

WEDNESDAY
MAY 25, 1983

THIRD
THE MORNING CALL

SECTION B

LOCAL/REGION

EASTON NORTHAMPTON MONROE AND WARREN COUNTIES

Write-ins for mayor may lead to court

Validity of votes causes confusion

By GAY ELWELL
Of The Morning Call

The issue of whether there will be a November general election race to determine Easton's next mayor will probably wind up in Northampton County Court.

Yesterday workers at the Northampton County Voter Registration office completed their official tally of the Republican write-in votes received last Tuesday by candidates for mayor. According to the unrecorded count, the two top GOP write-in vote getters, Fred Ashton and Neil Paine Jr., are only three votes apart, with Paine in the lead.

The tally shows Paine received 136 valid write-in votes from persons who wrote in or used stickers with the name Salvatore J. Paine Jr., the same order which he is registered to vote. He also received 21 votes for Neil Paine Jr., and 41 other variations on his name, for a total of 218 write-in votes.

Ashton received a total of 199 votes as Fred Ashton, the same that was printed on the gold-fol stickers he said his workers distributed to GOP voters, and 18 other votes using variations on his name, for a total of 217 write-ins.

However, some of Ashton's votes are considered valid, because he is not registered to vote as Fred Ashton Jr. That means he must petition county court to declare the votes for Fred Ashton as valid.

Paine said yesterday if Ashton asks the court to declare the votes valid, he will also go to court to ask that the votes be received under other names be declared valid.

"I believe the court will go with the name of the voter," Paine said. "If the court rules against me, I would have won."

Paine said he isn't worried about the possibility that he might have to face off against Ashton in the general election. "If it comes down to a general election race, I'm still confident. I beat him by more than 1,000 votes in the primary, now I have the backing of the Democratic party."

Ashton, who served two previous terms as a Republican mayor before changing parties and running as a Democrat this time around, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Max Rosenblum, who managed Ashton's campaign, said Ashton Please See VOTES Page B5

Wilson company wants to move shop to Easton

Purchase of Roundhouse sought

By GAY ELWELL
Of The Morning Call

For the second time since 1977, Ironton Press, Inc., which has been based in Wilson for about 12 years, wants to move to the Engine Repair Shop in Easton.

The company, which performs textile printing and finishing using a rotary screen process, wants to buy the Repair Shop and Roundhouse complex on Canal Street from the city for \$18,000. The company would expand and modernize its operations in the facility, formerly owned by the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The city bought the property from the defunct railroad in 1977 for \$28,000.

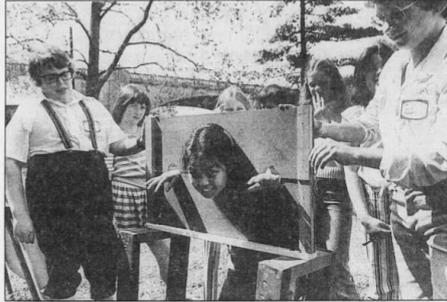
The property has been the subject of several proposals in the past. At various times, City Council had before it proposals to use the site for a demolition company and a waste-to-fuel conversion plant, and it has been mentioned as the possible new site of the Canal Museum. In the past, council has turned down proposals for the property.

John Cappellano, owner of Cape Construction Co. Easton, represented Ironton Press last night before council. He said that the company had an agreement of sale with the railroad in 1977 to buy the complex for \$24,000, but the railroad chose instead to sell to the city for the lower price.

At its present location, Ironton has been the focus of moderate complaints about fuel odors. The company was cited five times last year by the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) for allowing fuel odors to emanate from the plant. Four of those citations were dismissed by District Justice Michael Koenig of Wilson because they failed to cite the correct state laws.

The company, owned by Jack May, was fined \$100 for the fifth infraction.

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Morning Call photo—Don Ulrich

Wage freeze plan for county workers gets cool reaction

By TOM MOYLAN
Of The Morning Call

The idea of a wage freeze for Northampton County employees got a cool reaction last night from two county administration officials and a county councilman.

Union contracts would present an obstacle to a wage freeze, he said, and could result in a manpower shortage. Government has failed to keep pace with industry in certain types of positions and you just don't want to have this attrition from government that you had in education and have government end up with the same problems a few years from now," he said.

