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TIMES

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FIFTEEN CENTS

Forget that "tax break"

Last week, we reported that the Donegal School Board had reopened their budget to receive a possible state subsidy, and that some of the money might be returned to taxpayers.

School Board members were unhappy over the article, because the probability that Donegal taxpayers will get a refund exactly Zero. If the money ever comes, it will be used to fix the roof on DHS, and to replace the heating system at Beahm Jr. High.

Both jobs are urgently needed, and repair work is scheduled to start this fall, but no money for the repairs was included in this year's budget. The Board

has re-opened a quarter-million dollar line of credit to pay for the repairs, instead of raising tax money directly to pay for the work.

The board followed this seemingly round-about procedure because they expected to get the state subsidy. In case the state money doesn't arrive, the board arranged to start paying off the loan next year, to avoid running over this year's budget.

The School Board planned to start paying about \$50 thousand a year. If the state subsidy doesn't come through, repairs will cost taxpayers roughly 3 mills

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Francine is runner-up in Miss Lancaster contest

Two local women were runners-up in the Miss Lancaster County contest held last week in Ephrata.

Francine Huss of Mount Joy came in second after the new Miss Lancaster County getting the first runner-up position. Francine, who performed a modern dance to *Rhapsody in Blue*, will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Sico Co., to help her continue her education at Adelphi University in New York.

Fourth runner-up was Mary Kanoff of Maytown. Mary sang an operetta piece, *The Little Damsel*, which earned a "lion's share" of the applause, according to the Lancaster Sunday News.

Mary will receive a \$200 scholarship from the Ephrata National Bank.

Both Francine and Mary received trophies in addition to their scholarships. Mary Kanoff got a \$25 gift certificate from Donecker's in Ephrata.

Two other contestants, both from Mount Joy, missed out on becoming runners-up (there were four runners-up all together). They are Cindy Charles and Linda Sherk. Both women will receive \$100 scholarships.

The Borough of Manheim abolished all their parking meters last Christmas, after much discussion. How do they feel about their decision now?

"No one wants them back," says police chief John Winters of the Manheim Police.

The Manheim police are particularly happy to be rid of the mechanical tax collectors. "People didn't respect it," Chief Winters told us. "We were always getting nasty letters and complaints about them [the

Parking meters: who needs them?

Marietta folks have mixed opinions

Parking meters. Not a motorist drives who hasn't at some time or other been irked, peeved, irritated, angered, or infuriated by their insatiable demands for change—or worse, their habit of flashing the VIOLATION flag 27 seconds before the auto owner gets to them and finds a policeman writing out a ticket.

Following up on the letter sent us last week by Mr. Frank Pines, the *Times* decided to do some investigating. Our original inquiries about Marietta's policy of ticketing till 9:00 on Friday nights quickly led us into a survey of meters in general.

We pose this question: Would Marietta be a pleasanter town, albeit a poorer one, without the parking meters?

When we asked merchants in the meter zone for their opinions, we got mixed answers.

Paul Snyder at Columbia Hardware is in favor of the meters. "You need to regulate it somehow," he said, "so there will be some space for parking during business hours."

Bob Spangler told us that a study should be made. This, he feels, would put any answer on a sound basis.

A spokesman for Marco's Pizza said their business was not hurt by the meters.

A few merchants, mostly those whose customers

stayed in their businesses for a longer period of time, had strong feelings about the meters.

"I hate them," said Lou Ann Hess, the hairdresser. "My patrons complain about them, and neither I nor they have any place to park."

Ms. Hess said that she often works on one customer for three hours, and the meters can't be plugged to run over two hours. This makes it impossible for them not to get tickets, she claims.

"The only place I have to park my own car, so I don't get ticketed, is out back," she said. "I'm afraid to walk there at night with my receipts. I'm afraid I'll be robbed."

Another merchant who was strongly against the meters, even though he is on the edge of the zone, is Gary Youndt. "Marietta doesn't need them," he told us. "I dislike them very much." Mr. Youndt complained also of uneven enforcement. "The meter parking is enforced in spurts," he said.

"I never carry change in my pockets," he went on. "The other day I went into Columbia Hardware for a minute, and got a ticket. A ten cent bolt cost me two dollars."

David Kalmbach, one of the owners of the Marietta Theater, complained about the police enforcement as well as



Everybody forgets to plug the meter sometimes — even Marietta police chief James Millar. In his case, it shouldn't matter, because under state law, no police or ambulance vehicle is ever legally "parked."

In spite of this law, the Lancaster City police have sometimes ticketed the chief for parking violations. Like everybody else, he gets angry. And, like everybody else, he pays the fine.

about the meters. "They [the police] are down here at 7:30 every Friday night

in front of the theater. They know that most of our [continued on page 2]

The Manheim experiment; no more meters

meters]. I think it's helped the general image of the Police Department."

Under the new system, a car is allowed to park in downtown Manheim for two hours during business times. Enforcement is less irritating to the public because, as Chief Winters put it, "If you get a ticket, you've definitely been there over two hours." The culprits never get caught one minute after the meter runs out, and don't feel innocent. Therefore they accept the fine without complaining.

John Shank, president of the Manheim Merchants' Association, told us that the lack of meters has "worked out pretty good" for merchants.

"Some [merchants] were a little concerned at first," he added, "but I think they like the new system now." The only drawback he could see was a difficulty in finding parking places on Friday evenings. "But you always seem to find one," he said.

Doris Hollinger of the Mam'selle Shoppe in Manheim, had been referred to

the *Times* as one of the originally opposed merchants. She told us, however, that she had been against them from the start, and now feels the same.

"The customers were always nervous before they took them out," she said. "Even though the tickets were only a dollar, there's something about meters that kept the people worried. They seemed to want to leave the store in a hurry."

When the system changed, the fine was increased

from \$1 to \$5 for a violation. There are fewer tickets given now, and the income to the borough from fines is about the same as before, according to Chief Winters.

In making the change, however, the borough did lose some income. Mary Strack, Manheim treasurer, told us that the borough is \$10,000 per year poorer in change since the meters stopped being emptied. She personally likes the new system, although she told us that "at first, people couldn't believe it."