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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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Sixty-Five Top Musicians Of Seven Schools To Give Band Concert Here

West Side Conference Group Will Later Play At Fine Arts Fiesta In Wilkes-Barre

A select group of musicians from the seven schools of the West Side Conference will present a band concert at Dallas Senior High School auditorium Thursday evening, April 5 at 8.

This will be the eighth annual program for this organization but will be the first time that Dallas has been the host.

The seven schools and their directors are: Dallas, Lester R. Lewis; Edwardsville, Anthony Kane; Exeter, Ross Tarantino; Forty Fort, Reese E. Pelton; Wyoming, Vito Mazzei; West Wyoming, Geno Marchetti; Lake-Lehman, John Milauskas.

President of the West Side Conference organization is John Milauskas and the conductors for the Festival Band are: Lester R. Lewis and Reese E. Pelton.

The Festival Band is made up of approximately sixty-five selected players who rehearse every Thursday evening. Both directors and players give their own free time to advance the cause of better band music.

The calibre of music used for the band is superior to what any one individual band might attempt to perform. Each year two different directors are selected to conduct the group. For both directors and students, this is an excellent musical experience.

The program on April 5 will be the second appearance of the group this year. The first was at Teacher's Institute on October 25.

The band has also been invited to play at the Fine Arts Fiesta, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, on May 19.

An excellent program of concert band literature has been selected for the Dallas concert. Included are selections from Lohengrin, a melodic caravan (selections of popular themes) march, and chorale, On The Mall march.

There will be two special numbers—Sax Serenade which features a saxophone quartet and Slide Kicks, which features the entire trombone section. Dorothy Eck and Richard Ratcliffe will provide organ music before and after the concert.

For Back Mountain music lovers this program should be a must. There will be no admission charge.

\$80,274.40 To Be Distributed Here

Eight Back Mountain municipalities are among the 2,561 political subdivisions in the Commonwealth that will receive a share of \$27 million Liquid Fuels Tax which will be distributed starting April 1 by the State Department of Highways.

The money will be used for construction and maintenance of local streets, roads and bridges.

The amount coming to the Back Mountain area will be \$80,274.40. Allocations are based on the mileage of local roads within the political subdivision and on the population of the municipality. The formula for 1962 is \$291.93 for each mile in each subdivision and \$1.06 per capita for each person within its confines. The formula is 60 percent of mileage and 40 percent on population as specified in Act 655.

Amounts to be received by each Back Mountain municipality with its population and miles of roads are listed as follows: Dallas Township, \$11,080.61, population 4,053, miles of roads 23.24, Dallas Borough, \$5,891.06, population 2,586, miles of roads 10.79; Franklin Township, \$5,501.49, population 880, miles 15.64; Jackson Township, \$8,063.88, population 1,364, miles 22.67; Kingston Township, \$13,942.24, population 5,450, miles 27.97; Lake Township, \$11,067.27, population 1,895, miles 31.03; Lehman Township, \$12,852.69, population 2,318, miles 35.61; Ross Township \$11,875.16, population 1,360, miles 35.74.

Distribution of the 90 percent in April was started by Governor George M. Leader in 1958 and has enabled municipalities to undertake substantial construction work during the summer months.

Allocation of \$30,000,000 annually to the municipalities is authorized by Act 655 enacted in 1956, as amended by Act 8 in 1961. The \$27,000,000, ninety percent of the total allocation, is being made in April so that the municipalities may construct necessary projects during the summer months.

The remaining 10 percent will be distributed in October.

SURPLUS FOOD

Surplus Food distribution will take place Thursday, April 12, at Truckville Fire Hall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Back Mountain residents.

Rotary Honors James Besecker Charter Member

Active In Business And Civil Affairs In The Community

James F. Besecker, one of the staunchest community supporters Dallas ever had was honored Thursday evening by Dallas Rotary Club at its 35th Anniversary dinner held at Irem Country Club. A charter member, and Rotary's third president, Jim was awarded a desk plaque fashioned of anthracite coal, bearing his name, an inscription, and the Rotary seal.



JAMES F. BESECKER

District Governor Elmer Daniels made the presentation.

