

County Household Census For Jobless Figures Asked

By KAY HAFLEY
Staff Writer

In a last ditch effort, the Schuylkill County Commissioners have requested that a household survey be taken to compile an alternative set of unemployment statistics for the county.

The request was made at a meeting with representatives of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security and the United States Employment Training Administration.

The action is a result of the recent downward revision of the county unemployment rate. That post-election cut is expected to undermine the county's chances of being granted federal monies under the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Program.

Suggesting that the current figures do not

accurately reflect the Schuylkill County unemployment situation, Commissioner Edward Cook asked Alvin Margulis, a representative of the Region Three Commission of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, to forward the request to the Bureau of Census for the first such survey to be conducted in Schuylkill County since 1970.

Margulis pointed out that such surveys are extraordinarily expensive, and that the methodology they use is the same used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for reliability.

The approximate cost for each household contacted is \$20, and he could not estimate the entire cost since he did not know how many homes would have to be counted.

At Thursday's meeting, Margulis said that there are only two primary methods for calculating the labor force. One is the

administrative system under which the present figures were computed on the basis of unemployment insurance, and the other is through household surveys.

"The question is not whether there are better methods than the one we are using. Cost is the question," said Margulis, adding that the national cost of a household survey

would be prohibitive.

He said the current method is to revise and improve statistics gathering techniques frequently. There is also a Presidential commission reviewing those methods now, he said. He said too that statistics are annually linked with available household data.

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New Figures Used In Fund Requests

By KAY HAFLEY

Schuylkill County unemployment figures have been changed on those applications for federal grants which have already been submitted, according to William Wentz, assistant chairman of Labor Market Information for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security.

All allocations to this Comprehensive

Employment Training Act (CETA) area will be allocated on the basis of the revised figures he said.

Wentz said that unemployment is one of the most important criteria to be used in determining allocations, and that the county's drastic cut will likely have a significant impact.

However, he noted that it is not un-

realistic to hope for success on some of the applications, because the unemployment rate for the Pottsville Labor Market is still higher than both the state and national averages.

Frank Milewski, director of the Schuylkill-Carbon Agency for Manpower, pointed out that Schuylkill County can no longer expect high priority, however, as all of Pennsylvania falls into the top priority category and this area is no longer so far above the state totals in unemployment rate.

Donald Laughery, a Bureau of Employment Security (BES) statistician from Harrisburg, asked if Schuylkill County wanted the money badly enough to take it unjustly from areas which actually have higher unemployment.

Milewski answered that the problem is not taking the money from where it is needed more, but whether or not the statistics now being acted on are really the correct representation of the local labor picture.

Milewski said that historically, Schuylkill

County has never compared as favorably as it does under the current statistics with labor markets in surrounding areas, notably Lehigh Valley and Hazleton.

"I just want to be sure we're not missing anything," said Milewski.

He cited a survey he had taken among local manufacturers and labor unions. That sampling, which he acknowledged would not be completely accurate, indicated that 2,000 laborers are out of work in the building trades in Schuylkill County, another 2,000 are out of work in the garment industry and a similar number are now receiving cash welfare payments. Isn't that the real labor situation in Schuylkill? he asked.

County Commissioner Albert Matunis pointed out that a portion of the 715 SCAM jobs held by Schuylkill Countians will likely be lost if the revised figures are used as the basis for federal allocations. The unemployment percentage dropped from 15.5 for July, to a corrected 7.9 per cent, then went back up to 8.1 per cent on the basis of another correction.

Kidney Treatment Center Aim Of 5 Doctors Here

By DENNIS ROLER
Staff Writer

Five physicians are trying to acquire the former A & P store on Claude A. Lord Boulevard in Pottsville as an office in which to provide kidney machine services.

The proposed operation, which would be known as Bio Medical, would be owned by Doctors Benjamin Platt, Muhammed Munir, Abdul Pashid, Abdul Wahab and G.A. Zafar, according to Mary Diffenderfer, executive secretary of the Schuylkill County Industrial Development Corporation (SCIDA).

The five have applied for SCIDA approval of a \$400,000 loan to finance the venture, but SCIDA members have voted to postpone making a decision on it, Diffenderfer said.

She said the delay was approved because SCIDA wants to sample the feelings of area hospitals on the venture and investigate the proposal itself further.

Four of the five area hospitals are reportedly agreeable to the facility, while one is not.

The five physicians also requested in their application that they be granted exclusive rights to operate such kidney facilities in the city.

The parent firm of Bio Medical is National Medical Care, Inc.

Bio Medical deals mainly with health services financed through the government through its Medicare program.

If SCIDA approves a loan to the physicians, it would enable them to get lower interest rates from banking institutions.

Special Ed Building Bidders Asked To Wait On Contracts

By JEAN SCHRAEDLEY
Staff Writer

MARLIN — Low bidders on the special education building for Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 are being asked to extend the "life" of their bids to Jan. 12, 1977.

The Vocational Technical School Authority, which is handling this building project, met in special session Friday afternoon concerning the extension.

The authority is asking for this delay on the time when contracts will be awarded apparently with the optimistic attitude that the application for Public Employment Works Act funds will be approved.

Roy Bensinger, of the architectural firm of Levkulec and Bensinger, informed the authority board he spoke with all the low bidders by way of telephone and they ap-

peared willing to extend the bids to Jan. 12.

They do ask, however, that the authority in return give letters of "good assurance" on the project.

The board approved letters to be sent to each of the low bidders explaining the application is pending under the Public Employment Works Act and that they are the low bidders as determined from the tabulations.

The bids were opened Sept. 8 and there was a 75-day holding period on them.

The deadline on the bids would be Monday. Therefore, the letters will be hand delivered to the contractors with the extension of agreement for signing.

All low bids, general construction, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air condi-

tioning, electrical, food service and elevator total \$6,381,418.

The proposed new building would replace current facilities in use, Patterson Center in Pottsville; buildings at Port Carbon and Tremont in Pottsville; the Patterson School in the 12th Street Urban Renewal Area of the Pottsville Redevelopment Authority and a developer is interested in constructing a high rise at the Patterson School site that would have up to 120 apartments. The same developer is proposing a town house type of project to the rear of the school area.

The Vocational Technical School Authority is seeking about \$4 million in the PEWA application.

Attorney Wilbur Rubright, Vo-Tech Authority president, expressed concern on the federal funds because of the change in the county's unemployment statistics.

\$120,000 At Top

George Glore, right, president of the West End Hose Company, and Don Kline, secretary, look at fire truck and ladder showing year's progress in the drive for \$120,000 to purchase new truck. Rungs of ladder representing 10 per cent of goal show 40 per cent has been raised to date.



Shown is a picture of a fire truck similar to that ordered by the West End Hose Company.

That Jolly Old Gentleman's Back In Town



Warmly snow-suited, Dennis Koch, Josten and Charlotte Ziehwesky line up on car hood to greet Santa Claus as he comes up street in the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce annual Santa Claus parade Friday night. Susan Ziehwesky holds up her daughter Melissa to get a better look. (Staff Photos by Tom Wigoda)

Lucky Doreen Jones, 5, joins Santa on his sleigh before he alights to establish himself at "Santa's house" where he will hear children's Christmas gift requests nightly starting Dec. 1.



Santa and Mrs. Claus (really Terry and Bob Livingston) hold Ronald Banks, 5, and their own one-year old daughter Lauri Lynn Livingston, at Santa's headquarters. Another Christmas-time attraction for Tamaqua-area children is the white deer enclosure adjoining Santa's house.