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Editorially Speaking

Only Once In A Lifetime

The Dallas Sesquicentennial was launched late in the year, but perhaps the spur of a deadline will produce more effort than if the celebration had started rolling a year ago at a more leisurely pace, with everybody figuring that there was plenty of time.

There seems to be a community enthusiasm which is not expressed wholly in the growth of chin whiskers, though whiskers add to the fun.

People are dredging into their ancestry to find, if possible, a line of descent which will entitle them to standing as candidates for King and Queen.

The specifications for King and Queen will come as a shock to teenagers who normally expect to wear the crown.

The King and Queen, says Dan Waters, must be at least sixty-five years old, in addition to being lineal descendants of a father and mother who settled in this area before the Civil War.

The Civil War is the cut-off date. If you can prove that your forbears broke the virgin soil in the Back Mountain before the War Between the States, you're acceptable.

If you cannot dig up an authentic ancestor in your family records, you're a rank newcomer, and you don't qualify for royalty.

Ask Dan for further information. Dan tried to get this Sesqui rolling months ago, but the community was apathetic.

It was not until Dallas Kiwanis adopted it as a project, that it stirred feebly, and then squalled mightily, a lusty infant that looks as if it might grow into a giant practically overnight.

A community can celebrate a Sesquicentennial only once in a lifetime. This is the year for Dallas, the year of 1967, a century and a half after its founding in 1817.

Pioneers were still alert against Indian raids in those early days.

They tilled their soil with oxen, they cleared their rocky pastures and built boundary fences with the stones, they cut the pines and burned them to make room for garden patches, and in the still warm soil they planted their seeds.

Many of the stone walls still persist, some of them beautifully kept, some falling into ruin.

Most of the pine-root fences are gone, only a few worn stubs remaining in the fence-rows.

Many elderly people of the region can recall the days when the pine root fences interlocked, forming a tight barrier for the cattle.

As children, they industriously dislodged caked earth from the gnarled roots, and peered through the holes into the pastures. They climbed the roots like rude ladders, and walked from root to root like little mountain goats.

It took strong oxen to pull a pine stump from its bed, drag it to its appointed place in the fence, and turn it on edge.

A yoke of oxen acknowledges no defeat. It will pull until it drops dead.

Pioneers hereabouts were of the same sturdy stuff as the oxen, a fitting symbol. They worked until they dropped, bringing a new land to life.

Drought? What Drought?

Maybe there's something in that St. Swithin's Day superstition after all, the one that says, "When Mary goes over the Mountain and gets her skirts wet, it will rain for forty days."

As of Thursday, August 3, with a violent thunderstorm lashing the Back Mountain, following a spectacular display of lightning during the early morning hours, there has been just one day which did not show at least a few drops of rain, since July 2nd.

Water tables must be completely restored. Nobody has ever seen greener grass.

And painters are going crazy trying to complete their jobs.

It's tough on the amusement parks which must make their livelihood during the summer months, before their proprietors go into hibernation or take off for Florida.

And it's very depressing for picnickers. Remember last year? We were in the midst of a drought, and everybody was praying for rain.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL PINE TREE

by Dan Waters The following is quoted and condensed from "The Early Settlement of Dallas Township, Pa." by W. P. Ryman (1886).

"As may be inferred from the large number of large pine stumps still seen in the fields and numerous stump fences about Dallas, there was at one time a species of very tall pine trees covering the country. A very few of them can still be seen (1886) towering far above the other highest trees in the woods below Dallas, near the Ryman and Shaver steam saw-mill, but they are the last of their race. For some reason they do not re-

produce, and will soon be an extinct species. Many of them grew to a height of 175 to 200 feet, and often the trunk would be limbless for 150 feet from the ground. I have had some of the trees measured, and find that my statement as to their height is correct. It is difficult to tell them without breaking them in one or two places. They are so heavy and have so few limbs to retard their fall, or to protect them in striking the ground, that they come down with a terrible crash. Any stone, stump, log, or unevenness on the ground where they fall is sure to break them."