Atty. James F. Conway, Rockville Center, N. Y., appointed to a number of International Rotary committees, and presently a candidate for Director of Rotary International in Northeastern United States, made the main address.

Honored also was Rotary Exchange Student from Holland, Elsiebeth Gerrits, introduced by president James Alexander, and given an orchid by Mrs. Jack Stanley, president of Women of Rotary.

Dallas cheerleaders, winners of the Bloomsburg competition, coached by Miss Engler, demonstrated their skill.

The evening ended with dancing to music by Bobby Baird's orchestra.

Mr. Besecker, since Dallas Rotary was formed in 1927 at the old Raub Hotel, has held about every office in the Club. He was its first secretary, its third president. The secretaryship was his for many years.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company, organized the same year as Dallas Rotary, elected Jim fire chief year after year, fifteen in all. Jim was one of a committee which selected the original fire truck, the Mack pumper still in use as an auxiliary engine. With the late Harry L. Ohlman and Henry Peterson, Jim worked for installation of fire plugs in Dallas.

Jim knows where every pond and every stream is located in Dallas Borough or Dallas Township, every back road, and how to get to a place in a hurry.

For eight years he was secretary of Dallas Borough School Board, and for fourteen years secretary of Dallas Borough Council.

For the past twelve years he has been in the Real Estate business in Dallas, recently establishing ground floor quarters in his new building on Main Street, having moved from the second floor in the Gregory Building.

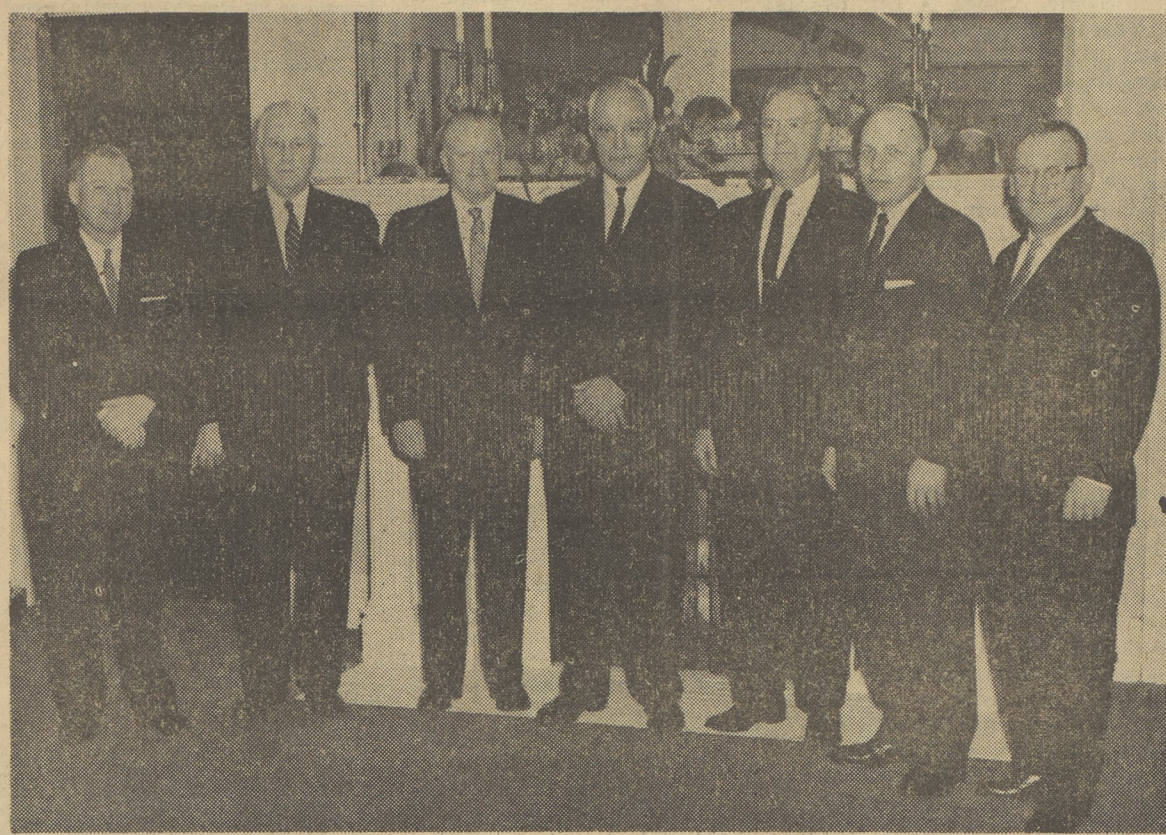
Prior to that time, he operated the Atlantic filling station in central Dallas, on the site of the Old Raub Hotel where Rotary was founded. For many years he owned the Ford agency, building the structure on Lake Street which now houses the Dodge agency under L. L. Richardson.

