

HE DALLAS POST Established 1889

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Dallas, Pa. under the Act of March 3, 1889. Subscription rates: \$4.00 a year; \$2.50 six months. No subscriptions accepted for less than six months. Out-of-State subscriptions, \$4.50 a year; \$3.00 six months or less. Students away from home \$3.00 a term; Out-of-State \$3.50. Back issues, more than one week old, 15c.

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"More Than A Newspaper, A Community Institution Now In Its 75th Year"

A non-partisan, liberal progressive newspaper published every Thursday morning at the Dallas Post plant, Lehman Avenue, Dallas, Pennsylvania.

We will not be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs and editorial matter unless self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed, and in no case will this material be held for more than 30 days.

When requesting a change of address subscribers are asked to give their old as well as new address. Allow two weeks for change of address or new subscription to be placed on mailing list.

The Post is sent free to all Back Mountain patients in local hospitals. If you are a patient ask your nurse for it.

Unless paid for at advertising rates, we can give no assurance that announcements of plays, parties, rummage sales or any affair for raising money will appear in a specific issue.

Preference will in all instances be given to editorial matter which has not previously appeared in other publications.

National display advertising rates 84c per column inch. Transient rates 80.

Political advertising \$85, \$110, \$125 per inch. Preferred position additional 10c per inch. Advertising deadline Monday 5 P.M.

Advertising copy received after Monday 5 P.M. will be charged at 85c per column inch. Classified rates 5c per word. Minimum if charged \$1.15.

- Single copies at a rate of 10c can be obtained every Thursday morning at the following newsstands: Dallas — Bert's Drug Store, Colonial Restaurant, Daring's Market, Gosart's Market, Towne House Restaurant; Shavertown — Evans Drug Store, Hall's Drug Store; Trucksville — Cairns Store, Trucksville Pharmacy; Idetown — Cave's Market; Harveys Lake — Javers Store Kocher's Store; Sweet Valley — Adams Grocery; Lehman—Stolarick's Store; Noxen — Scouten's Store; Shawanese — Puterbaugh's Store; Fernbrook — Bogdon's Store, Bunnay's Store, Orchard Farm Restaurant; Luzerne — Novak's Confectionary; Beaumont — Stone's Grocery. Editor and Publisher MYRA Z. RISLEY Associate Editors Mrs. T.M.B. HICKS, LEIGHTON R. SCOTT, JR. Social Editor Mrs. DOROTHY B. ANDERSON Business Manager Mrs. L. M. MALLIN Circulation Manager Mrs. VELMA DAVIS Accounting SANDRA STRAZDUS Advertising Manager LOUISE MARKS

Alexander Kocher Rests At Ruggles

Alexander Kocher, 70, R. D. #1, Harveys Lake, who died Thursday morning in General Hospital was a long resident of the Lake area. Services were conducted Saturday afternoon from Nulton Funeral Home with Rev. Fred Eyster officiating. Interment was in Kocher Cemetery, Ruggles.

In fairly good health until he suffered a fall at his home on Christmas Day, Mr. Kocher never recovered from the paralysis which followed.

The son of the late James and Fanny Lier Kocher, he is survived only by several nieces and nephews.

He had been employed by the local railroad and later by the State Highway Department. He was greatly interested in hunting and fishing and always maintained a garden bordering the family homestead in which he had always lived.

James E. Brown Rites On Friday

Release from months of suffering came Tuesday afternoon when James E. Brown, 69, Joseph Street, Dallas, passed away in Nesbitt Hospital.

Born in Noxen, son of the late Walter and Mary Blossom Brown, Mr. Brown was well known throughout the Back Mountain area having resided in Shavertown for three decades before moving to Dallas seven years ago.

In 1960, just four years ago this month, he retired as an employee of the Wilkes-Barre Transit Company after having served 43 years and receiving a commendation from the company for his loyal service.

He had started with the company in 1916, then left temporarily to join the 311th Field Artillery Division overseas in 1918, during World War I. Upon his return he again took up his duties with the company. His son, Alfred, fought over much of the same territory when he was engaged in the Battle of the bulge some years later and was taken prisoner.