Only Yesterday It Happened 30 Years Ago

Three local boys were back from Panama after a two-year enlistment in the Army. Paul LaBar liked army life in the tropics, and expected to sign up again. William Disque and Richard Templin expected to be discharged.

Dallas Township school board added a music supervisor to the faculty, Miss Evelyn Van Antwerp of Montrose.

A brawl on a picnic train forced the train to stop in Shavertown. Men waving fists were joined by women pulling hair. It was a great day for Coxton Welfare Association and for Harveys Lake, where earlier brawling had taken place.

Camp meeting was scheduled for East Dallas Camp Grounds, Rev. Elmer McKay the main speaker.

The crabs swimming team, crowned with laurels, expected to go on to Easton to compete in N. E. Pennsylvania championship races. Roe, Jackson and Campbell took the Middle Atlantic States championship the preceding week. Elwood Davis was forced off the contest by developing cramps.

Hot primary fight expected in Dallas Township, where Republicans nomination was tantamount to November election.

Vanderbilt's yacht Ranger defeated England's contender in the Cup Race off Newport.

Horse-drawn hay wagon hit from the rear by car at Harveys Lake, nobody injured.

Died: Mrs. Clara McDonald, 70, Dallas. Mrs. Catherine Eggleston, Harveys Lake.

Reunion: Woolbert family. Want cantelopes for 5 cents apiece? Turn back the clock thirty years. How about a full peck of new potatoes for 19 cents? Don't wake us, we're dreaming.

It Happened 20 Years Ago

Chief Gunner's Mate Andrew Kozemchak was in the news along with Lt. John F. Kenny and Lt. Commander Joseph Fay, as active in the local Naval Reserve program. Andy was in charge of recruiting.

Second time in two months, car crash on Memorial Highway just north of Joe LeGrand's refreshment stand. Brothers Paul and Joseph Gallagher, Shavertown, escaped with their lives after taking the pole.

Second Annual Lake Silkworth Day coming up. Rev. Ten Hope, Center Maryland pastor, called to Altoona church.

Cal McHose was named tax collector, resigning from Lake Township board to assume his new duties.

Mrs. Gilbert Carpenter headed the Alderson Flower Show.

Township football practice was starting. Robert Dolbear and John Rosser coaches.

Veterans Agricultural school at Lehman was headed by Robert Stauffer.

Good weather helped the crop situation.

Col. Norman Smith was advanced to Brigadier General.

Midshipman Robert Smith was photographed with Princess Elizabeth.

Died: Mrs. Dana Frear, Beaumont. Milton Rosencrans.

It Happened 10 Years Ago

Dallas Township Class of 1940 staged its first reunion in 17 years, compared notes, kids pix, swapped yarns. Twenty-three members present.

Farmers Gas and Oil Inc. were drilling for oil at Lake Silkworth.

Dallas District released Monroe Township to join Tunkhannock schools.

Traffic fines reached a new high in the Borough, paralleling highest percentage of traffic deaths in Luzerne County for the Back Mountain.

Carlton Kocher headed Lake volunteers. Garity was reelected chief. Leo Wadowski was elected head of Lake Legion.

Died: Mrs. Susan E. Averett, 86, Shavertown. Tommy Kelley, three years old, who died in Alaska the preceding November was buried. His father, missionary Albert H. Kelley, was lost in the icy waters of Alaska during a winter storm. See issue of August 9, 1967, page 5.

Isaac Loveland, 88, Meeker. John Cannon, Trucksville, 45.

Married: Janice Houser to Elton Brace. Rosalie Hudak to Stephen Salanskv. Martha Jean Martin to Philip Cesse.

Others will be added. All these are authorized to secure assistants and substitutes. All reports will eventually be filed with the Chairman of Old Families, D. A. Waters.

THANKS FRIENDS

Mr. and Mrs. Morton Connelly, Lehman, wish to express their eternal thanks to their friends and neighbors who aided so greatly during their recent fire and to Lehman Fire Company for their prompt action in extinguishing the blaze which well might have demolished their home.

