

The Bridge-Table Tribunal

There is nothing, so far as we know, more cowardly or harmful than the useless, degenerate habit of gossiping or spreading Old Wives' Tales. And at the same time there is probably no pursuit more assiduously and enthusiastically practiced.

More innocent men and women have been crucified on back fences than were ever nailed in martyrdom to the cross. Thousands upon thousands of reputations have been irrevocably besmirched and whole lives ruined by wagging, malicious tongues. The good men and good works hampered and blackguarded by folks whose imagination and natural propensity for invention run far ahead of their capacity for the truth are legion.

A lethal bomb is a puny weapon compared with the whispered preface: "Now here's the way I heard it." Gossip is like a snowball rolling down a mountainside. A bitter misstatement may become an avalanche of abuse and persecution. A man may argue with his wife in the morning. By noon he beat her cruelly. By mid-afternoon he threatened to kill her. At suppers he chased her about the house with a kitchen knife. And by the next morning the vigilantes are out.

Most unfortunate of all, it seems that malicious gossip and outlandish conjecture are most prevalent at such times when they can be the most dangerous and harmful. When people are keyed up emotionally the most irrational presumptions are given credence. A sly supposition spread about at the wrong moment may easily lead to the brutish and blindly cruel workings of a mob.

Tragedies beget such things. A few years ago a truly horrible crime was perpetrated in this county. It still remains unsolved. Yet at the time of its occurrence more than a dozen men stood wrongly accused by wagging tongues. Fortunately, none were personally molested. But the loss of reputation and stigma of suspicion will remain with them until their dying days . . . merely because too many wrought-up people were willing to believe the worst, propounded by individuals who actually knew nothing.

Just as everywhere else, the back-fence experts of Dallas work overtime, too. No one knows that better, probably, than we do. Week after week countless items come to our attention which prove on re-check to be nothing more or less than just boundless, unmitigated gossip, manufactured out of whole cloth. Not long ago some wild, improbable tale of bombs being distributed through the mails by one of the local carriers even reached the city papers . . . the work of some Dallas gossip at his or her best, at a time when even the remotest suspicion of a foreign plot is enough to permanently harm an innocent man.

The whispered word is a juggernaut, for it works in a realm that cannot be controlled. A thoughtless remark can grow like an ugly mushroom into a shout of hate. We have no courts of inquisition in this country . . . but we do have bridge tables, which can be—and often are—the most deadly tribunals of all.

Why the knowing winks and sotto voice malingering of gossips must wield such a mighty influence is more than we know. It's a rather forcible comment on the intelligence and character of people who take stock in such stuff—and we all do, more often than not. It is an easy matter, after all, to check back and get the truth. And if the truth isn't available, perhaps it just isn't any of our business.

FROM

PILLAR TO POST

By Mrs. T. M. B. HICKS, JR.

With so many nationally-advertised brands of this and that sponsoring prize contests in the weekly magazines, there is no adequate reason why anybody with a shred of writing ability should fail to gather in a good fat lump sum of money, or in lieu of that a monthly income for the declining years. The soap ads fairly bubble with a lather of inducements. Send in one wrapper, or a reasonable facsimile thereof, finish out the fifth line of a limerick, and live in luxury for the rest of your days. Remember, darling, how we wrote a little jingle on the back of an envelope, and now our financial worries are over forever? That thirty dollars a week is allowing us to live in a new little bungalow on Easy Street. It insures a college education for our four children and pays off the wolves of debt which have always yapped so distressfully at our heels.

Our pantry shelves are stocked abundantly with Ivory soap, guaranteed to be ninety-nine and forty-four one hundredths per cent pure. The soap has been vastly improved by a secret chemical change in the formula during the last three months, but as it is still ninety-nine and forty-four hundredths per cent pure, the manufacturers must have slipped in a little something as an antidote to the extra goodness. All the cakes of soap are minus their outer jackets, because their outer jackets have gone to Cincinnati at the rate of two a day, one large wrapper and one small wrapper. Each convoy of jackets guarded a delightful bit of literature, calculated to melt the heart of the stoutest judge, and bring home the bacon in the shape of a weekly grand prize of five hundred dollars, with a further possibility of a super-prize of twenty thousand dollars in hard cash or a monthly income for life.