The face of Dallas has changed, Jim says, but it is a place of unlimited opportunity to a man with vision. With the current plans to widen the highway from Luzerne, Mr. Besecker sees more and more Valley residents moving to the Back Mountain, and more and more opportunity for up and coming businessmen.

Mrs. Besecker is the former Emily Conner. There are six children living; a twin died some years ago when a little boy. All the children have at one time or another taken an active part in the community. The youngest, Robert, 22, who lives in Silver Springs, Maryland can hardly wait to get home so that he can answer ambulance or fire calls.

Son Delmar lives in Wilkes-Barre; Beverly Craig in Nuttley, N. J.; Virginia Nichols, in Truckville; Jim Jr., in East Dallas; and Donald in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Dallas Rotary Prepares To Honor A Sterling Citizen



Where is the charter member of Dallas Rotary who was honored at the 35th anniversary of Dallas Rotary Thursday night at Irem Country Club? When the picture was taken early in the evening, his identity was still under wraps, and James F. Besecker himself was completely unsuspecting. Left to right are: John Landis, Fred Jennings, Attorney James Conway, speaker; District Governor Elmer Daniels, W. B. Jeter, James Alexander, and Dr. L. E. Jordan.

Reading Conference At Misericordia Draws Many Teachers



In this group of teachers attending College Misericordia's Reading Conference on Saturday are many teachers from Dallas Elementary Schools. They include Edythe Kromelbein, Ruth Novy, James Goodwin, Hilda Bredbenner, William A. Austin, Joyce Gordon, Leila Anskis, Hannah James, Katherine Scott, Mary Emmanuel, Walter Prokopchak, Ruth Ambrose, Antonette Mason, Grace Fleming, Manta Steele, Louise Colwell, Oce B. Austin, Thelma Lamoreaux, John Mulhern, Sarah Mitten, Adaline Burgess, Eva McGuire, Marion Young, Georgianna Weidner, Margaret Garis, Mary Mohr, Margaret Hughes, Sarah Welker, Alice Yaple, Dorothy Henney, Arlene Trimble, Freda Huzghey.

Many Educators Derive Benefit From Reading Conference At Misericordia

Prominent among the 400 educators who attended College Misericordia's Third Annual Reading Conference March 23-24 were approximately seventy teachers and administrators from the Dallas area. Sister M. Celestine, R.S.M., president of College Misericordia, expressed appreciation for their cooperation, mentioning their large contribution in all stages of conference development.

Serving on the executive committee were: Lester B. Squier, supervising principal, Lake-Lehman area; and William A. Austin, elementary supervisor, Dallas Schools. On the planning committee were: Mrs. Louise Colwell, Dallas, Mrs. Catherine C. Fynn, Sweet Valley, Anthony Marchakitus, principal, Lake-Lehman High School; Chester Molley, Dallas Senior High School; John J. Mulhern, Principal, Westmoreland School, was chairman of Dr. Helen Murphy's workshop on The Teaching of Reading in Elementary Grades.

Mrs. Colwell arranged to have her fourth grade class from Dallas Elementary School used in demonstration by Dr. Helen Murphy, professor of education at Boston University. Anthony Marchakitus, Lake-Lehman, assembled a group of sophomores for demonstration by Miss Rosemary Wilson, assistant curriculum director of Philadelphia Schools, in her workshop on High School Reading Instruction in the Content Area.

