

THE 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: \$5.00 a year; \$3.00 six months. No subscriptions accepted for less than six months. Out-of-State subscriptions, \$5.50 a year; \$3.50 six months or less. Back issues, more than one week old, 15c.

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## AND THEY WONDERED . . .

He was the great-great-grandson of a slave.  
The blood of black forebears and white forebears coursed warmly in his veins.  
His eyes shone with the zeal of justice, and his words were compelling, terrible in their earnestness.  
He had stood upon the mountain.  
His followers all too often did not heed his call for moderation, for moving with dignity, intent upon their goal.

Martin Luther King accomplished more by his death than he could have accomplished in a lifetime of exhortation.

The nation was appalled by his brutal murder. The President of the United States issued a formal declaration of a period of mourning, with flags at half staff.

Dignitaries paid tribute to his stature as a leader of men.

Black and white joined in a common grief and a silent promise, a prayer for understanding.

And they wondered . . . . .

The captain of the slave ship, closing his Bible, spoke to the mate, in St. Stephen Vincent Benet's unforgettable saga, John Brown's Body:

We're spreading the Lord's seed — spreading His seed —

His hand made the outflung motion of the sower, And the mate, staring, seemed to hear the slight Patter of fallen seeds on fertile ground, Black shining seeds, robbed from a black king's storehouse,

Falling and falling on American earth With light, inexorable patter and fall, To strike, lie silent, quicken,

Till the Spring Came with its weeping rains, and the ground bore A blade, a shadow-sapling, a tree of shadow, A black-leaved tree whose trunk and root were shadow,

A tree shaped like a yoke, growing and growing Until it blotted all the seaman's stars, Horses of anger trampling, horses of anger, Trampling behind the sky in ominous cadence, Beat of the heavy hooves like metal on metal, Trampling something down . . . . .

Was it they, was it they?

Or was it the cold wind in the leaves of the shadow tree

That made such grievous music?

## WE DON'T MAIL MAPS

The maps of the Dallas area are going like hot cakes, apparently the answer to prayer. The supply is limited.

What we did not anticipate was that people would write in and ask us to mail a map to California or wherever. This poses a neat question. How can anybody expect us to mail them out for fifteen cents, crammed into an envelope? The postage alone would amount to twelve cents, plus handling.

We are not in the map-mailing business. The maps are on the counter at the Dallas Post. They are printed on very heavy paper which does not take kindly to creasing. We roll them up and snap a rubber band around them, and future disposition is up to the customer.

They are designed for posting on a study wall for easy reference, not for carrying in the hip pocket or the glove compartment of a car.

If demand is sufficient, we would issue a thinner version, which could be readily folded, readily mailed. The cost would be higher, probably two bits.

We don't think it is worth it, the way the community pattern is changing. It is impossible to keep a map up to date.

## DOG POISONER AT LARGE

Poisoning a dog is about as low as a person can get, and still retain status as a human being.

We had a rash of dog poisoning a few years ago. The poisoner was known, but unless such a man can be caught in the act he cannot be accused. Dog poisoners and cat poisoners work furtively, slinking silently away after the deed is done.

We always have a few people in our midst who will poison a pet in order to satisfy a grudge.

We have another poisoner at large.

People move out here from the city so that they can have dogs. Once in a while they experience a jolt when they find that very little can be done about human nature, that there are always a few people who enjoy subjecting a pet to hours of agony before merciful oblivion steps in.

## To Our Correspondents

To our correspondents, a word about news.

If you have important news, such as a Bloodmobile visit, a ceremony for a distinguished favorite son, a fire, an accident, of front page status, do not incorporate it in your column of the man who came to dinner and the first robin.

Call the Dallas Post, get in touch with Hix, and tell her what is in the wind. She will decide whether the item is newsworthy enough for the front page.

Everybody sees what is on the front page. Your own community reads your column. It does not have complete Back Mountain readership.

Not only that, but it is apt to be cut off from the bottom, if space is at a premium.

AND, when some future editor looks through the bound volumes to gather items for ten, twenty, thirty years ago, it is the front page which carries weight.

Only  
Yesterday  
It Happened  
30 Years Ago

A plaintive front page note said the WPA beautified the gutters, but left the holes in the roads intact. (For our money, they could have left the gutters alone. Ever hit one of those rocks with your hub cap?)

Atty Frank Townsend, a young local lawyer, was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. His office was in the Kitchen Building on Main Street for convenience of clients wishing to hold evening consultations. He was associated with Neil Crisman in Wilkes-Barre.

