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Editorially Speaking:

Costs Of Tax Collection Must Be Cut

Along with increased taxes for school purposes in all Back Mountain communities, the costs of tax collection have risen considerably in the past four years.

Since the collectors in this area are paid on a percentage basis every increase in the millage rate for State, County Municipality and Schools means a similar increase in the tax collector's take.

This is a problem faced in many rapidly expanding suburban communities throughout the State.

In the Harrisburg area, for example, "there are a dozen boroughs and townships where," according to the Harrisburg Patriot, "tax collectors are now making from \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year."

Municipal officials and school directors should take a good hard look at the rates they are paying out and act accordingly.

Fortunately something can be done about it! This is brought to the attention of the community this week in a letter to THE POST written by John Cashmark of Trucksville.

It is a letter that everyone who is interested in some economy in government should read.

In a nut shell here is what has happened and here is what can be done about it.

The costs of tax collection for Dallas Union School District—composed of Dallas Borough, Kingston, Dallas and Franklin Townships—have now risen to about \$19,600 a year. This is a sizeable sum and considerably higher than when the taxpayers of Dallas Borough, as an example, were paying 78.7 mills instead of the current 105.1 mills plus \$10 per capita and personal property taxes.

The present rates for tax collection in various subdivisions making up the Union District are: 5 percent in Dallas Borough; 4 percent, until the penalty period when the rate rises to 5%, in Dallas Township; 4 percent in Kingston Township, and a low of 3 percent in Franklin Township.

It would probably be the better part of sense to have all of the taxes for the Union District collected by one tax receiver at a lower percentage rate. This would automatically lower the costs of collection and at the same time give an adequate return to the collector.

Unfortunately a law passed in 1956 prevents the School Board from appointing one collector or any other collector than those duly elected.

There is, however, another way out. The School Boards and municipalities can cut the percentage they pay for tax collections. This would seem to be fair. Local tax collectors believe this is right for it costs them no more time to write 65 or 100 mills on their tax cards than it does to write in 25 mills.

But if school boards and municipalities are going to take action officials of these districts will have to move fast. The law stipulates that the only time taxing districts can slash rates whether the collectors like it or not is every four years when the collection posts are up for election.

This is one of those years and according to State fiscal experts the deadline is March 10, less than two months from now.

What does the law provide for taxing districts that wish to slash present commission rates?

Borough Councils and Township Supervisors, in payment for municipal taxes collected, must hold to a percentage basis. The upper limit is 5 percent of taxes collected, except in first class townships where the compensation cannot exceed \$10,000. There is no lower limit.

School districts are permitted under the School Code to pay on a percentage or salary basis. The upper limit is five percent or its equivalent in salary. There is no lower limit.

County Commissioners also pay on a percentage basis. They are faced with a different problem since they deal with many tax collectors.

According to Section 36.1 of the Local Tax Collection Law the deadline for changing the percentage rate is "10 days prior to the last day fixed by law for candidates to withdraw their names from nomination previous to the day for municipal elections."

The Primary is fixed as the third Tuesday in May. This year it will be May 10. Candidates must file for nomination no later than 64 days before the Primary. That would be March 13. They have seven days after filing to withdraw. The last day for that is March 20 and so the deadline for action to reduce the costs of tax collection is March 10.

SUCCESSFUL INVESTING ...

Q. I keep hearing about the need for diversification, but how can a small investor diversify when real diversification would mean holding only one or two shares of each stock?

A. You are correct in thinking that diversification of this sort is carrying a good thing too far. If diversification strikes you as a good thing, do it as you go along. In a reasonable time you'll come to a fair approximation of it. There is more than one kind of diversification and one variety of it can be started even with a small portfolio. That is diversification by objectives, splitting your investments up into stocks with good stability and security of return and those with smaller return, but greater prospects of capital gains. High-grade stocks can be found in both categories, so that as a beginning investor you will not be neglecting the basic objective of protecting the principal.