Just write any old thing, urges the soap company, write it on scrap paper, or on typewriter paper, or on the margin of the morning newspaper, in longhand or shorthand or printing. Who knows what judge may look upon the most modest entry with a gleam in his eye, and shout "Eureka! This is what we have been waiting for. This, and this alone, is destined to sell soap to the Great American Public. This sentence is calculated to make every housewife in America rush to the nearest chain-store and stand in line, if need be, in order to stock her shelves with Ivory soap."

Being a methodical soul, and wishing to do the thing properly, leaving no stone unturned in my quest for riches, I got a book out

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THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

Vol. 51

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1941

No. 38

Council Will Consider \$10,000 Bond Issue At Meeting Tonight

Confronted with a seriously overtaxed budget, members of Dallas Council will discuss tonight the flotation of a \$10,000 bond issue . . . second largest in the history of the borough . . . it was reported yesterday.

The issue has been proposed to offset steady drains on finances caused by the ambitious road improvement program now being carried on and the return of three roads to borough maintenance by the State.

Although a \$30,000 WPA appropriation has removed cost of labor from the budget, materials, truck hire and other expenses have run far ahead of normal maintenance expenditures, and with the return of Lake and Church streets and the Dallas-Fernbrook road to the care of the borough, additional funds must be secured, according to Councilman Morgan Wilcox.

If passed, the bond issue may mean a tax increase of three mills to handle interest payments, and amortization will be over a period of at least 15 years.

The funds will help finance a road improvement program which has already seen extensive repairs to Franklin street and Lehman avenue and which will include ditching and curbing of Norton and Machell avenues and Spring street. Work has already begun on Spring street, and when the Franklin street project is completed, workmen there will be shifted to Norton avenue.

The largest bond issue of the borough . . . \$20,000 . . . was floated 20 years ago when the construction of Lake street was undertaken. The debt limit of Dallas, however, has never been approached, and the issue now under consideration can easily be carried by the borough, according to Mr. Wilcox.

Hit-And-Run Principals Hailed Into Domestic Relations Court

Harvey's Lake Man Is Involved In County's Screwiest Case; Lake Cops Protest Ruling

Culminating a case that would confound the best legal minds in the country, the principals in a hit-and-run accident which occurred at Harvey's Lake last month were this week referred by a Wilkes-Barre Justice of the Peace to a hearing before the Court of Domestic Relations.

Involved in the outlandish proceedings were Harold Boice of Harvey's Lake, plaintiff in the hit-and-run case, and John McGinnis of Cedar Lane, Wilkes-Barre, defendant. At a hearing before Squire Joseph Murphy of Scott street, Wilkes-Barre, Tuesday night, both men were ordered to appear before the Court of Domestic Relations on October 3 . . . a judgment protested in vain by both Chief Ira C. Stevenson of the Harvey's Lake police force and his assistant, Patrolman Fred Swanson, who argued that Boice and McGinnis were obviously not man and wife and hence not under the jurisdiction of the court.

The hearing before Squire Scott (Continued on Page 8)

Dallas Area Receives \$8,250 In Liquor Fees

Liquor license fees collected by local municipalities during the six months ending July 31 were refunded by the State this week, as a total of \$8,250 went into the general funds of six townships in this section and Dallas borough.

Largest sum went to Lake township, where a local option question was soundly defeated in the primaries last week, with 30 business establishments paying a total of \$3,500, and the smallest payment, \$150, went to Franklin township. Dallas borough received \$300, Dallas township \$2,200, Lehman township \$1,250, Kingston township \$600, and Jackson township \$250.

Borough receiving the smallest license refund in the county was Courtdale, with \$150, while its next-door neighbor, Pringle, equally small in population, was paid \$1,500. To Luzerne went \$5,900, and Plymouth, receiving \$14,450, led all boroughs in the county.

Firemen Discuss Civic Center

Dallas Volunteers Will Wear Crimson Uniforms

With an enthusiastic group in attendance, the first fall business session of the Henry M. Laing Volunteer Fire Company was held Friday night in the hose house on Mill street.

Feature of the evening was a general discussion of plans for a proposed community hall and fire house, led by Dr. Frank Schooley.