William A. Austin is seen in the picture with a group of Dallas teachers attending the post-luncheon session on Saturday afternoon when Sister Caroline, I.H.M., author of Breaking the Sound Barrier, spoke on technique in phonetic analysis. National reading authority, Dr. Morton Botel, assistant superintendent Bucks County Schools, president-elect of the International Reading Association, gave the opening address Friday evening. A Total Approach to Reading. Chairman was the Right Reverend Monsignor John J. Maher, LL.D., Superintendent of Schools in the Scranton Diocese.

Misericordia's Reading Conference was designed to meet reading problems on three levels. Techniques and procedures were discussed and demonstrated by national reading authorities in lectures and workshops. A workshop on The Slow Learner in the Classroom which considered problems met by teachers on the junior high school level was conducted by Dr. Betty Davis, professor of education, Pennsylvania State University.

Exchange students from New Zealand, India, Denmark and Holland will take part in the Assembly Program at Dallas Senior High School Friday at 1:15. All of the students are here under the Rotary Exchange program and are attending institutions of learning in East Stroudsburg, Plymouth, Kingston, Forty Fort and Scranton. The program will be in the nature of a forum with a High School student acting as moderator and exchange students giving their impressions of America.

Prior to the program in the auditorium the exchange students will be entertained at luncheon in the cafeteria. Later they will have an opportunity to visit classrooms and make a tour of the building and perhaps, parts of the community. To Receive Award Back Mountain Protective Association has named Howard W. Risley, editor of The Dallas Post, to receive its Community Award at a dinner at Irem Temple Country Club May 8th.

Raymond Shiber, Civil War Buff, Dies Suddenly

Antique Collector And Gladioli Hybridizer Buried On Tuesday

Raymond Frederick Shiber, 77, whose active mind and zest for living led him during his long and useful lifetime to become a self-taught student of the Civil War, outstanding grower of prize gladioli and collector of antique colored glass died suddenly and as peacefully as he had lived while chatting Saturday night with Donald Pagelow and Mrs. Shiber in the living room of his home on Center Hill Road.

Mr. Shiber had not been ill. His death came without warning as he slumped in his chair in the same living room where a family friend Mrs. Wesley Himmler died so unexpectedly on a Saturday night some years ago in the company of friends. At that time Ray said, "that is the way I'd like to go."

The family physician Dr. Richard Crompton, and Dr. Harry Gallagher were summoned, both arriving at the same time, but there was nothing to be done. He died instantly.

A son of the late George and Isabel Jones Shiber, Ray was born in Pittston, December 18, 1884. His father died when he was about nine and his mother, a tiny Scots-woman, with Ray and her two younger children, Walter and Bertha, returned to live with her mother in West Pittston.

It was there that he formed a lifetime friendship with Atty. Burt B. Lewis whose family lived just two doors away.

His widowed mother married the late Alexander Veitch and the family moved to Mr. Veitch's farm at Demunds. There during Teachers Institute, around October 15, Burt and his brother would come to stay a week hunting birds with Ray and his brother Walter.

From his youth Ray loved the out-of-doors and to excel in whatever he undertook. One of his earliest fancies was raising little known and prize breeds of chickens. He exhibited at local fairs and in national competition, winning many ribbons.

What little formal education he obtained was in rural schools and at Keystone Academy, Factoryville, where he met the Mathewson brothers—Christy, who became the famed pitcher for the New York Giants, and his younger brother who, Ray always claimed, was "just as good a pitcher."

Ray loved all kinds of sports, and was himself a fast pitcher playing with many amateur teams.

It was during those formative years and later when he worked in Wilkes-Barre Record mail room that he became fascinated with the Civil War through conversations with veterans who daily refought its battles as they gathered about a North Main Street livery stable. One of them, a minister, asked Ray to accompany him whenever he was called to give a patriotic talk at a church. From these lectures, Ray became engrossed in the war.

To understand the background of its tactics and strategy he studied Napoleon's campaigns and frequently in later years drew comparisons between errors and triumphs of Union and Southern generals with those of Napoleon's Marshals. He visited practically every eastern battlefield and spent days tramping over the fields at Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg talking wherever he could with veterans, searching out in Soldiers' Homes men who could add light to some controversial action.

