

Free classifieds

SUSQUEHANNA

Ralph M. Snyder 4.31
R. D. 2
Mount Joy, PA 17552

LIVIES

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

Vol. 76 No. 49 December 8, 1976.

FIFTEEN CENTS



Donegal School Board President, Dale Arnold

Dale Arnold elected School Board pres.

Dale Arnold replaced Dr. William Landis as president of the Donegal School Board at last week's reorganization meeting. Lewis Bixler was named vice-president.

After his election, Mr. Arnold told a reporter, "We have two important jobs. One, of course, is education. The other is communication with everybody — our staff, the parents, and the public.

That's really what the game is all about."

"People know it takes a certain amount of money to run a school district," Mr. Arnold said. "The important thing is to see that the money gets spent in the best possible way."

Mr. Arnold lives in Maytown with his wife, Loretta. They have 3 daughters: Mrs. Terry Herr, of Maytown; Mrs. Sharon Hess, of E-Town R.D.; and Bonnie, at home.

False alarm problem solved in Mount Joy

Friendship Fire Co. No. 1, of Mount Joy hopes all its problems are over with the various industries tied into the American District Telegraph (ADT) alarm box at the fire station. The numerous false alarms had continued through the early part of last week due to malfunctioning equipment.

Wednesday, December 1st, ADT workmen replaced all the wires and 2 tele-

phone lines. However, 2 more false alarms sounded during the night.

Thursday, repairmen were back and worked through Friday morning on the alarm panel at the fire station.

The alarm systems are now back in full service.

Friendship Fire Co., offers their apologies to the residents who were disturbed by the false alarms.

District Justice Raymond Knorr presides over a changing local court

"Boy, are you guys making a lot of money," a defendant recently told District Justice Raymond Knorr.

Many of the people who pass through Justice Knorr's new courtroom on Donegal Springs Road think the court costs they pay go into the judge's pocket. That has not been true since 1968.

Pennsylvania's legal system has changed a lot since Ray Knorr was elected Justice of the Peace of Mount Joy Borough back in 1951. In those days, being JP was a part-time job, and the only important job qualification was the ability to win an election.

The judge was paid the court costs imposed on guilty defendants. If the defendant was innocent, the judge didn't get paid. Today, a district judge is a salaried employee of the state. Mandatory attendance at law courses and seminars is required.

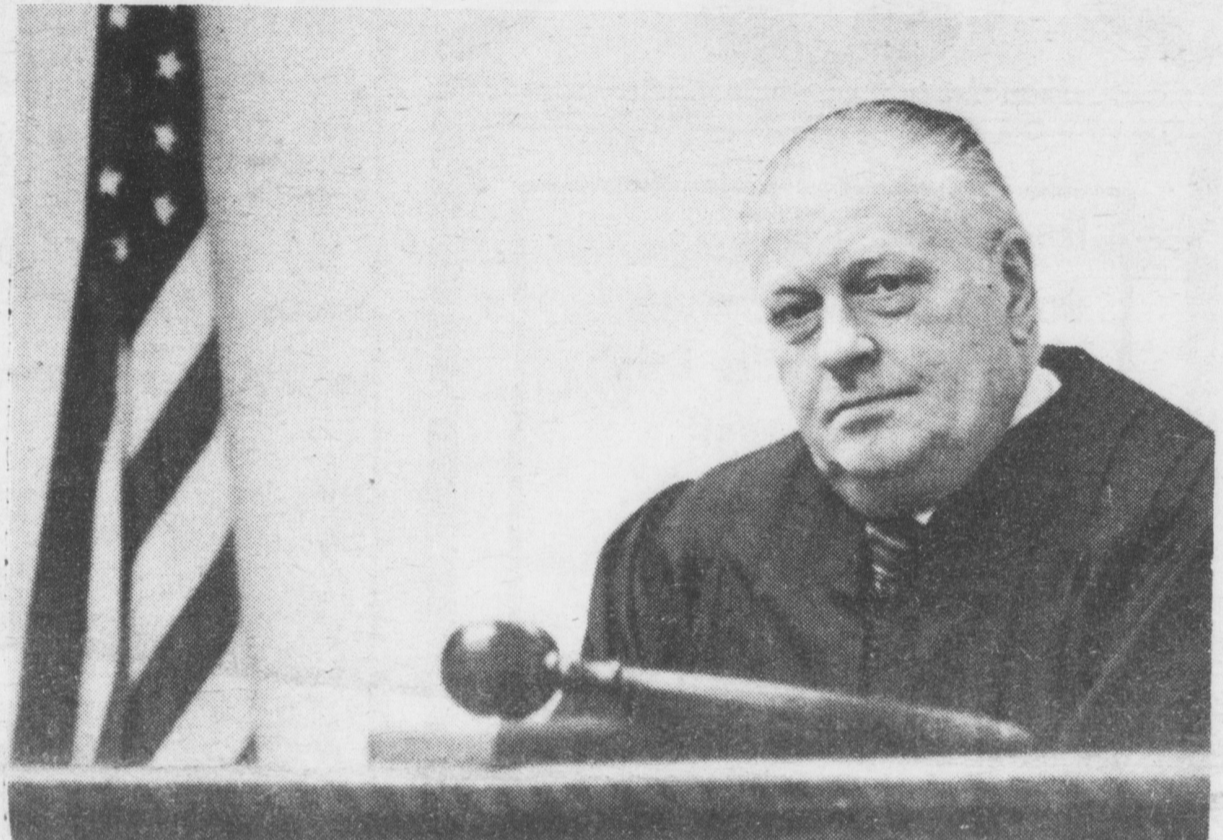
About three years ago, Justice Knorr decided that he needed even more legal training than the law required. He enrolled in a course at Penn State. Two weeks ago he got a degree in "human development with emphasis in administration of justice."

