

Money for Local Parks

When, in a single day, four checks are received to advance park and recreation development in the county and within two towns of the county, the impression is inescapable that both governmental and public interest in the ecology and environment of the area are high.

State Sen. Robert Mellow and Edwin A. Sites, regional director, Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, acted Wednesday as bearers of good tidings—and substantial grants—when they met with County Commissioner Charles Luger, Blakely Borough's council president, Watkin Phillips, and Olyphant Borough Council's President Michael Peterson.

Luger received a check for \$78,500 earmarked to aid county acquisition of 410 acres of land in Covington Twp. Ultimately, the county will develop a park in that sector of the county and thus complement other recreational facilities either ready or planned as part of an effort to markedly upgrade recreational opportunities for county residents.

Blakely will use the money delivered by Mellow and Sites for its River Street Playground. All age groups in the borough are to be served through the park facilities

planned for a 2.6 acre site. Softball, tennis, handball, basketball, winter skating and a sector designed for tots are incorporated in the Blakely design being assisted by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the state. The total development, a federal, state and borough cooperation, will cost \$155,000.

Olyphant has two projects, the Fern Hill Playground and Flata Park, and received checks totaling \$59,775, representing the state's current share in a financing arrangement in which the federal government also is participating. As in Blakely, Flata Park is programmed to serve different age groups. Sports, playground, a spray pool, picnic area and other facilities will be supported.

The Fern Hill development will embrace 12 acres and provide a community park, baseball field, "tot lots," a spray pool, lighted basketball courts and volleyball and bocce courts. The essential park plans and the landscaping and other upgrading entailed will result in an extensive enhancement of the face of the communities and put to valuable use land which otherwise might be idle and unproductive.

Runaway Youth

Running away from home has long been a part of America's folklore. For many young persons it has served as part of their rite of passage into adulthood. Unlike Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, however, today's runaways are typically in search of fun and adventure. Instead he is escaping from serious problems at home, at school, or within himself. But instead of finding a haven from his problems at home, the runaway often finds himself the victim of street gangs, drug pushers and hardened criminals. "The runaway is a strong potential candidate for juvenile delinquency and a life of adult crime," Sen. Birch Bayh last year told a Senate subcommittee investigating juvenile delinquency. "If we help the runaway deal with the problems that caused him to run, we can prevent many runaways from becoming truly delinquent."

Sen. Bayh was the chief sponsor of the Runaway Youth Act which would provide federal assistance to shelters that temporarily house and aid runaways. The act, which was passed by the Senate on June

8, 1973, also authorizes funds to conduct research on the scope of the runaway problem in this country, particularly with regard to data on the types of children who run away. The House Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities is scheduled to begin hearings on similar legislation on Oct. 2.

Congressional interest in the problem of missing youths increased after the discovery in mid-August of the mass murders of more than two dozen boys—many of whom were runaways—in Houston.

The 1972 report of the Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee estimated that as many as one million children run away each year. Surprisingly, more than half of all runaways are girls. The average age for fleeing youth is now 15, but the prevalence of younger runaways is increasing. In New York City, 43 per cent of recent runaways were found to be between the ages of 11 and 14.

The main burden of dealing with runaways has fallen on the police. About 265,000 runaways were arrested in 1972.

Gypsy Moth Threat

Area residents saw this year ominous if comparatively slight damage caused by the gypsy moth caterpillars. While our region did not suffer seriously from the blight, summer's end and the approach of winter do not mean that the existing threat is over. The outlook for next year, as far as Pennsylvania is concerned, is not encouraging.

A Blair County state representative, W. William Wilt, said defoliation next year from the moth will occur in more than 1.5 million acres of woodland. As a member of the House Conservation Committee, it can be assumed Wilt has first hand knowledge of the problem and expert counsel concerning it.

The lawmaker's projection fears an infestation twice the \$56,000 acres stripped by the pest this year and nearly four times the 404,000 acres affected in 1972.

In Wilt's opinion, even a massive spraying program planned by the Department

of Environmental Resources has not eliminated the necessity of anticipating more of our woodlands destroyed. Early legislative enactment of a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 for the spraying program has been urged.

Experience has shown that severe gypsy moth populations last for two or three years in any given area before a decline occurs from overpopulation, disease and parasitism. That would indicate the insects which made their presence felt to some degree in 1972 and became a serious problem this year could be around for another year.

The seriousness of the problem this year produced certain positive results, mainly studies which defined danger areas and possible future movement of the moth. Additionally, the scope of the defoliation has helped foster support for action and directives to confront the situation.

Pornography Debate

Pornography is coming in for more and more serious public concern. Anti-murder forces claim that it is undermining the moral fabric of society. President Nixon warned that "the warped and brutal portrayal of sex in books, plays, magazines and movies, if not halted and reversed, could poison the well-springs of American and Western civilization."

In contrast, civil libertarians argue that the government has no right to legislate morality, that adults are not harmed by

erotic material, and that censoring it is both dangerous and counter-productive.

The effects of pornography will be the subject of debate at a one-day, student-sponsored conference at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., on Saturday. Among those invited to participate but who rejected the invitation were Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, columnist James J. Kilpatrick, poet Alan Ginsberg, Playboy Publisher Hugh Hefner and others.

The college administration negated an invitation sent to the female head character in the movie, Deep Throat. Gerald Damiano, director of that movie will appear instead. Other participants include film critic Judith Christ, William B. Lockhard, chairman of the 1970 Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, and the Rev. Winfred C. Link, a dissenting member of the commission and a vocal supporter of curbs on erotic material.

The first topic on the agenda will be the June 21, 1973, Supreme Court decision which held that local—not national—standards must prevail in determining what is pornographic in each community. The 5-4 ruling by the Court was applauded by conservatives and denounced by liberals. It has resulted in a number of local court cases and has appeared to have the effect of curtailing the display of pornographic motion pictures as well as the sale of erotic material.

The participants in the college conference will consider a number of these lawsuits and their effects on the film, publishing and theater industries.

'Maybe They Can Ask the Astronauts How To Bring These Things Out of Orbit'



'The Way I See It' ... Letters to the Editor

Busing Scored

Editor, The Tribune.

Sir: I have been very much

perturbed by an announcement

in the local papers on the

schedule of school buses in the

area, starting in Archibald

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concerns every taxpayer in

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My main concern is the fact of

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