Northampton County Executive Eugene H. Hartnett, who three months ago said a multi-month wage freeze was discussed by his cabinet, said a freeze would hang on union acceptance. "If that doesn't happen, he asked, would the county freeze wages for its approximately 100 non-union employees while giving the unionized ones a 3.5 percent increase? "Is that the answer to it? I don't think it is," he said.

County Human Services Director Jerry W. Friedman questioned whether the money saved by a wage freeze would make up for the money human services grant recipients would lose.

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Morning Call photo—Don Ulrich

Students get lesson in Colonial culture

Marifé Estrada (top) of Spring Garden Elementary School is given a lesson in Colonial penmanship at the party by David Baber (left) and David Reder (right) of Northeast school at the annual Junior Craftsmen Along the Monocacy program which continues today in Bethlehem's 18th Century Industrial Area. More than 85 pupils in the city schools

8th grades researched, studied, built or demonstrated traditions and crafts from Colonial times like brooding ginger beer (today's ginger ale) and sarapanaki (at left). Among other Colonial demonstrations were ropemaking, papermaking, candlemaking, leatherwork, cooking and carpentry. Demonstrations continue today 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

A-B-E Airport pioneer to retire by year's end

By PAUL LOWE
Of The Morning Call

Wilfred M. "Wojo" Post Jr., who piloted the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport from a grass strip to a multimillion-dollar facility known worldwide, announced yesterday he will turn the controls over to a successor this year.

Post, 66, will retire before the end of the year if the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority chooses a successor to airport manager before then. But he said he will make himself available for consultation and public relations work.

The A-B-E Airport, next to my family, will continue to be most important to me," he told the authority members at their monthly meeting.



Wilfred M. Post Jr.

Pen Argyl calls for 8-mill hike in school budget

By PAUL MAY
Of The Morning Call

The Pen Argyl Area School Board last night granted tentative approval to a 1984-85 budget of \$1,545,129 which will require an 8-mill increase in the school district's real estate tax and a 50-mill increase in the occupation tax.

The budget, which includes a 750-mill real estate tax, up from 675 mills; a 200-mill occupation tax, up from 200 mills; two per capita taxes of 10 each, and a 1-percent earned income tax, and a 1-percent real estate transfer tax, which are shared with municipalities in the school district.

Mr. Jane Widger of Wood Gap, a former school director, presented a petition signed by more than 400 taxpayers requesting the school

approved with the budget, includes a 750-mill real estate tax, up from 675 mills; a 200-mill occupation tax, up from 200 mills; two per capita taxes of 10 each, and a 1-percent earned income tax, and a 1-percent real estate transfer tax, which are shared with municipalities in the school district.

The budget is 5.9 percent higher than this year's budget and calls for an increase in spending of \$115,877

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SECOND

THE MORNING CALL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1983

Phoebe Terrace work picks up after walkout

By DAN PEARSON
Of The Morning Call

Construction work on the \$7-million Phoebe Terrace luxury community, Allentown, resumed at a brisk pace yesterday as craftsmen and laborers sought to make up for time lost to wet spring weather and the 11-day Lehigh Valley bricklayers' strike that was settled May 17.

Along with the team of activity in the bricklayers' union, there were the crews and the steel of wet mortar as about 100 workers toiled away through the rain. Fourteen bricklayers set the concrete blocks in place as a front-end loader operator back-filled walls already erected.

Seated at a table in the mobile-home office of Alvin H. Bitt, Inc., project supervisor Ed Goetts appeared satisfied with the new pace of the work.

"We are doing real well. But the strike covered 11 workdays, and you never make up for lost time," said Goetts, who noted that they still are on target for completion of the five-story 88-unit apartment building sponsored by Phoebe-Devitt Home.

Across town, members of the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers union also had resumed work on the second Sacred Heart Hospital tower and improvement project that carries a total price tag of \$10 million.

On strike against area craft contractors has been Allentown Local 10, Bricklayers Local 8 and Stroudsburg Local 12 of the bricklayers' union. They negotiated terms of future firing practices with the Lehigh Valley Contractors Association. An \$8.50-a-hour wage increase and a 10% raise in health benefits were agreed to in a contract signed by the union and the contractors' association.

