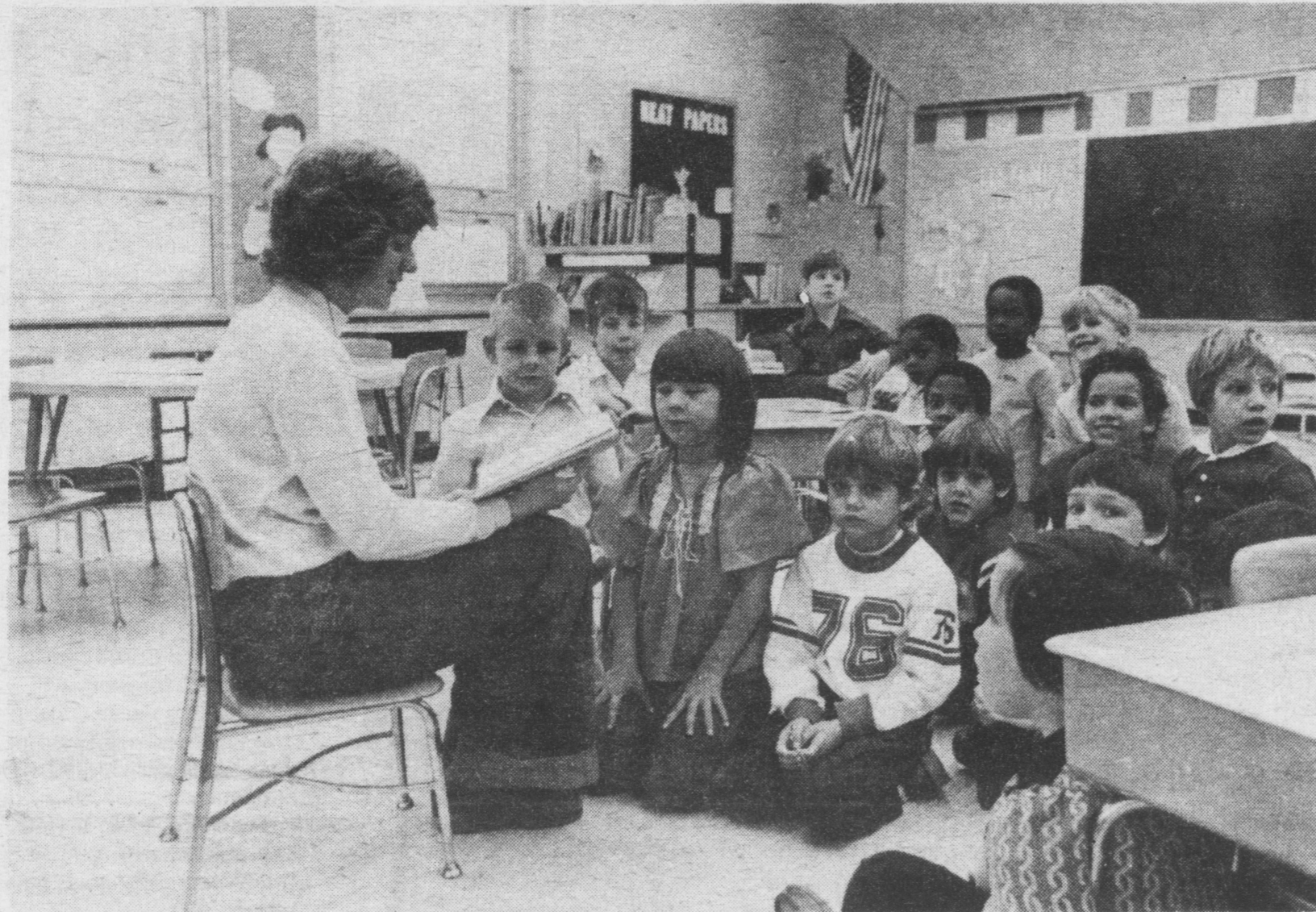


Photo shows Barb Landis, daughter of the school board president, supervising a classroom at Riverview Elementary School last Weds. after teachers went on strike. The strike was called so suddenly that kids

arrived at area schools before they learned of the walkout. High-school seniors supervised the elementary classes until children could be sent home at noon.

photo by Corky Flick

## Why did Donegal teachers call the strike?

Why did the Donegal teachers' strike occur?