KEEPING POSTED

August 2: SENATE INQUIRY turns up evidence that incendiary speeches by Carmichael and Rap Brown may have contributed notably to incidence of race rioting in their areas.

August 3: LBJ ASKS SURCHARGE, 10%, on income taxes. Lukewarm reaction in Congress. President says cost of war underestimated. RACE RELATIONS seem easier. TROPICAL STORMS strangely absent from weather picture.

CASSIUS CLAY denied permission to go to Japan. 50,000 MORE MEN needed for Vietnam. STOCK EXCHANGE FALLS, then recovers at news.

August 4: RACE RELATIONS QUIETER coast to coast, but Milwaukee and Providence still plagued by snipers. SUBSIDIZING SCHOOL OF HATE in Nashville, charged against Office of Economic Opportunity. JEWELLED CROWN stolen from ancient statue in Church of Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

August 5: FOREST FIRES RAGING in Northern California. SPACE VEHICLE settles down into an elliptical orbit around the moon, taking pix of the hidden side.

ALLIES FAVOR continuous bombing of North Vietnam, say now is the time to increase pressure. REBEL TROOPS retreating in Nigeria. ARAB MINISTERS end conference, nothing decided.

Weekend: PLANE FROM COLOMBIA hijacked, lands in Havana. Castro says he will release it to go back home. ROBERT KENNEDY would like to see our allies putting up more of a fight to assist us in Vietnam. Much talk, little action.

ANTI-WAR MARCH in Atlanta and Los Angeles. Fist fights develop. RELATIVELY QUIET WEEKEND.

August 7: 22ND ANNIVERSARY of Hiroshima atom bombing. BIPARTISAN SUPPORT of billion dollar hand-out to ease racial tension. To be used for jobs, education, better housing. Drop in the bucket, considering the need.

BRAIN-WASHED COPS blamed for some racial unrest. Afraid to make arrests for fear of starting another riot. Testify before Senate committee. ONE-DAY STRIKE in Old Jerusalem. REFUGEE PROBLEM serious along the Jordan. Refugees won't cross river to go home.

August 8: ESCALATE AIR WAR, say Republican House Leader Gerald Ford, and stop sending additional ground forces. TOKYO TRAIN CRASH sets off spectacular blaze, two tankers of high test fuel go up in smoke. COMPARATIVE PEACE over the Nation. P.R.I.D.E. TEENAGERS start cleaning up slum areas in Washington. BUST OF LINCOLN presented to LBJ from State Illinois.

August 9: NAVY PILOTS STRIKE at rail yards in North Vietnam.

Sons And Daughters Of Pioneers May Register With Dan Waters

Every Back Mountain resident who had an ancestor in the territory of Old Dallas (1817) before the Civil War is entitled to be registered as a Son or Daughter of the Pioneers.

Following committee has been appointed to register descendants of the old families: Marie Spencer (Spencer Family); Mrs. Marian Ide Cook (Ide); Mrs. Harry A. Brown (Brown-Major); Mrs. Alice Fiske (Worthington); Mrs. Freda Hughey (Allen-Hughey-Snyder); Daniel Shaver (Shaver); Mrs. Corey Besteder (Honeywell); Arch Austin (Ryman-Kunkle).

Wardan Kunkle (Kunkle); Mrs. Helen Garbutt (Wardan); Peter J. Roushey (Roushey); Emmett Hoover (Hoover); Mrs. Timothy LaBar (Hoyt); Mrs. Clarence LaBar (Park); Dr. F. B. Schooley (Ruggles-Schooley); Mrs. Bettie Kirkendall Fine (Kirkendall-Randall); Mrs. Dorothy Anderson (Anderson).

Raymond Moore (Moore); Mrs. Emily Fisher Veitch (Fisher); Basil Goss (Goss); Mrs. Ella Harvey (Bulford); E. Z. Garinger (Atherholt-Garinger); Mrs. James Knecht (Eipper); Mrs. Charles Frantz (Frantz); Mrs. Anna Kocher (Kocher); Mrs. Paul Eckert (Hunt); Clara Winters (Winters).