Many Interests But his study of the war did not narrow his interests. While equally versed on the early history of Wyoming Valley and Canal boat days, he turned his mind in later years to the culture of gladioli, growing acres of them on his fields in Dallas. He exhibited them in all of the big shows of the east, becoming so much an authority and hybridizer that his advice was sought out by leading horticulturists including the nationally famous Burpee growers. He was also a judge at many flower shows.

When he was no longer physically able to tend, himself, his beloved gladioli, he turned to the collection of antique colored glass, traveling hundreds of miles in company with Mrs. Shiber to find a rare piece of Mary Gregory glass in some out-of-the-way place.

Their collection spread out into every room, nook and corner of their shaded home on Center Hill Road and became the mecca of collectors from distant places including General Motors and DuPont executives. Ray could talk with anybody, and learned from them all, and Mrs. Shiber was his constant companion, attempting futilely to have him watch his English as well as the glass.

They would have been married fifty-six years next month. After moving from Wilkes-Barre to Dallas thirty-eight years ago, the Shibers became members of Dallas

Mrs. John Gunton, 28, Buffalo, N. Y. died March 10 after a brief illness at Roswell Park Memorial Institute.

Her husband is son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gunton, Noxen, with whom the three children, Charles, 4; David, 2; and Cynthia, 1, will make their home in Noxen.

POPULAR BEAUMONT CATCHER HOME FROM JEFFERSON HOSPITAL

Melvin Crispell, well-known Back Mountain baseball catcher who played for a time with the Boston Red Sox organization, is recuperating at his home in Buckwheat Hollow, where he returned last Thursday following twenty days at Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia.

Mel wishes to thank publicly George Shupp and all others who contributed so generously toward hospital expenses. Their kindness and thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

Mel caught for Dallas in the Wyoming League; played with the Church League and more recently played with Beaumont.

Dallas Hardware Open House Today, Fri. & Sat.

Door Prizes, Coffee, Doughnuts, Sodapop, Everybody Welcome

Today, 12:30 to 9, Friday 9 to 9, and Saturday 9 to 6, Dallas' new hardware store on Main Street will hold open house for everybody, offering door prizes, refreshments, and sociability.

The main prize is a riding lawnmower. Also offered are other prizes including an electric drill, Pyrex ware, Revere ware, flash lights, and an electric fry pan.

James Hutchinson, resident of Dallas for the past eight years, who personally supervised construction of his modern brick house on Franklin Street, had not expected to go into the hardware business after retiring from employment with Sordani Construction Company, but time hung heavy on his hands after his house was completed. He recognized the demand for a local hardware store, and had wide knowledge of builders' supplies.

During World War II, he served in the Pacific with the USS Navy, in such areas as Australia, and the Philippines. He is a former West Pittston man.

Thomas Bailey of Allentown, in the hardware business for forty-eight years, twenty-six of those years with Harris Hardware, is in charge of setting up the store and stocking it.

He was being assisted on Friday by Mrs. Helen Williams of Church Street, who will be on the store staff, and Elmer Williams, Dallas, Mr. Bailey will be present during the store open-house and for two weeks thereafter.

The shelves, which will be completely stocked by this morning, show a wide variety of essentials for building and upkeep, from plumb bobs and paints, to locks and bolts; garden tools in profusion; and on the pest prevention side, even a catch-em-alive rat trap.

Visit Business Places

Fifty Dallas High School Business Education Students visited Commonwealth Telephone, Miners Bank and the Dallas Post Wednesday.

Motor-Cycle Crash Spells 20th Birthday In Hospital

Daniel Grey, Loyalville Road, celebrated his 20th birthday yesterday at Nesbitt Hospital, where he was admitted Saturday afternoon after a motorcycle accident half a mile from his own home. Dragged by his motorcycle after striking a bump, he suffered a chipped ankle, was badly lacerated, and an injured collarbone. Original sutures were removed on Monday to permit better drainage.

Dan, home for the weekend from Schenectady, took off at 2 p.m. for a spin, crashing seconds later. His mother, Mrs. Leland Grey, and his brother Paul, 17, accompanied him in Harveys Lake Ambulance, after the cycle had been lifted by neighbors Floyd McRoy and Paul Meade.