Less than \$5,000 separated the two sides on the day the strike was called. This amounts to about one thousandth of the districts' \$4 million budget.

Just before the strike, negotiators had reached an informal agreement, but the school board cut that agreement by about \$4,400. Ten teachers would have been affected by the cut.

Board members suggested that the other teachers give up \$30 each to help the 10 teachers whose salaries were affected.

Instead of replying at the negotiating table to the board's proposal, the teachers answered by calling a strike.

Money had very little to do with the teachers' move. In fact, two days after they walked out, the teachers signed an agreement which gave them about the same amount of money that was contained in the board's original offer. (They got their salary demands, but gave up equally expensive fringe benefits.)

Neither side claimed

"victory" when the strike ended. With such a small amount of money at stake, such a claim would have been a bit absurd.

So why did the strike occur and what did it accomplish?

DEA president Ted Greider said, "This was not a strike to get more money for the bulk of the teachers. We believed in a cause. We believed in unity. Some of our people just weren't being treated justly, fairly or equitably."

"We sat at the negotiating table for 10 months and nothing happened. Nobody was listening. All we got was no, no, and no."

Mr. Greider feels that the strike demonstrated the power and unity of the union. Teachers whose support for the union had seemed lukewarm became enthusiastic union backers when the strike forced them to take sides.

Apparent divisions between elementary and high school teachers seemed to disappear during the strike. The teachers printed a button which read "Now We Are One" to celebrate

the new sense of solidarity they felt.

Some more opinions about why the strike occurred and what it accomplished follow:

From a teacher—"The board pushed us into it because they didn't think we could do it. They thought it would break the union."

From a parent—"Those teachers just wanted to let off steam-like a bunch of little children."

From a school board member—"Frankly, I don't know why they walked out."

From a taxpayer—"The board wanted an excuse to raise taxes and the teachers wanted a chance to raise ———."

From union negotiator Lon Heibeck—"If there were one iota of trust around here, this would never have happened."

One thing the strike seems to have accomplished was a swift negotiated settlement to the 10 month old contract dispute. After the agreement, spokesmen for both sides seemed

hopeful that future negotiations could be conducted more peacefully.

Ted Greider said, "I hope both sides have learned a lesson. It takes good faith in negotiations on both sides of the table."

## "Boy Scout" fraud

Local Boy Scout leaders were surprised to learn that youngsters have been soliciting orders for flares in the Marietta area. The youngsters, who claim to be raising money for the Scouts, have been asking for cash in advance.

No member of Boy Scout Troop 93 is currently taking orders for anything. For more information call Mike Moyer at 426-1432.

### DID YOU HEAR...

Robert Libhart of Marietta bagged a wild turkey in Lycoming County this weekend.

## Councilman charged by Mount Joy police

Mount Joy police charged the vice-president of Borough Council with disorderly conduct last week.

Charges were filed after a quarrel allegedly occurred between James N. Heisey, vice-president of Borough Council, and pigeon racer Robert Kline.

Kline and Heisey both attended a zoning hearing board at the Borough Hall on Oct. 15. The alleged quarrel reportedly occurred outside the Borough Hall after that meeting.

Mr. Kline has been

fighting a legal battle with the borough for months. Last December, the borough ordered Mr. Kline to remove his 70 prize racing pigeons from the town limits. Kline wants to keep the birds.

At the meeting, Mr. Kline obtained a postponement of a zoning hearing for a variance on the lot where Borough Council told him he could not keep the pigeons.

Mr. Heisey, who lives near Kline's pigeon coops, wants the birds to go.