Mr. Brown was an avid sportsman, enjoying each opportunity which presented itself to hunt or fish. He was a devoted father and took great delight in his grandchildren, of which there are eleven. Each summer a lovely garden flourished under his careful touch.

He had undergone surgery eleven years ago but had recovered; returning to work after four months. Mr. Brown was a member of Shavertown Methodist Church.

He is survived by his widow, the former Anna Keiper; children, Alfred and Arja, both of Shavertown; Mrs. Eleanor Montross and Mrs. Shirley Bunny, both of Dallas; four brothers: Ralph and Amos, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Victor, Highland Park, N. J.; Burton, West Wyoming.

Services will be conducted from Disque Funeral Home, Memorial Highway at 2 tomorrow with Rev. Robert Yost officiating. Interment will be in Chapel Lawn. Friends may call this evening from 7 to 10.

Better Leighton Never

by Leighton Scott

People are still asking questions about the Huntsville fire that killed all five of the Harden Coon, Jr. family, and their questions will undoubtedly stay unanswered and unanswerable.

What we cannot ever really understand is that these facts of life sooner or later drop a veil of mourning on the history of every community. How many headlines of disasters in North Dakota and Mississippi did you skip over with a raising of eyebrows?

It seems, of course, that we in the Back Mountain have had more trouble in the last year or two than in any time in recent history. I guess it always seems that way.

That this was unquestionably the worst single day in the past year, although by time's bitter irony, it happened on the first day of a new one, is witnessed by casual conversation at each crossroads. People politely wait for you to finish whatever you're been talking about, and then come back to the fire.

At a Brownie meeting in Lehman, the leader tried in vain to bring the talk away from the subject. And a little voice added: "I don't have anyone to play with anymore."

SEEN AND HEARD

The Lehman Township Board of Supervisors meeting has always been the best-attended, with possible exception of Kingston Township, of any in the area, in respect to interested citizens who just like to see how a township is run. With a switch of time of meeting to 9 a. m. Saturday morning, that interest may suffer. At least a part of the police force, for one, won't be able to make it because of work.

As we daily pass the scene in lower Trucksville's Birch Grove, where giant Euclid-dumps rumble up and down the work road directly over the famous "hanging wall," which has somehow held the mountain off the highway for years by leaning against one I-beam imbedded in the ground, we recall a quote. Said one company superintendent about the heroic buttress: "That I-beam ain't holding anything up."

Dallas and Lehman fire companies are likely to change chiefs, both by resignation, if what the present leaders have said to friends eventuates. Dan Richards and Lee Wentzel have been exemplary chiefs, logging a lot of miles in voluntary service to the communities, and are owed a vote of thanks.

An advance word: Hopes that Dallas Borough might get another full-time policeman, a cruiser, and a radio system, will have to wait until 1965. Among items tentatively agreed on for this year's budget at a private session of the Council this week was a plan to curtail some use of extra police, in effect lengthening Chief Honeywell's hours.

Huntsville Fire

(Continued from Page 1 A) A clamshell lifting one brick at a time upon demand, or ruthlessly attacking an entire section of wall. Bricks spraying from the onslaught.

A pause as men again grope among the ruins, find a fragment, and bring it out shrouded in canvas, their boots smoking.

Spectators were urged to go home. Firemen would remain all night, but in lessened numbers. The gutted garage wing across the breezeway remained standing.

By mid-evening the ambulance rolled silently away with what had been found and identified. On Saturday morning, five caskets were buried in Forty Fort Cemetery, the mortal remains of: A. Harden Coon, Jr., 42; Polly, his wife, 34; Ann Dudley Coon, 9; Dana Wynn Coon, 8; Alfred Harden Coon, III, 4.

Members of the Chorale who sang at the Miners National Bank are left to right, Mrs. Paul Laur, Mrs. Joseph Bolavage, Mrs. Ralph Fitch, Mrs. Joseph Kaytl, Mrs. Albert

Loyalville

Emily Hedden, Carlisle, spent the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Hedden.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, Jr. and their two sons of Amherst, Massachusetts, spent Christmas week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, Sr.