Q. Is it a good sign when the officers and directors of a company hold substantial amounts of stock in that company?

A. It often is, but such holdings alone are not a signal to buy the stock. On the surface, substantial share ownership by management argues that those in best position to know the future direction of the company think that it's on the way up. But such ownership should be studied against the background of sales, earnings and dividends over a period of years. The nature of stock-option plans, if in existence, should also be studied. In some instances, notably in the case of relatively new companies, a large management interest reflects the fact that those who started the company are still in the saddle and this may have no bearing on the investment quality of the stock.

Editor's note: Questions on investment may be addressed to the author of this column in care of this newspaper. Those of general interest will be answered in this column. It will be understood that no questions can be answered by mail.

Looking at T-V

With GEORGE A. and EDITH ANN BURKE

Complete Coverage of the Presidential Inauguration will be carried by ABC-TV, Bill Shadel, ABC commentator, will serve as anchor man for the coverage, which will be provided by more than 20 cameras at the Capitol and along the parade route, plus pooled camera positions where space limitations do not permit ABC-TV to have its own cameras.

Coverage is expected to include the President-elect's departure from his Georgetown home, his arrival at the White House where he will be joined by President Eisenhower, their ride to the Capitol, the preparations for the ceremonies and the ceremonies themselves.

Following a brief luncheon at the Capitol, President Kennedy will take his place at the head of the parade and lead it up Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. There he will take his position in the reviewing stand to review the entire parade, which is expected to last more than two hours.

ABC-TV cameras and commentators along with the other networks will keep the President in view through-out the program, except when he is waiting in the Capitol for the ceremonies to begin and during a portion of the luncheon.

Inauguration sidelights — David Brinkley, who will be covering inaugural festivities for NBC-TV reports that not all of our Presidents went to their Inauguration in long pants. In fact, the commentator reports, it wasn't until 1825 and the Inauguration of John Quincy Adams that our Presidents decided against the knee breeches for full-length trousers.

One of the most ornate Inaugurations was Washington's second Inaugural. President Washington rode behind a team of six silvery horses. He was dressed in a black velvet suit, had long black silk stockings, sported diamond buckles on his knees and shoes, and carried a plain cocked hat in his hand. Two attendants with long white wands cleared a path for him.

Thoughts On Leaving—How does the outgoing President feel on Inauguration Day—having a world of responsibility one minute and virtually none the next.

One commentator has some answers ready.

Ray Scherer traveled with Harry S. Truman on his train trip back to Missouri the day he became a former President. As White House correspondent, he has covered Dwight D. Eisenhower throughout the eight years of his administration.

On the train trip back to Independence, citizen Truman was "independent but aloof," Scherer recalls. "He kept coming through the Pullman car that we half-dozen reporters occupied and talking to us—as if he didn't want to cut him self loose from the outside world too suddenly.

"The next morning when he asked him what was the first thing he had done on reaching his home as an ex-President, Mr. Truman said: 'I carried the grips up to the attic.' Somehow that remark told the story more precisely than anything else

Rambling Around

By The Oldtimer — D. A. Waters

Of course the big historical Indian story of this area is the Battle of Wyoming and following Massacre July 3, 1778. Since this is almost a household word to native residents, any account in the column would be superfluous. The numerous historical markers along route 309 northward awake an interest in events not so well known.

It is said the Susquehannocks, called by the French Andastes, had about forty villages along the river. In the early 1600's the Iroquois started down the river and gradually drove them out. There was a village at Tunkhannock reported in 1756 with a hundred Indians and probably smaller villages at Mehoopany and Meshoppen. Wyalusing was an important Indian place and Tioga Point more so. The combined Tory and Indian force which attacked the Wyoming Valley congregated near Tunkhannock and left their canoes in the vicinity a few days before they struck.