Others will be added. All these are authorized to secure assistants and substitutes. All reports will eventually be filed with the Chairman of Old Families, D. A. Waters.

Children will be included. Descent will be by blood lines, although a family tree is not required. Daughters and their offsprings through all following generations, by whatever names, will still be descendants of the original pioneer.

Descendants of some of the very old families are hard to locate, apparently all having moved away. But residents of other names, descendants through daughters, may still be here, and are urged to register. These include such families as: Fuller, Baldwin, Shotwell, Ayres, Orr, Christian Rice, Abraham Ryman, Montanye, and Reiley.

Others, at the moment, cannot be separated between descendants of pioneers and later arrivals: These include Harris, Brace, and a few other families, originally located in nearby townships, mostly not in old Dallas Township and Borough. Lake, Lehman, parts of Franklin, Ross and Hunlock Townships, and a big triangle of forest now in Wocming County with the apex near Dutch Mountain.

Back Mountain registration area now: Dallas Township and Borough, Lehman, Lake, all of Franklin, Monroe, Noxen, and Ross Townships, and Back Mountain portion of Hunlock, Plymouth, Jackson, and Kings-Townships.

Data required: Names, township of residence, name of pioneer ancestor.

Postcards, Letters, Not Comparable

Most of us will accept the higher rate for airmail letters without grumbling. We feel that if we want to take advantage of the lower rate for surface mail we can write our letters a day earlier and remember to mail them instead of carrying them around in pocket or handbag, depending upon the sex of the sender.

We don't mind ten cents for the privilege of having our letters airborne.

We can take the six-cent first class postage in our stride.

But we can't see the six cent postcard.

A sealed envelope insures privacy, an open-faced postcard can be read by any casual person through whose hands it must pass before delivery.

Letters and postcards are not comparable in service to the public.

What we would like to see is a curb on the junk mail that daily clutters our post office boxes. Very few people even open junk mail. They toss it in File 13.

Anybody who really wishes to catch our attention is well advised to use a sealed envelope and a first class postage stamp.

THE BOOK CLUB

What is the Book Club? The Book Club is like a private lending library, with fees paid on an annual basis instead of week by week or volume at so much a day.

Book Club members pay dues of \$3 per year. With this fund, books are purchased for the use of Book Club members. When a reasonable time has elapsed, the Book Club name plate is changed for that of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, and the books placed on the open shelves to augment the supply already available to everybody in the Back Mountain.

The books that are added to the Book Club are plainly marked. The book-case that houses them is conveniently placed alongside the desk.

There is a sign over the book-case clearly stating that those particular books are for Book Club members.

Why don't you join the Book Club? There is no obligation to attend the meetings, but you miss interesting programs if you do not. If you are a newcomer, there is no better way to get acquainted with the community.

Chimes Given To Lehman Methodist

Chimes were installed on the organ at Lehman Methodist Church on Monday, the gift of Mrs. George A. Uebe of Lehman and Florida. They will be dedicated at a time to be announced.

Mrs. Uebe, though not a member of the Lehman Methodist Church or of its faith, makes this gift in memory of her late husband and his first wife.

Mrs. Robert Disque is the organist.

Mt. Zion Auction

Mount Zion Methodist Church Auction, Saturday, August 26, will feature a roast beef dinner. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Mrs. Jack VanTulv asks that ticket returns be made no later than August 20.

Other refreshments will be on sale at booths along with soft drink. Roast corn on the cob is one of the come-ons.

General chairman W. Brainerd Daniels announces auctioneers: Gerald Tenny, Bob Earl, Don Grose, Richard Brungess. Items for auction are being stored in barns belonging to Ezra Rozelle and Nelson Lewis.

Church grounds will open for auction and sales at 10 a.m.

Will Fly To Teheran For Three-Year Stay

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kelley, guests at the home of Mrs. Kelley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin A. Shaffer, Mill Street, will fly to Teheran in Iran, for a three-year tour of duty, within the next few weeks.