Mrs. Mary Nienius had as guests for Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Darnell and children of Hazlett, New Jersey and Staff Sgt. William Nienius, Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Hedden entertained several guests on New Year's Eve.

Mrs. Melvina Scott, wife of Russell Scott, Sr., returned home on New Year's Day from General Hospital, after being troubled by a serious heart condition. She spent Christmas in the hospital, and is now allowed to move only occasionally at her home.

On Honor Roll

The name of Eric Dingle was omitted from the Dallas Honor Roll. Eric is an eighth grade student.

Dallas Chorale Entertains In Miners Bank Lobby For Holidays



Dallas Chorale, Mrs. William Carroll, director, extreme left, and Mrs. David Carey, accompanist, presented a group of Christmas carols and holiday songs in the main lobby of Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, as part of the bank's

traditional yuletide season program.

Members of the Chorale who sang at the Miners National Bank are left to right, Mrs. Paul Laur, Mrs. Joseph Bolavage, Mrs. Ralph Fitch, Mrs. Joseph Kaytl, Mrs. Albert

Rambling Around

By The Oldtimer — D. A. Waters

In old Kingston Township, which extended from the River to include part of the present Shavertown, there were eight school districts in 1834, the year the school act was passed, several in our area as follows: No. 5, Upper Mountain District, Carverton, number of children 77, share of public money \$52.44; No. 6, Middle Mountain District, Harris Hill, number of children 49, share of public money \$39.49; No. 7, Lower Mountain District, Trucksville, number of children 19, share of public money \$12.34; No. 8, Hollow District, Mill Hollow (Luzerne), number of children 47, share of public money \$44.42. The public money mentioned was derived from certain lots of public lands set aside by the proprietors for the sole purpose of school support. Later these lands became valuable and much money was derived therefrom.

The proprietors held school meetings and appointed school committees, ordered buildings built, teachers hired, etc. One minute book goes back as far as 1795. In my own time there was still standing a one-story wooden schoolhouse along the creek just above Luzerne Junction, about where Luzerne Motor Co. is now. It was marked by a sign reading "Island School" built in 1813. My grandmother attended this school. Why it was called "Island" was never clear to me unless the creek had an island there when it was first built.

Township proprietors under the Connecticut system in use here also hired preachers and arranged for services in the schoolhouses. Schoolhouses were common places of worship for all denominations for many years, and no one thought of court action to stop it.

Kingston Township School No. 7 stood near Tobys Creek above the intersection of the road to Harris Hill and the creek road. Within the past hundred years or so, there were a number of schools in the rural part of the township away from Tobys Creek. There was a school along Abrahams Creek along the road from the Carverton area to Trucksville. There were school buildings within about half a mile southeast and northwest of Carverton Church. There was a rural school at Harris Hill.

The so-called Shavertown or Shaver school formerly on Overbrook Avenue was in Dallas Township a one room school on Center Street, Shavertown was later doubled then taken out of school service and re-

placed by a two-storied frame building. This is relatively new, maybe thirty or forty years old.

The two schools in Trucksville are also comparatively recent. The Westmoreland Building built for high school purposes is about thirty years old, maybe a little older. The elementary building replaced an older one which was destroyed by fire.

As far as I have ever heard, Franklin Township never had anything larger than one room schools. In earlier days there was one up near Lockville called Diamond (Dymond) Hollow. Half a mile or so south of Orange, on the road toward Ketcham, the Flat Rock School was located. There may have been one in the village of Orange, but not to my knowledge.

There were schools in the general area of Memorial Shrine Cemetery, before the Cemetery was located there, one on the road toward the north called the "Good" School (probably from a local family), a later one a little farther south called Mountain School. North of Orange, one of the more recently operated schools was named Forest Grove. On the road crossing south of Perrins Marsh there was a school named Michigan, sometimes pronounced Michi-gan, accent on the last syllable.

Now for a few corrections on items in this column recently questioned. Most of these were not written as they appeared in print.

Mary Gregory, who is my cousin, is the wife of Claude Shaver. There was NO school in Dallas Township near Alderson. I verified this by Zel Garinger before the column was sent in.