The firemen voted to purchase 25 new dress parade uniforms . . . which will include bright red shirts and caps and new badges for each member. Harry Ohlman and Joe MacVeigh were commissioned to order the outfits, for which each member will pay \$5.

It was announced that 300 feet of new hose have been purchased from the Eastern Pennsylvania Supply Company, and foreign fire insurance tax payments from the State covering Lehman and Dallas townships and Dallas borough, amounting to \$242, were acknowledged.

Preceding the meeting a fire drill was held at Irem Temple Country Club with 15 members participating. The equipment was in perfect condition, and new safety helmets, tried out for the first time at the drill, proved to be a fine innovation.

At the next session, it was announced, a talk on first aid will be given by Dr. Schooley.

STOGNER CASE COMES UP TONIGHT AT LAKE AFTER WEEK'S DELAY

Postponed last Friday, a hearing on alleged violation of fishery laws committed by Mack A. Stogner of Berwick will be held before Squire Ralph Davis of Alderson tonight.

Stogner is charged with negligence in not posting running lights on his sea-plane, which figured last week in a fatal speedboat accident on Harvey's Lake. A summons for his appearance tonight was served on his secretary at Berwick Monday afternoon by Patrolman Fred Swanson of the Lake police force.

The sea-plane, a Taylorcraft which was nearly cut in half by a speedboat last Tuesday night in a collision costing the life of Teddy Frantz, lake real estate man, was taken away by truck Friday.

LOCAL DOGS PLACE HIGH AMONG ENTRANTS SUNDAY IN ALLENTOWN FAIR SHOW

Two blue-bloods from this section won high honors in the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show at the Allentown Fair Sunday afternoon.

"Susie," aristocratic wire-haired terrier of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Griffith of Machell avenue, won best in class, best of breed and placed sixth in best of show when the judges' decisions were handed down, and a Welsh terrier shown by Mrs. Thomas Robinson of Idetown won best in class.

Jim Franklin Retires Post

Was Secretary Of I. O. O. F. 31 Years

On the eve of his 70th birthday anniversary and rounding out his 40th year as an Odd Fellow, James Franklin this week announced his retirement as secretary of Oneida Lodge, No. 371, I. O. O. F.

A testimonial dinner will be given the grand old man of the lodge some time next week in Dallas, with the 22 members of the group joining together in paying tribute to Mr. Franklin and the fine record of service he attained. Dr. Robert M. Bodycomb has been named chairman of the dinner, assisted by Elwood McCarty and Elwood Ide.

In the entire history of the lodge, which was founded here in 1864, there have been only two secretaries, the late William Brickel and Mr. Franklin, who was elected to the position in 1910 and served continuously until this week.

Mr. Franklin, 70 years old Wednesday, has been active not only in fraternal affairs of this community but also in its government, and is retiring this fall from Dallas Council.

Mr. Franklin announced his intention of vacating the secretaryship at the annual election of lodge officers Monday evening. New officers include Elwood Ide, Noble Grand; Nelson Shaver, Vibe Grand; Elwood McCarty, secretary, and Dr. Bodycomb, treasurer.

Lehman Avenue Paved

The ditching and resurfacing of Lehman avenue, an undertaking of the NYA under supervision of borough road superintendent Bill Schmol, was completed Wednesday after nearly two months of work. The level of the street was raised several inches for better drainage, and new catch basins constructed.

American Youth Still Courageous, Says Writer

Editor The Post:

On the front page of September 12th's Post I had the pleasure of reading what "a college boy" thinks of the war. I'm a college boy myself, so I thought it might be worth while comparing our points of view.

The main theme put forth by my friend of Sept. 12 is a comparison between the college man of the first World War and his counterpart today. The conclusions are that the young college man 25 years ago had "rich, red blood," boundless enthusiasm for army service, and a rather glib mind; while the college man today is just the opposite—no "rich, red blood," no enthusiasm for army service, no glib mind. At least, that's what the college man of last Friday's Post tells us.