Mr. Kelley's last assignment was at Nellis Airforce Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is associated with the McDonnell Aircraft Company.

In Teheran, he will be attached to the American Embassy, where he and his family will live in the compound. There are three children: Douglas, 13; Catherine, 11; and Kimberly, 8, all looking forward to living and going to school outside their own country.

On August 16, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley will celebrate their fifteenth wedding anniversary, while still the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer.

Valuable Topsoil Lost To Region

Uncounted tons of topsoil, irreplaceable, washed downstream during the recent deluges in this area, carrying the life-producing earth down the Susquehanna and into Chesapeake Bay, where it is lost forever.

Larry Corson, Work Unit Soil Conservationist, says that the aftermath of soil erosion is staggering.

Many people, he continued, are not taking advantage of the services offered by Luzerne County Soil and Water Conservation Service and the United States Government Conservation Service.

A complete conservation program, with subsequent installation of conservation measures, would have saved thousands of tons of productive topsoil during the recent downpours.

Technical assistance is readily available after the preliminary plan has been drawn up for individual land-owners who ask for such services. Property owners' cooperation is strictly voluntary, and only conservation practices which they desire are installed. The survey and advice are both free.

Since Luzerne County launched its conservation program three years ago, 250 land-owners have requested assistance in developing a conservation plan and many others have received consultative assistance.

"It's like the man who needed a new roof," said Mr. Corson, "he couldn't fix the roof when it was raining, and when it wasn't raining, the roof didn't leak, so why bother? Too many people wait until their soil is going downstream before they do anything about saving it."

Anybody interested in determining conservation needs for his land, may get in touch with the United States Soil Conservation Service at the Federal Building (Post Office)

From—

Pillar To Post...

For awhile there, we had cribs in every bedroom, equipped with rubber sheets, yet, not to mention straight-jacket effects for inducing the young to remain in the cribs.

The cribs have been contributed, over the years, to the Library Auction, and the cradles also have passed over the block, to the great good of the Library.

One cradle still remains, its patchwork quilt a magnet for the two cats, but no infant has slept in it for some years.

What happened to the double-deck bunks is anybody's guess. One double-deck bunk, we found, led inevitably to another. I believe there were some small boys in need of bunks, and the dormitory imperceptibly shrank into a room with two folding beds in it, and nothing to fall out of.

This rearrangement of household furnishings to accommodate the fleeting years, results in some mad scrambling at such times as daughters turn up with their own young plus anything they have scooped up off the street on their way out of town.

Tonight, it will be seven kids and two adults, here for a hurried stop-over, a convenient breather between the trip from Virginia Beach and the trip to Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

Lessee now: Separating the one small sheep from the goats, there's a girl for the sleeping porch, the ex-dormitory for two boys, the Glory-Hole for anybody who revels in privacy, and that leaves three boys who can spread their sleeping bags on the living room floor, or set up a cot apiece.

Food. This family has probably never seen a refrigerator which furnishes just exactly enough space for a quart of milk, a pound of margarine, a dozen eggs, and a can of orange juice.

This is a family which tends to rummage in the refrigerator ten times a day, and won't get a surprise when they find there aren't any ice cubes for their endless bottles of pop? Plus, no room for the pop.

They will go home convinced that Nonnie lives on nothing but air.

Chili, a big pot of chili. That's the answer to the appetites of tall teenagers, all of them in the rapidly growing stage, and all of them starved.

A big loaf of Boston Brown Bread, with raisins, fresh out of the oven. You don't have to steam it for three hours in a wash-boiler, as in what used to be termed the good old days. You bake it in a lavishly greased bread pan, and when it springs back when touched gently in the oven, you take it out and quickly invert it on a thick layer of brown paper on the porcelain-topped table. When it drops out, it's ready to eat.

Brown bread. That calls for sour milk, or buttermilk, or a pint of canned milk with a tablespoonful of vinegar stirred into it. And molasses. Whole wheat flour already on hand.