On the Complanter Reservation a two-story brick schoolhouse is boarded up and abandoned.

The maiden name of Mrs. Robert Fleming was Dunckles.

The missing words regarding school taxes were written to read, "But the cold, dollars and cents, arguments mailed out by the tax collectors."

Was in Accident

Clinton Brobst, Sr., called to say he was on John Gregory's sled the time John was hurt. John was riding belly-flopper and Clint was kneeling at the back of the sled. Clint was not seriously injured, being thrown through the picket fence and falling in Honeywell's side yard. He sustained a couple of skinned fingers and some bruises in the back.

... Safety Valve ...

PROUD TO BE A NEIGHBOR

The recent and terrible tragedy which occurred at Huntsville, Jan. 1, and took the lives of the entire A. Harden Coon family, causes one to pause and reflect on the stark realism of these ever-present potential tragedies. It also causes one to pause for a moment to be thankful for his family and himself in the face of such tragedies. This, then, brings out the point I am trying to make in writing this letter.

The gallant but vain efforts of the volunteer firemen who worked to the point of sheer exhaustion; whose "guts were torn apart" in their anxiety to recover the family alive; whose courage bordered on heroism; who inhaled enough smoke and fumes to make some of them ill but would not give in; who gently combed with fire rakes, tons of debris to recover the bodies of the victims; whose actions demonstrated more than professionalism; and who in their efforts brought

out the meaning of co-operation and Democracy in action; they were beyond expectations.

For the police who controlled the scene with great efficiency, and for the women of the auxiliaries in their efforts to make the tasks of the men a little easier; for all of these people, I have the most profound respect.

We, the people of the Back Mountain area, should get down on our collective knees and thank God for men and women of this calibre and courage who are the Guardian Angels of us all. We should! I know I do. I am extremely proud to know and be a neighbor of these worthy people.

RICHARD H. DISQUE, Deputy Coroner at the Scene.

"People who have no money to speak of just have to do their own talking."

About the time you catch up with the Jones', they refinance.

Only Yesterday

Ten, Twenty and Thirty Years Ago In The Dallas Post

30 Years Ago

Wyoming Motor Club was spearheading the drive for the short-cut which would bypass Luzerne Business District on the new highway.

John Hewitt resigned from the Jackson School Board. This was well before Lehman and Jackson formed the first jointure which became the basis for the Lehman-Jackson-Ross jointure, and more recently, the Lake-Lehman jointure.

Wesley Himmler and Peter Clark assumed their offices as Borough Councilors.

No new cases of scarlet fever were recorded.

A cast of 100 was preparing to present the comedy "Heads Up" for benefit of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company. Ralph Rood as proxy, was the star.

Noxen clobbered Dallas in the Rural League; Lehman took Lake; and Trucksville licked Orange.

Buckwheat coal was \$4.75 per ton. Times were slowly improving, and the man in the White House was more popular than when he was inaugurated in March, 1933. (Inauguration used to be in March, not January.)

The Dallas Post was still a four-page issue, with very little spot news, still struggling along, using artificial respiration to get from one issue to the next.

20 Years Ago

A young man from Kunkle was missing in action in Africa. Clifford S. Nulton, 33, had been missing since November 26, 1944. He was with the motor transport service.

Harry B. Hoover, 81, a leading stone-mason of the area, died of a heart attack on New Year's morning at the home of his son Russell at Outlet.

Sgt. Ernest King was wounded in action in Italy, two weeks after he had written to the Dallas Post denouncing those at home who complained about hardships while the boys overseas were up to the neck in War.

Heard from in the Outpost: Carl Roberts, Great Lake; Frederick and, Hawaii; John Borton, Oklahoma; Charles W. Kern, Turner Field, Georgia; Lewis Buton, Randolph Field; Herb Jones, Atlantic Fleet; August Walters, Maine; Walter D. Pine, Florida; Harry C. Snyder, Texas; George H. Ray, South Pacific; Bill Dierolf, Kansas; James Trebilcock, Bradley Field; John Rice, in hospital at Fort George Meade; Paul Nulton, Fort Myers.