Dallas Postmaster Polaeky extended an invitation to high school students to enter an essay contest. The prize, an airplane trip to Washington.

Two summer homes at the Lake destroyed by fire. Fisher and Lukesh cottages at Warden Place.

Arthur James campaign headquarters for Dallas on Main Street. No full time cop for Dallas Township, court decided. Much opposition.

Dallas Borough had the Girls' Championship Team. Plans were being made to honor members at a dinner given by Borough PTA.

Wasn't too much news. All sorts of items got on the front page. The motto was "anything that fits." (We've had plenty of weeks like that.)

An editorial mentioned that it was unusual to have women serve on a jury, but that fourteen had been drawn for Luzerne County Common Pleas Court sessions. In the same list were 226 men.

Contributing articles during the Lenten season were six local ministers: Rev. Herbert E. Frankfort, Rev. Russell May, Rev. Guy Lienthal, Rev. C. Duane Butler, Rev. Harry M. Savacool, Rev. Francis Freeman.

The tax situation in Pennsylvania was said to be driving industry to other states.

Senator Harold Flannery was writing a weekly Washington news-

It Happened  
20 Years Ago

Col. John P. Kirkendall made front page news by coming home from a tour of service in Russia, Germany, and the Near East. He was a member of the Military Mission to Moscow.

Tex Wilson was named Captain of the East Dallas Team in the Bi-County League. Walter Schultz assistant, and Ted Wilson manager. Harding and Shavertown teams were newcomers to the League.

Back Mountain Lions were discussing school consolidation. Board members from Ross, Hunlock, and Union Townships were present. Superintendent Eugene Teter spoke.

Jackson Township firemen purchased high pressure fog equipment. Delivery was expected in time for the fire company to enter the Sweet Valley Memorial Day parade.

Mildred Borton was named Dallas Township Queen of the May, three weeks in advance. She was the daughter of Dallas stationmaster Borton.

Trees were being felled at Fernbrook Park, and brush cleared in preparation for the new Bloomsburg plant.

Lack of water contributed to loss of the Elmer Scovell home at Huntsville, when three companies fought the blaze, reporting from Lehman, Lake Silkworth, and Dallas.

Lehman firemen saved a large barn on the Skopic property. Barring rubbish and a high wind. Usual story.

Fishermen found little luck first day of trout season. Streams too deep.

Married: Arvilla Swan to James Keiper Jr.

Anniversary: Golden Wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Newberry.

Died: If anybody died, it wasn't in the paper.

It Happened  
10 Years Ago

Miners Bank, Dallas Branch, drew a whopping big crowd at its open house.

Monroe Township was petitioning Tunkhannock to take its senior high students. The jointure with Dallas fell through.

Ailing grandmother and small baby were rushed from a smoke-filled home on Tanners Hill in Noxen when fire broke out around a chimney in the Hetteseimer home.

Married: Anne Louise Hall to Robert J. Jewell.

Died: Mrs. Evelyn Mathews, Dallas RD 4, burial in Ohio. Mrs. Bertha Luella Goss, 83, native of Bloomingdale. Mrs. Margaret Garrison, 87, Carverton Road.

## KEEPING POSTED

April 3: SOUTH VIETNAM PRESIDENT cautiously welcomes talks of peace. NORTH VIETNAM CAGEY, but shows softening toward idea of negotiations. LACKING A VILLAIN to attack, now that LBJ has announced his non-candidacy, McCarthy nominates CIA and FBI for the post, launches attack. McCarthy attracts students, most too young to vote. SAVAGE SPRING SNOWSTORMS in Nebraska, Wyoming and Kansas, twisters in Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky. TRANQUILIZED ELEPHANT TRANSPORTED by helicopter, headed for sawmill in Vietnam to haul logs.

April 4: ARCHBISHOP TERRENCE COOK installed at St. Patrick's, LBJ attends. BLOODY FIGHTING in Vietnam. NORTH VIETNAM charges bombing raids went too far north, near China. RELIEF OF KHE SANH in sight, Marines along with army. SATURN ROCKET, unmanned, develops bugs, ordered to land in Pacific. May delay long-postponed moon flight. MARTIN LUTHER KING murdered in Memphis. LBJ CANCELS trip to Hawaii. Will meet Westmoreland, Bunker, here. CURFEW IN MEMPHIS, National Guard called out, race riot.

April 5: KING'S MURDER sparks riots in Washington. Looting, burning. Cherry Blossom Festival cancelled, students told to get out of capital. Bands from all over the country on hand. Was to have been their biggest day. SUSPECT still at large. FEDERAL TROOPS at Capital. RIOTS IN CHICAGO, Detroit. KHE SANH reinforced, looks like beginning of the end of the siege. LBJ SPEAKS to the people, extremely moving talk.