On September 14 following the Massacre, Captain Spalding with fifty-eight men and Captain John Franklin with twelve men, mostly valley residents returned after the battle, marched down the river to Shickshinny, then across the mountains to Muncy, joining Col. Thomas Hartley in a punitive expedition. Swimming rivers at midnight, making long hard marches, and fighting along the way, they struck and burned Queen Ester's Town, near Tioga Point, on September 27. They arrived at Wyalusing at 11 o'clock the following night. The next day they ran into an Indian force on a hill about four miles south of Wyalusing and, defeated them, but this did not stop sporadic raids on both branches of the Susquehanna, in one of which Frances Slocum was captured right in Wilkes-Barre.

On March 23, 1779 about 250 Indians attacked Fort Wyoming, burned some barns, and carried off about fifty cattle. The Congress belatedly decided to do something and authorized a real army move against the Iroquois, not only as a punitive measure but to prevent

their aid to the British.

Major General John Sullivan, appointed to command, started from Easton and assembled his army at Wilkes-Barre where for five weeks supplies were accumulated. Eventually the following were organized and ready to go: Proctor's Pennsylvania Artillery, Poor's New Hampshire Brigade, Maxwell's New Jersey Brigade, the 11th Pennsylvania Continentals, a German regiment, and Schotts Independent Corps. The troops furnished by Pennsylvania were comparatively few in number causing much criticism. The army had eight pieces of artillery and ammunition, salt meat, flour, other supplies and baggage, loaded into 214 boats and on 1220 pack horses. A heard of 600 cattle was driven along for fresh meat. The whole army made a line about two miles long on the march and in a day made only the distance we make now in a few minutes. The route was along the river, requiring three days to Tunkhannock and seven to Sheshequin. A Fort was built at Tioga called Fort Sullivan. Here General James Clinton joined with additional troops from New York. The Indian town of Chemung was easily taken but the Indians put up a fight on a hill near Newtown about fifteen miles from Tioga. About two hundred and fifty Tories, under the same John Butler, who had commanded them at Wyoming, assisted the Indians but they were soundly defeated. The Indians assembled for a two-day council at Queen Catherine's Town near Montour Falls and decided to abandon everything and flee to Fort Niagara. This town had thirty or forty good houses with fine cornfields and orchards. All through the Finger Lakes country were found laid out towns of good houses, barns, stacks of hay, horses and cattle, fine gardens in which were growing onions, peas, beans, squashes, potatoes, turnips, cabbages, cucumbers and melons. The orchards contained apples, peaches, and pears. In all about forty towns were destroyed, also the orchards and growing crops.

ONLY YESTERDAY

Ten and Twenty Years Ago In The Dallas Post

IT HAPPENED 30 YEARS AGO:

A traffic accident near Harters Dairy injured three persons, one seriously. Jean Dixon, 24, had a leg amputated, and lost the other foot. The car in which she was a passenger skidded on the ice, crashed into a Ford driven by William A. Austin of Beaumont. Richard Puterbaugh of Shavertown, driving another Ford, crashed into the wreckage.

Frank W. Moore, 64, died at his home in Idetown.

Editor of the Twin Falls Daily News, Idaho, pays a tribute to Macy Hoover, formerly of Dallas, who died December 5, citing his outstanding contribution to education as founder and owner of the Gregg Business College at Twin Falls.

Twelve inch ice is providing heavy freight traffic, as harvesters find good cutting weather at Mountain Springs.

George S. Baer, lifelong resident of Hunlock Creek is buried at Oakdale.

Game Commission has purchased and released 156 raccoons. Thousands of live rabbits are being shipped in from Missouri.

Mrs. James Patton, Noxen, suffered a fatal heart attack, aged 71. Sixty free tickets to the Himmeler Theatre will be given away by the Dallas Post.

The shortest route between Washington, D. C. and Ottawa, Canada, runs directly through Dallas.

Game law prosecutions are at an all-time high as families in need of food hunt out of season.