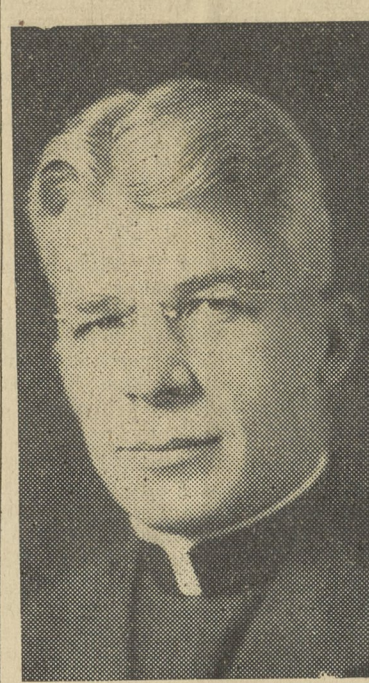
Unfortunately, I disagree on all three points. First of all regarding the "rich, red blood." The men of 1914-18 had plenty of courage, but do the young men of 1941 have less? Do the young men of the R. A. F. look like a weak-kneed crew? Do the young British women seem particularly terror-stricken? We all know the answer to that one. Then why presume that the American youth of today can't hold their own? Are we so blasted degenerate? Give us a chance, we'll show you.

The young man of September 12 tells us that the men of World War days were wild about joining the army. Let's look it over. On July 28, 1914, Britain and France went to war with Germany. Not until almost three years later, on April 6, 1917, did we declare war and begin training an army. Then, after atrocity stories from Belgium, after the sinking of the Lusitania, after indescribable submarine warfare was under way, after we had declared war—then the college men and all the other young men were rip-roarin' ready to fight. Look at the situation today. The war is

barely two years old, organized German counter-propaganda has just recently been shut off, indiscriminate sub warfare has hardly begun, we have not declared war. Yet, what do we find in America? We find a peace-time conscript army, an expanding navy, a growing air force, an awakening population. A year ago many young men weren't too enthusiastic about leaving college, or leaving good jobs, and going into the army. Do you think the boys would have been crazy about the idea in the spring of 1915, a year after the first war started? No one wants to drop his salaried position, his family life, his plans for the future unless it seems absolutely necessary—he must pause to think it out. The American people have thought this out for two years now. They've watched Hitler houndwork the world long enough. They've seen him always have the jump on everyone else. Now the American people are ready to beat him at his own game. Read about the number of enlistments. These boys aren't waiting to be drafted. They're taking the bull by the horns.

There's still one more point to be cleared up. It used to be said that the men of 1914-18 were suckers for a slogan like "Save the World for Democracy." Don't you believe it! They were fighting to save our way of life—freedom of speech, press, religion; trial by jury, open elections, and the rest. We have that here now, and in England. It was in France 'till France fell. We have here, and in England, the will to go on and try again—despite the chaos of broken treaties, rearmament, depression, and then this Hitler. Many good men have fainted. Like the isolationists they have preferred to get away from it all—ostrich-like, to hide their head in the sand. This is the great pity of the 20's and 30's in America. Disillusion, defeatism, and cynicism hand in hand. The debunkers and misbelievers—those who pooh

"Know Your Neighbor"



Rev. H. G. Durkin

Father Durkin Is Dynamic Leader

St. Therese Owes Its Success To Its Pastor

From a geographical aspect alone, St. Therese's R. C. Church and its pastor, Rev. Harold G. Durkin, wield a considerable influence.

The more than 1000 parishioners of the Shavertown church . . . including those who attend mass at the Our Lady of Victory chapel at Harvey's Lake . . . are drawn from all corners of the Back Mountain region, their homes scattered along miles of lonely country road and in a dozen widely separated towns and hamlets. With its boundaries embracing some seven townships in the neighborhood of Dallas, St. Therese's is easily the most far-flung parish in the Scranton Diocese.

And oddly enough the parish is as noted for its unity and communal works as for its great scope. When St. Therese's was founded, its members were taken from many churches in the valley . . . Irish, German, Italian, Slovak, Polish, Lithuanian . . . and most of them knew each other solely through the church itself. St. Therese's was not bound together by the natural neighborhood ties of parishes in more thickly settled regions, but rather was amassed from the Catholic folk of many different and sometimes intensely rival communities. That it has reached any measure of real internal unity is somewhat sur-

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Kiwanis Will Equip Borough Safety Patrol

Directors Agree To Buy Standards; Six Man Patrol At Work

Furthering the campaign of local service clubs to safeguard school children here from increased traffic hazards, spokesmen of the Dallas Kiwanis Club promised borough school directors Friday night that the club will purchase complete outfits for a school boy patrol, including sam brownie belts, caps and raincoats.