There has been no public disclosure of those terms.

Goetts said the bricklayers' walkout virtually halted construction of Phoebe Terrace "because this is a wall-bearing all-masonry job."

Saying, "This is the way they used to build 'em," Goetts said there is no steel superstructure involved. The floors are made of precast concrete slabs and designed for support by sturdy concrete foundations and masonry walls.

When there were no bricklayers to assemble the components during the strike, Lee said, president of the general contracting firm, was on the verge of redesigning the building and using alternative materials that included steel.

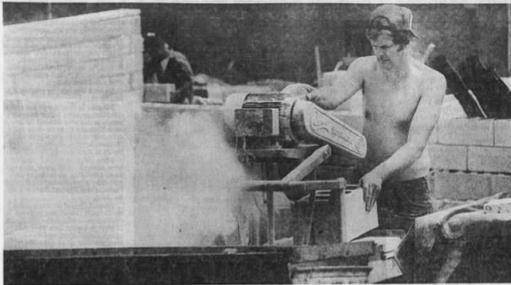
With the masonry idle, there was no work for laborers who worked as mason tenders (helpers) and on excavating and back-filling crews.

"We were working on other things — parking areas, grading, putting in drains and pouring concrete curbs and sidewalks — but (with the strike) we had about another two days, and we would have been completely shut down," Goetts said.

Frank P. Daddona, vice president of Eastern Consolidated Utilities, Inc., Maricopa, said the strike was not the only thing delaying the excavating and back-filling contract.

"It's been the wet weather, too. Since March 1, we've had 25 inches of rain in this area. I've been in this business 42 years and never seen it so bad," Daddona said.

Harry Snyder, work foreman for Allentown Local 17A, International Laborers Union of North America, had complained recently that the bricklayers' strike was forcing the layoff of union laborers.



A worker cuts blocks at the Phoebe Terrace site as laborers and craftsmen try to make up for lost time.

But he was smiling, yesterday as his crew stacked blocks and mixed mortar for the bricklayers.

The Rev. Paul Black, chief executive of Phoebe-Devitt Home, said he was generally pleased with the progress of the project and hoped better weather was in the offing.

He said Phoebe Terrace, offering one-bedroom, two-bedroom and efficiency apartments, will cost a total of \$7 million with financing and is entirely separate from the 11-year-old Phoebe Apartments, immediately to the

south. The older apartment house was built with the aid of federal Housing and Urban Development funds.

Phoebe Terrace, Haas said, is "more luxurious and in design than the more affluent retired person. After paying the necessary entrance fee, Terrace residents are awarded a revolving credit line from Phoebe-Devitt Home II, and when they need it.

When completed next year, Phoebe Terrace will house about 110 residents.

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Woman with elderly boarders criticizes court ruling

By LINDA HOFFMAN
Of The Morning Call

LANGHORNE (AP) — Theresa McGinnis, who has been caring for elderly boarders in her home since 1960, said the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to overturn a state court ruling that she was violating zoning laws will hurt senior citizens who don't want to be institutionalized.

"It's just not fair to the older people," said Ms. McGinnis, 60, who lives in a single family, three-story home, where she cares for four people in their 80s.

The elderly residents of the Theresa McGinnis Residential Home say life there gives them a feeling of belonging to a family. But continuing the violation of the zoning ordinance would mean the end of the home, the residents said. Ms. McGinnis violated the single-family zoning ordinance in this Berks County town north of Philadelphia.

The Supreme Court, without explanation Monday, rejected Ms. McGinnis' appeal to overturn a State Commonwealth Court order that barred her from using her home for commercial purposes.

"The neighbors are noobies," Ms. McGinnis said. "They have their noses up in the air. They forget that they're going to be in the same predicament some day."

When the case began in 1980, Ms. McGinnis cared for six elderly adults ranging in age from 72 to 85. Some had lived alone in apartments and others came from nursing homes. For \$14 to \$20 a day from each, Ms.

McGinnis prepared their meals and took them for rides in the car.

Berks County Judge Edward G. Binstler Jr. upheld Ms. McGinnis' right to take in elderly boarders, concluding those who are retired should not be forced to choose between being alone and being institutionalized.