IT HAPPENED 20 YEARS AGO:

All First National directors are reelected, and C. A. Frantz retains the presidency.

Influenza is sweeping Idetown and Lehman.

Dallas firemen will produce a show written by Fred Kiefer and John Heffernan, "Let Us Take Council."

William Bennett, Trucksville school director died of a heart attack following pneumonia.

Mrs. Alice Weaver, daughter of pioneer settlers of Vernon, is dead at 75.

Mrs. Ada E. Holcomb, Huntsville, is celebrating her 86th birthday.

Elizabeth Niehmeyer of Dallas became the bride of Edward Jones of Baltimore January 11.

Entries for the 25th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show are breaking all records.

Benjamin F. Winters of Loyallville died at his home, aged 61.

Free Methodist Church in Trucksville was damaged by an overheated furnace pipe. Shavertown, Trucksville and Dallas responded to the alarm.

Fred Kehrl of Factoryville, area dog-catcher, issues a last warning to owners of unlicensed dogs.

Good skating at Harveys Lake.

AND 10 YEARS AGO:

A public forum is to be held on school jointure at Kingston Township high school January 23. The Citizens Committee will answer questions.

Charles Hemenway writes up the Farm Show, listing local winners: Ralph Sands, yearling heifers; Hillside Farms, shorthorns.

Ducks flock to White Lake, where there is some open water.

Grace Barrall heads the model installation of FHA at the Farm Show in Harrisburg. Grace is president of Lehman and Luzerne County FHA.

Kenneth Hughes, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hughes, Trucksville, is recovering slowly after a sledding accident.

Mrs. Nellie Blizzard, 80, died at her home in Noxen after a long illness.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Ball, mother of Mrs. Lloyd Kear, died at Minersville. Leona Cigarski, Chase, became the bride of Carl A. Aston, of Hunlock Creek.

Ruth Wilson Laurence, Massachusetts, is wed to John Durbin, a former resident of Dallas.

SAFETY VALVE

CALLING CARDS

To the people of Dallas Twp.,

Our deep appreciation to all of you nice folks in the Dallas area for your warm welcome and many kindnesses to us newcomers to this beautiful country.

But please—won't you keep your dogs at home? Our back yard seems to be a public meeting place (and comfort station) for all the dogs in Luzerne county. Our own pet, in accordance with the local ordinance, is confined on a short rope, a rope which he breaks almost daily in his panting efforts to run loose with his "visitors." Calling cards" of the latter can be buried in the snow—but I shudder to think of the spring and summer months, when we will want to use our yard and patio for other things besides a way side rest for stray dogs.

New resident

Hislops Remarried

Louise Williams Hislop and Robert Wayne Hislop, Franklin Street, Dallas, were remarried in Dallas Methodist Church on Friday, January 6. Rev. Russell Lawry performed the ceremony in Dallas Methodist Church.

From Pillar To Post ...

by HIX

There are some odd sidelights to the recent upheaval around the office at the Dallas Post.

Howard called up late Saturday afternoon. "We've been changing things around a little, he confided," and you'd better drop around to see how you like it."

"Does it make any difference whether I like it or not?" "You'll have a lot more room. Come and have a look."

Inspection proved that I did have more room. Right in the middle of a lobby, with traffic tramping past.

On Monday, when I took over the new desk, I found I was going to have to trim my sails. No more hunching down over the typewriter and ignoring the cash customers at the counter on the grounds that they were invisible.

This desk is right in the lime-light (whatever that is) and there is no concealment.

In fact, there is no concealment, period. For anything. I was beating out a spot of copy with smoke spiralling up from the typewriter, when Howard glanced in my direction.

"I see you roll your socks," he announced blithely. "I'm the flapper type," I responded, whisking down my skirt.

Then I readjusted my typewriter table so that it faced the wall, flanked on one side by a filing cabinet, on the other by a tall bookcase.

It's these modern short skirts, tight all the way down, with no gores to afford a little ease.