James Coates, Harold Flack and Mert Swartwood, representing the Kiwanis, suggested that the school board buy traffic control standards to aid the patrol in its work, and a resolution for the purchase of the standards was unanimously passed by the board. Six will be bought and placed in pairs at the intersection of Mill street and the new highway, the bottom of Huntsville road and at Franklin street opposite the high school.

Prof. T. A. Williamme, supervising principal of Dallas schools, disclosed at the meeting that a half-dozen boys are already patrolling the three dangerous intersections, and that with Police Chief Walter Covert directing traffic at Main street and the new highway, they have handled the situation well.

According to Mr. Flack, the Kiwanis is discussing formation of a patrol for Dallas township schools with the township school board, and will also furnish equipment for that group. Uniforms for the Dallas patrol will cost about \$50 he said.

At the business session of the school board, salaries of the three new borough teachers, Melva M. Carl, Robert Henderson and George Lewis, were fixed at \$1,200 annually, and it was agreed that uncollectible per capita taxes for 1934 to 1940 as indicated by Tax Collector Arthur R. Dungey would be exonerated.

J. George Ayre was appointed to get prices for repairs to the gymnasium, and John T. Jeter prices for repairs to gutters. Three notes due at the First National Bank were ordered paid, and purchase of office supplies amounting to \$33 approved.

Local Band Plays At Wyoming Fair

School Players Give Concert Tomorrow

The Dallas Borough High School band will play its first concert of the year Saturday afternoon and evening at Tunkhannock, as one of the main attractions of the Wyoming County Fair.

The 55-piece outfit, made up of both boy and girl students of the high school and known as one of the best scholastic bands in the county, is scheduled to leave Dallas tomorrow at 10:30, and is to take the stand on the fair grounds at noon. The concert, directed by the new music instructor at the borough school, Robert Henderson, of Forty Fort, will be delivered between acts of the afternoon and evening shows.

Natly arrayed in uniforms of white trousers, blue capes, blue vests trimmed in yellow and blue overalls caps, the players leave for Tunkhannock from the school in a caravan of private automobiles.

The following pieces will make up the program: "Prestige" and "Dawn Break" by Douglas; "Liberty Bell" by Sousa; "March of the Champions" by Huffer; "Yare," an overture by Bennett; "Anchors Aweigh"; "Havana," a Cuban serenade by Bennett, and "The Thunderer" by Sousa.

Members of the band include Graydon Mayer, Betty Jones, Warren DeWitt, Peter Roushey, William Wagner, Thomas Brown, Victor McCarty, Harold Bogart, Betty Welsh, Helen Kocher, Lois Bryant—trumpets; Bud Nelson, Mary Jane Hislop, John Fink, Robert Moore, Marjorie Wood—saxophones; Frank Kuehn, Gertrude Moore, Hester Jeter, Donald Verillie, Claudia Shaver, Betty Bryant, Patricia Ferry, Jean Monk—clarinets; Lester McCarty—mellophone; Kenneth Cosgrove—baritone; Richard Oliver—bell lyra; Alden LeGrand, Jack Nelson, Arthur Garinger—trombones; Lewis Kelly, Joseph Urban, Henry Urban, William Still, Edward Tutak, Ralph Templin—percussion; Donald Cosgrove, Ralph Antrim—basses; Nancy Swartz—flute; drum major, Robert Moore; drum majorettes, Jane Von Arx, Virginia Ferry, Nancy Hislop.

THE POST WANTS:

1. Permanent and legible street markings and numerals on all homes in Dallas, Shavertown, and Trucksville.
2. Emphasis locally on activities which will train men and women in national defense measures.
3. The installation of fire plugs in Dallas Borough.
4. The construction of a new, shorter highway between Dallas and Harvey's Lake before 1942.
5. Centralization of police protection in the Dallas area.
6. More sidewalks.