Married: Irene Oney to Jasper Kocher. Anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore S. Jones, Noxen, Golden Wedding.

10 Years Ago

Ross Township elementary school was dedicated with an open house to which all residents of the Lehman-Jackson-Ross Jointure were invited. Over 1,000 people inspected the new building.

Defective electric wiring caused fire which destroyed a barn on the old Wilcox place.

Chief of police Edgar Hughes, with public sentiment behind him following the tragic death of Mrs. Joseph Gilhoel, stated that he would crack down on taverns, and they could close at legal times, or else. He added that maybe most of the offenders got plenty to drink in town before visiting local pubs, but that it was the last couple drink that did the damage. Murders gave the Lake a bad name.

Howell Rees, former editor of the Dallas Post, more recently public relations man for the Bahamas, was made vice president of the Kelly Advertising Agency in New York.

Hunlock Creek decided to follow the lead of Ross Township in closing its one-room school.

George M. Dallas Lodge F&AM held its first meeting in the new building on Main Street.

Married: Sally Ann Lasher to Frank Wagner Jr.; Mary Patricia Wilson to Robert Harris; Patricia Ann Nieman to Charles Bigelow; Ruth MacMillan to George Jurista; Barbara Swezey to William Vogan.

Died: Herbert R. Williams Sr., Justice of the Peace for 22 years, Trucksville; Earl Lamoreaux, 47, Forty-Second Street; John M. Robinson, 56, Country Club Road; Charles A. Hilbert, 79, Beaumont; Mrs. Louise VanNorman, 78, Shavertown; James and Fred Crispell, four days apart, brothers, James, Noxen, was 83; Fred, Lake Township, was 77.

Frank Jackson was groping his way out of the dark after a year of blindness following an operation on his eye. Called the Post to say he could see the grosbeaks on the bird-feeder, and for the first time in a year, the numbers on the telephone dial.

Word From The Monkas

It's been a long time since the Dallas Post had word of the Joseph Monka family, former residents of Shavertown, who moved from this area ten years ago.

Received in the mail on Tuesday was a bill dated June of 1955, ac-

From— Pillar To Post...

By Hix

Somebody did not read my letter to Santa Claus with any degree of comprehension. Or else somebody has a perverted sense of humor. Those Jordan almonds are going begging. Going to the highest bidder.

Does anybody have any hope on reversing the downdraft of a stovepipe that connects directly with a refrigerated outside chimney? Joe Hoeg had what it took, but Joe has mighty lungs, and he can whoosh into a Franklin stove so powerfully that the sparks go up the chimney instead of sailing out into the room.

Must write a note myself: Remember to burn trash every single day in that Franklin stove, so that the chimney will never completely cool off, thereby insuring an up-draft.

Never have been quite sure whether I was looking at a hairy or a downy woodpecker, but now I know. Both species appeared together on the suet feeder, and a little later along came their wives, with the same difference of size range, but without the red spot on the back of the neck.

And is it imagination, or is the red-breasted nuthatch really smaller than the white-breasted, or is it just neater?

And how can you keep a squirrel out of the bird-feeder or out of the suet?

There was a great whirring of wings one morning, and a large ruffed grouse took off from the stone steps leading to the kitchen porch.

I've never been as fond of a grouse since finding that it's a ruffed and not a ruffled grouse. It was Ed Johnson that disillusioned me. He said, "For pity's sake, Mrs. Hicks, can't you spell, or do you just think it IS a ruffed grouse?"

Yes, Ed, I really thought it WAS a ruffed grouse, and I don't care to find that it doesn't wear a frill. I had envisaged it with a white collar, lace edged.

It is just as disillusioning as finding the correct pronunciation of bushranger in the dictionary, a discovery which practically undermined the foundations of my being when I was ten years old.

Editorially Speaking: Volunteers To Devotion

Anybody in the Back Mountain who has ever been lukewarm about contributing to the annual drive for funds for the fire companies and the ambulance associations of the area, should take a long hard look at the loyalty shown by those hardworking men on New Year's Day.