Must market for eggs, butter.

Wonder if they're going to bring the dog. Can hardly wait to see how it gets along with the two cats. Doubtless like cats and dogs, with the cats skinning up the dogwood tree, and the dog hopefully yelping below.

We've had a boxful of kittens brought carefully into the house, an anxious mother cat meowing in their wake.

We've harbored guinea pigs and turtles.

For one horrible weekend, right after a Library Auction ten years ago, we had a screened porch filled with pigeons. Timid creatures, which objected to being captured.

Up to date we haven't had a horse.

Dessert? What is a sure-fire dessert for kids? Chocolate pudding? Devil's Food Cake with chocolate icing?

It's easy to see that the former easy nonchalance about cooking for a mob has somewhat disappeared.

That freshly painted kitchen porch with its school desks and its slatted swing and revolving table, ought to be about right for the supper overflow.

How many quarts of chili? And would it be a good idea to whip up a couple of large slabs of pizza in addition to the Boston brown bread?

We're back again, full cycle, to the menu. Probably a solid idea to duck out of the office a little early on Thursday. They might get here, roaring with hunger, a smidge earlier than expected.

It is always difficult to separate the grandchildren from their boon companions. They all look alike when hungry or sleepy.

We remember one occasion when what seemed like endless convoys of sleeping children were carried up the stairs and tipped into bed. Some of them looked a little odd. That small brown-haired one, for instance. We hadn't remembered any of the boys having curly hair.

When he came ambling into the kitchen for breakfast the next morning, he identified himself. Said, upon inquiry, that he was Joe, and he was hungry.

It wasn't a grandchild, and neither was the next customer for oatmeal and toast and jam.

The rest of the crew wore a family resemblance to each other, so it seemed safe to hail them as grands.

All the large-sized grands this year, are earning money for college.

It's only the family dregs, so to speak, that are left, but they all have chums who are dying to go along on a trip, just anywhere. If there's food.

Special Collection Of Science Books At Library On Loan From Osterhout

by Mrs. Martin Davenport for upper-secondary students The Back Mountain Memorial Library now has a special collection of more than 150 science books, books which will provide both leisure time reading, and supplement classroom study and laboratory experiment. The books have been selected by Mrs. Martin Davenport for upper-secondary students and adults who are not science specialists.

The collection contains some of the best of scientific literature currently available, ranging from easily read and understood books like Gerald Durrell's "The Overloaded Ark" which tells about exotic forms of African wildlife and an "Arithmetic Refresher for the Practical Man," to books which require some introductory background in science such as D.K.C. MacDonald's "New Zero: The Physics of Low Temperatures"; and Theodosius Dobzhansky's "Heredity and the Nature of Man," which surveys the work of great biologists beginning with Mendel and Darwin and including results of recent research on heredity.

Any of these books may be borrowed for the regular four-week period. The collection will be at the library for several months and will then be exchanged for a new group of books.

This and other rotating collections on a variety of subjects have been made available to the Back Mountain Memorial Library and to other local public libraries through the facilities of the Osterhout Free Libraries Centers in Pennsylvania, \$72,000 in State funds has been allocated to the Wilkes-Barre Library for the continued development of public library service in Luzerne County and part of Wyoming County.

Services Friday For Gertrude Marley, 79

Services for Mrs. Gertrude K. Marley, Overbrook Avenue, are scheduled for Friday morning at 11 from the Disque Funeral Home, Rev. Frederick Eidam officiating. Friends may call tonight from 7 to 9. Burial will be in Freeland Cemetery.

Mrs. Marley, 79, died Tuesday morning at her home after an illness.

The former Gertrude Kieslich was born in Freeland and educated in Freeland schools. She had lived for twenty-five years in Shavertown, after moving here from Kingston.

She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its Auxiliary. Her husband Everett died three years ago.

She leaves two sons Gerald, Philadelphia, and Robert, Stroudsburg; two grandchildren; a sister Elsie Kieslich, Shavertown.

In Dallas. The phone number is 674-8241.