But you never know how they look, until you arrange a group of women for a photograph, or chance to sit just below the head table, which seldom has a long enough tablecloth to cover the situation.

The next morning I came in and demonstrated. "See? No rolled socks."

"Well, well," he responded in a congratulatory tone of voice, "and I seem to detect a slight slimming of the waist-line, too."

"That, Howard," I disillusioned him, "is a fragment of the imagination."

"How DO you hold them up, then?" he wanted to know. "That, Howard, is my little secret, but I'll let you in on it. I do it with thumbtacks."

Homes On Wheels Have Grown Up Into Modern House Trailers

Homes on wheels have grown up since the first Reo Speed-Wagon in 1924 tailored a truck body to accommodate four passengers, for eating and sleeping, with wings that let down at night to form two double beds, and adjusted during the day to form backs for the couches.

None of the amenities were considered. There was a small gasoline powered stove, but everything requiring water was left up to the filling stations.

The sixty-foot monsters that tour the nation's highways at the present day, or establish themselves permanently in trailer courts are a far cry from the home-made jobs that succeeded the Reo Speed-Wagons.

Some of the trailers come in sections, to be put together upon arrival, simulating a modern house with a gently peaked roof. One such trailer may be seen at the trailer park near Dallas Outdoor Theatre.

A morning call on Mrs. Stanley Farr at White Birch Trailer Court was illuminating.

Mrs. Farr much prefers living in a trailer to living in a house. Trailers have changed a lot since the first one she lived in at Chattanooga, Tennessee, while her husband was engaged in construction work at the air force base shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

The couple had three children, and three children looked like a whole herd in a thirty-foot trailer. In those days, there was no water, no disposal plant. Construction workers' trailers, parked in a farm yard at great profit to the farmer, had access to a fairly substantial Chic Sale. Trailer owners carried water by the bucket, and if a child upset the bucket, it classified as a catastrophe.

The Farr trailer had a couch at either end, and a gasoline stove that had to be pumped up. Trailers had not yet taken on the modern look.

A great many were carpentered to order and built short enough so there was no problem in hitching the car and taking off. Most modern trailers require truck service.

The Farris abandoned trailer living when they moved to their home on Leigh Street in Trucksville. For sixteen years they gave not another thought to trailers.

And then they dropped in at the White Birch Trailer Camp for a visit.

The fifty and sixty foot trailers were modern and delightfully livable, equipped with small furnaces, efficiently engineered kitchen and bath, plenty of privacy, beautifully decorated, and with every cubic inch of space cleverly utilized.

Three years ago they moved to White Birch.

A look out of the glass-lookered windows showed a number of small children playing around. Space between trailers showed lopsided snowmen. A two-year old sat down hard on the slippery road, and roared. His mother rescued him.

"How does it work, having small children in a trailer? Aren't they under foot all the time? And how is it possible to keep up with the laundry?"

Mrs. Farr knew the answer to that one. "Aren't small children under foot all the time anyway, no matter how big the house is? It's easier to keep track of them if they can't get too far away. And as for the laundry, many of these trailers have combination washers and dryers."

"How about you? Do you have a washer?" "No, I do things the easy way. I take my laundry to the Laundromat, and while I shop, it washes itself, and while I shop a little more, it dries in the big cylinder."

There is space at the White Birch for twenty-four trailers. There is a certain amount of moving in and out, but a surprising number of trailers stay put. There's one man, a retired baker, who used to spend

Mrs. Alvin A. Shaffer

Is Showing Improvement

Mrs. Alvin A. Shaffer is making good progress after returning home from Nesbitt Memorial Hospital where she was treated after suffering a stroke on the night of December 20. A well-liked member of the cafeteria staff at Westmoreland High School, Dolly wishes to thank the many students, members of the faculty and friends who sent her lovely flowers and cards during her hospital stay.

She still has little grip in her left hand but she has been able to walk out on the porch three days this week.