Giving up their holiday, they flocked to Huntsville to stage the heroic struggle to recover bodies of victims of the blaze which took five lives, an entire family of father, mother and three little children.

Long after any possible hope of rescue was gone, something which happened in the first five minutes of the battle, these volunteers clung doggedly to their posts, risking their lives. All the fire companies worked together without jealousy, each member doing his job without hope of reward, or even of success.

It was their job, and they did it.

They painstakingly sifted ashes for evidence, working in a degree of heat which was unbelievable, heat which would be expected in a brick kiln, but not in a burned structure.

Eyes streaming from smoke and vapor, boots melting, they took it in shifts.

The fire companies spelled each other, realizing the hazard to the rest of the Back Mountain. They worked together like a well-oiled machine, insuring fire coverage for the rest of the area while the major battle was fought in Huntsville.

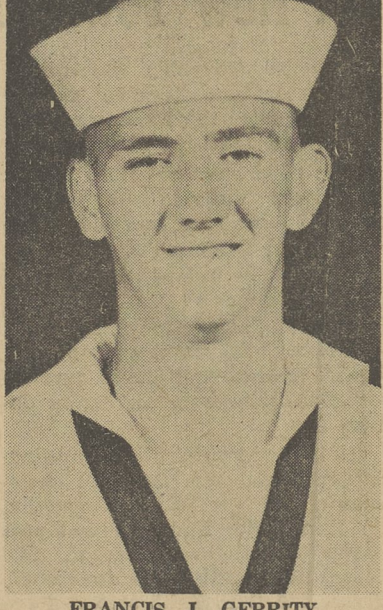
Ambulances and crews stood by. As walls were pulled down, there was constant danger of serious injury. That none occurred, is a tribute to the knowledge of fire-fighting possessed by these friends and neighbors.

Each household in the Back Mountain is asked to make a small donation each year for support of the fire company which protects it.

It is incredible that some residents feel that the small donation is too large. Where else can you get such service from a five dollar bill?

Receives Promotion

Francis J. Gerrity



Francis Joseph Gerrity, Mt. Airy Road, Shavertown, will be advanced to Petty Officer, 3rd Class Electronics Technician, on January 16.

Gerrity, a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, class of 1962 took his basic training at San Diego and was stationed at NAAS Fallon, Nevada for further indoctrination. He attended Electronics School at San Francisco and completed classes there with a 76% average. He will go to submarine training school at New London, Connecticut following leave at home.

Accompanied by a check for a subscription. It isn't often that a business concern receives a payment so completely out-dated.

The Monkas live at Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Anybody have any up to date news? The Monkas were a very nice family, interested in all the community activities.

The typical family man has a billfold of pictures and no money.

Only way to get along with some people is to get along without them.

Sign Contracts

In the local system. Mr. Hinkle asked about shelter for the duck and weasel, stating that old sheds in rear of fire hall had been donated by the fire company for this purpose. A suggestion that they might be erected on township land near the Parrish home was favorably received.

Goeringer Road will be maintained by the township although it has not yet been accepted as a township road.

State Highway Department will be reminded of their obligation to maintain roads under construction, with pot holes now present and entrances to Pioneer Avenue and Center Streets posing difficulty to motorists.

Ziegler and Richards will be bonded in the amount of \$15,000. Monthly meetings will remain scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.

Checking account was transferred to the Wyoming National Bank. Allen Nichols was elected chairman, and Ted Poad, secretary at a meeting of the township auditors following the supervisors meeting. Fred Eck is the third member of the group.

Enjoys Florida Life

Mrs. Joseph Battisson, one-time resident of Sweet Valley, writes from Palmetto, Florida, that the family had Christmas dinner on the patio of their home on Manatee River, and took a ride down river in their boat in 70 degree temperature. Mr. and Mrs. James Hutchinson, of Frostproof, Florida, also formerly of Sweet Valley, were their dinner guests.

Thanks A Million

To those kids who shoved my Austin out of the ditch New Year's Day, a whole flock of Thanks. It was impossible to wait to give them a word of appreciation, not to mention something more substantial, because a whole line of cars was panting in the rear, their drivers anxious to commit suicide on the slippery road.