## Teachers' strike ends 3 days after it began

The 2nd teachers' strike in the history of Lancaster County ended as suddenly and unexpectedly as it began last week.

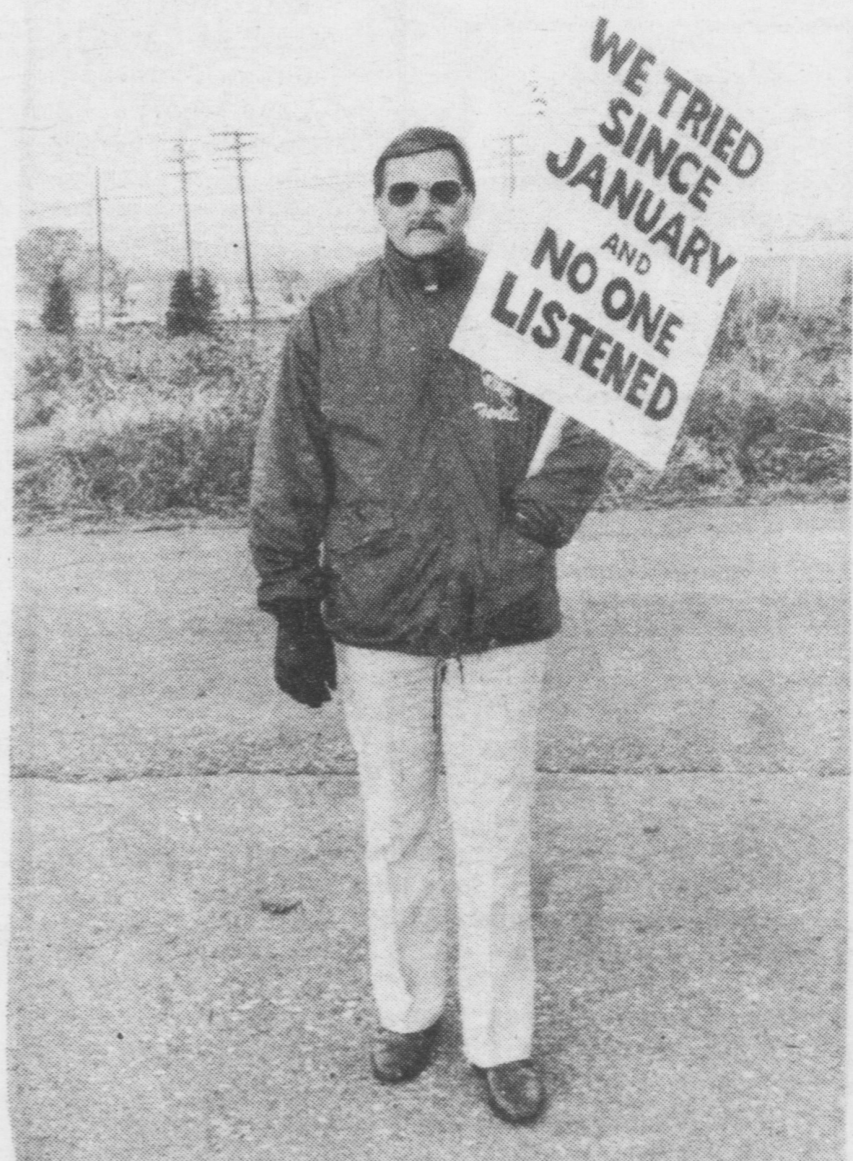
Donegal teachers walked out last Wednesday after the school board modified an unofficial agreement between School Board President Dr. William B. Landis and state union

representatives.

The board's modification trimmed about \$4,400 in salaries from the cost of the agreement.

The cut would have affected 2nd year teachers, who would have lost \$400 each. Teachers rejected the modified package, and called a strike.

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Mr. Brooks carries a sign that sums up teachers' reasons for calling a strike. photo by Corky Flick