"They had to live in a nursing home as nearly as possible appropriate traditional family living arrangements," Binstler wrote.

Last July Commonwealth Court overturned Binstler's ruling and said there was no question the elderly benefited greatly at Ms. McGinnis' home. The local government clearly had the power to exclude non-commercial activities from residential zones.



Learning the hard way — Fourth graders of the Bethlehem Area School District and Moravian Academy are discovering this week that life — including the criminal justice system — was quite different in Colonial times. The Moravian Academy of the Spring Garden Elementary School learned

her lesson firsthand — by being placed in the pillory by David Baker faculty and David Risher faculty during the annual Craftsman Along the Monocacy program which opened yesterday in the 18th Century Industrial Area near downtown Bethlehem.

MISSING

Continued From Page B1

Living in Wind Gap. That's where she disappeared with them from the day I haven't seen them," Blitchman says.

He says he's spent \$20,000 in legal fees and private investigators trying to find the children. He says by long distance phone calls made from his wife's apartment in the final days she was in Wind Gap indicate she probably went at least to Arkansas.

Blitchman says he father-in-law in Phoenix contacted her father-in-law in Phoenix. He said he had contact with his daughter, Mrs. Linda A. Anderson Blitchman, and the children. Blitchman says a bench warrant

has been issued by Northampton County Court for his wife for contempt. And he says there is a felony warrant against her boyfriend, William Paul, who disappeared from the area the same time she did.

Blitchman says that in the alleged theft of some of his furniture from that Wind Gap apartment.

In both these cases, the out-of-state parent says there has been no real help from the laws.

They both mention a proposed federal law against parental kidnapping. Hearings are to get under way today on this before the Senate Justice Committee headed by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

POST

Continued From Page B1

will have been in aviation for 50 years and declared.

"My family deserves more of my time, and the airport deserves more of my time. I have tried to run the good route, but now I feel that the time should be passed to another carrier."

"Consequently, I want to retire at the end of the year or earlier if a successor can be selected and trained."

Port urged the authority to "seriously consider the status of the present staff" in selecting a successor.

He pointed out: "Whoever becomes the airport manager, despite all consent and advice from the members of the authority, as a professional aviator, immediate responsibilities, the most important of which is that of maintaining and operating a safe airport."

Port also urged the sponsoring committee to select a safe airport.

The greatest strength and the reason for the success of the authority to date, it has been recognized unanimously and enthusiastically, has been the quality of the persons appointed. They have the respect of the industry and loyalty of the employees."

That loyalty was evidenced yesterday when members of the airport

maintenance crew were recognized for winning the 1982 Col. Bert Bickham Award for outstanding achievement in airport noise and fire control.

During major winter storms in the Northeast, ABE is often the last to close and first to open and has often won praise from pilots.

Airport Manager Warren Johnson, in introducing the men, said that "in the worst weather, these fellows work 16-hour shifts, stopping only for coffee before going back out."

Port described them as a "dedicated group of people."

The men received uniform patches as winners of the Bickham award for a "small but big job," which is the category ABE is in.

The player will be displayed in the authority office until it is passed on to the next winner.

Earlier, Wartell reminded the authority of the accident that Post-humil had been accorded.

He said that honors have been bestowed "on our Wing" by many groups, including local residents, non-the-year awards by state and federal governments, and many aviation industry groups such as the International Airport Association, the American Association of Airport Executives and the International Aviation Show Symposium, which has chosen Allentown for 18 of its 23 years to have its convention, mainly because of Post and his staff.

Recreation activities planned in Lehigh

Continued From Page B1

The Lehigh Recreation Commission released its annual schedule of activities this week.

Playgrounds in Westport and Pottsville and at the Manning, East Pottsville and Franklin elementary schools will be the Community Grove and Skyline Park, both in Lehigh, will open June 12. The playgrounds will operate from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. each day with a supervisor present.

A baseball league will begin play on June 20 at the 6th and 7th streets field in Lehigh. Teams will be picked this week and players will be told of their assignments by team captains.

The five-team junior league will begin play on June 13 at River Memorial Park, Lehigh, and the senior girls' softball league will begin play on the same day at the 6th and 7th streets field. Players will be notified of their assignments by team captains.

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