This year, the Supreme Court ruled that district judges must wear black robes in court. After years of conducting court in a business suit, Justice Knorr says, "Frankly, I feel uncomfortable in the robes."

The changes underline the importance of the district justices' work. Four out of five PA court cases begin in the local district justice courts. Anyone suspected of committing a crime in the Donegal District is arraigned in Justice Knorr's court.

"We're the only contact the bulk of the public has with the court system," he points out.

When police apprehend a suspect, Justice Knorr must set bail and make sure the defendant is aware of his rights.



District Judge Raymond Knorr

Defendants are required to post bail money as a guarantee that they will appear at the trial. Before he can decide how high bail should be set, Justice Knorr must investigate the defendant's home and employment history.

During the investigation, it often becomes apparent that the defendant's legal problems grew out of a physical, emotional, or educational handicap. "Sometimes we find the keys to the problem," the judge says.

In his office, Justice Knorr keeps a directory of community services in Lancaster County. Often, with the cooperation of the D.A. and public defender, help for the defendant can be arranged. The court often arranges to help a young man learn a trade, visit a mental health clinic, or earn a diploma.

Anyone charged with a summary violation in Donegal District is tried in Justice Knorr's court. (Summary violations include borough ordinance violations, underage drinking and disorderly conduct.) The maximum sentence is \$300 and 90 days in jail. The court also has full jurisdiction over motor vehicle code violations and small claims cases.

When someone is charged with a more serious crime (a misdemeanor or

felony), Justice Knorr handles the preliminaries, but the case is tried in Common Pleas Court. Those preliminaries include everything from filing the charges to establishing a prima facie case.

With a few exceptions like murder cases, the local judge also sets bail. To handle these heavy responsibilities, he needs more than a thorough knowledge of the law: he must also be a good judge of people.

"You can't pre-judge any case," Raymond Knorr says. "You have to understand that either the defendant or the prosecuting officer may be wrong, and you must have the courage to tell the officer when he is wrong."

"You can't treat things in blanket categories," he continues. "You must consider individual cases."

At the same time, a

judge must keep his personal feelings and professional duties separate. "I don't have to sanction a person's actions to respect him," Justice Knorr says.

Respect for both people and the law seems to be the keynote of Raymond Knorr's judicial style. He tries to avoid a sanctimonious, condemning tone in his statements from the bench. "Nobody is perfect," he says.

Raymond Knorr didn't grow up in this area, but his wife, Mary, is a native of Mount Joy. He met her in Philadelphia, where she was studying nursing. He was attending the University of PA.

The young couple moved here in 1947. Raymond ran a furniture and appliance business until 1960, when he lost his leg in an accident. After that, he

[continued on page 2]

Court costs go up

Under a new law, victims of violent crimes can be paid up to \$25,000 by the state. The money comes from an additional \$10 court cost levied on anyone who breaks a state law. (Motor vehicle violations are an exception.)

That means higher court costs for anyone who pleads guilty, pleads solo contedere, or is convicted.

For a summary offense, like underage drinking, court costs now total \$26. A misdemeanor costs at least \$30, and a felony costs at least \$35. Court costs are charged even if there is no fine.

Contrary to what many people think, our local district justice doesn't get to keep the money. (See Story)