Dan, a Lake-Lehman 1960 graduate, one of ten children, is with General Electric, his latest course one in blue-printing.

Methodist Church where Ray served on the Board. He was also a member of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Back Mountain Civil War Round Table, and numerous flower clubs and antique groups.

In addition to his wife, the former Clara Gilman, he leaves a brother Walter, Connecticut; sister, Mrs. Bertha Exler, Pittsburgh; half brothers Wiley and Clyde Veitch, Dallas; half sister Margaret Veitch, Dallas. Largely attended funeral services were held Tuesday in Dallas with his pastor, Rev. Russell Lawry of Dallas Methodist Church giving the eulogy. Pallbearers were: William Baker, Sr., David Evans, Donald Veitch, Donald Pagelow, Clyde Veitch and Wiley Veitch.

Interment was in Hanover Green Cemetery.

Plan Gala Day For New Openings At Shavertown

Postoffice, Bank And Hardware Store To Open On April 5

Opening of the new United States Postoffice, Wyoming National Bank and Back Mountain Hardware Company's new buildings in the Back Mountain Shopping Area at Shavertown on Thursday morning, April 5 will provide a gala occasion for all Back Mountain residents.

Officials of the Post Office Department, Congressman Daniel Flood, Representative Fred Shupnik, Bank Directors and other notables will be on hand for the official flag raising at the Postoffice at 9:30 a.m.

Although plans are now only tentative, it is expected that members of Daddow-Isaacs Post and possibly two school bands will take part in the ceremonies which will include the opening of Back Mountain Lumber and Coal Company's beautiful new store, already acclaimed as one of the outstanding hardware and gift stores outside the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

Visitors to the openings will also have an opportunity to look over the recently completed Shavertown Fire Company Building.

A more detailed account of the program for the day and next week will appear in next week's issue of The Post.

Annual Green Thumb Course

Starts Tuesday At Homemakers Holiday

Back Mountain YWCA Homemakers' Holiday classes at Shavertown YWCA will start Tuesday for an eight week period, again offering the "Green Thumb" course taught once each year by E. V. Chadwick of the Pennsylvania State University Extension School of Agriculture. He will advise on care of houseplants, outdoor landscaping, and all types of planting.

Bridge, taught by Miss Marion Welza provides an opportunity to learn a social skill that is a must. The Cornell system, a newer and easier way to learn bridge, will be used.

Golf will be taught by Mrs. George Montgomery, an expert golfer, the only term that golf will be offered. Those registering may bring their own clubs or use some that the YWCA has on hand.

Two separate classes in art will be taught by Mrs. John Vivian: a beginners' class in charcoal, and for more advanced students, painting in oils.

A dedicated group of bowlers meets every Tuesday morning after youngsters are settled in the pre-school playground. Registration is open to anyone else who would like to join the group.

Braille, taught by Mrs. Kenneth Bayliss, is now in progress and can take no additional students. Those desiring to learn Braille should register for next Fall. Many women with leisure time are so grateful for their own blessing of sight that they learn to serve the blind by transcribing material into Braille. Former teachers and people who live with blind elders, find this a most satisfactory leisure time activity. Those completing the course may submit a manuscript to the Library of Congress, pass this examination, and become certified Brailleists.

Outdoor and party cooking will be offered with each week a different expert.

The pre-school playroom is available at Shavertown Methodist Church, directed by Mrs. Guthrie Conyngham. Mrs. Thomas Hefferman 2nd, Mrs. Ray Turner Jr., and Mrs. Edward Brace.

Mrs. Alice Davis At Cleaners Convention

Mrs. Alice Davis, proprietor of Davis Cleaners in Truckville, attended over the past weekend the American Institute of Launderers and Dry Cleaners Convention at McCormick Place in Chicago, flying there and back. Mrs. Davis reports that she picked up a number of new ideas, and inspected some new machinery and equipment which she plans to install when she moves from her present quarters to Shavertown.

She will build her new plant across from Back Mountain Shopping Center in Shavertown, completely modern with up to date equipment. Purchase of properties along the new highway dictates the move from the present location at intersection of Harris Hill Road and Highway 309.

Burn Grass With Care

All fire companies have been alerted by useless grass fire alarms this week.