April 6: CZECH CABINET resigns. BALTIMORE SEETHES, 6,000 National Guard on duty. IN WASHINGTON, 11,000 troops, situation eases. STOKELY CARMICHAEL shouts, "Kill white people." FLAGS AT HALF STAFF for King. "I DON'T KNOW what the future holds, but I know who holds the future," quotation from recent sermon by King.

April 7: DAY OF MOURNING. DISORDERS WORST since Civil War, subsiding. U. S. ARMY assists Marines in lifting siege of Khe Sanh. NEW YORK'S Mayor Lindsay links arms with Negroes and sings, "We shall Overcome." Enormously popular with people of Harlem. Unafraid, a leader.

April 8: BALTIMORE'S DISORDERS said not to be racial violence but lawlessness, both white and black. GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION in Richmond, Indiana, 39 known dead, many missing. Gas leak suspected as cause. LBJ ORDERS bombing to stop at 19th Parallel.

April 9: MARTIN LUTHER KING funeral draws colossal crowd, notables from all over the country, the great and the near-great. Vice President attends. Mule-drawn farm cart bears the casket from Ebenezer Baptist Church to Morehouse College. Conciliatory by his absence, the Governor of Georgia. The long march was ended for the man who had won the Nobel Peace Prize. WASHINGTON QUIETER. LBJ AT CAMP DAVID, conferring on plans for peace talks with Ambassador Bunker and advisors. DISPLACED PEOPLE in Chicago riots being fed and housed. CZECHS GUARANTEE freedom of travel, following upheaval in government. NEWARK, N.J., fires set, negroes help "cool it for Martin Luther King."

April 10: NEW ZEALAND FERRY, caught by typhoon in harbor at Wellington, capsizes in wild surf, fifty known dead, 100 missing, small boats pick up survivors, reminiscent of evacuation of forces from Dunkirk. Car ferry carried 614, plus cars. BIGGEST OFFENSIVE of the war starts near Saigon, Operation victory replacing Operation Stalemate. LOCATION FOR TALKS under advisement.

## Back Mountain Memorial Library

by Mrs. Martin Davern  
A list of notable books for 1967 has been compiled by the Notable Books Council of the Adult Services Division, American Library Association.

The titles were selected for their significant contribution to the widening of man's knowledge, the understanding of contemporary problems, and for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers.

"The New Industrial State" by John Kenneth Galbraith is a provocative profile and projection of the United States economy. It knits the great changes of the past fifty years into a complete and consistent view of modern industrial society.

"To Move a Nation: The Politics of Foreign Policy in the Administration of John F. Kennedy" by Roger Hilsman is a lively survey of foreign policy and the men who have made and are making it. Mr. Hilsman is stubbornly specific and paints vivid, blunt portraits of national figures.

"Because television can make so much money doing its worst, it often cannot afford to do its best." This is the theme of the book, "Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control" by Fred W. Friendly. Mr. Friendly was president of CBS News from 1964 to 1966, and during his sixteen years at that network he received scores of awards for his work in broadcasting.

In "The Chosen" by Chaim Potok, the clash between generations and between extremely orthodox and more liberal Jewish sects is sensitively presented in the story of two teen-age friends. This book was one of the five books of fiction nominated for the 1967 National Book Award.

The above mentioned titles are among the 65 notable books listed for 1967, all of which are available at or through your Back Mountain Memorial Library.

## MASS OF MEMORY

Gate of Heaven was the scene Tuesday night of a Mass in Memory of Martin Luther King in which young people of the church assisted. Members of the Holy Name Society made the arrangements. The Mass was followed by a meeting at which Rev. Allan Conlin, editor of Catholic Light, was the speaker.

## Safety Valve

PRAISE FROM DAN

To the Editor:

Instead of being criticized right and left, the School Board should be commended for recent actions in backing away from enlarging the district, and in eliminating a half million dollar swimming pool from the new junior high school.

Besides investment cost, the swimming pool would require substantial expenses for maintenance, and an enormous expense for safe operation. An unprotected and unsupervised pool is an invitation to disaster.

We commend the school board, especially since a substantial increase in expenditures for teacher's salaries is in the offing.

According to reports the school board bonded indebtedness (in the name of the authority) is expected to be about \$7,293,000 when the junior high school is financed. To this must be added about \$1,250,000 to cover the proposed elementary building. Actual school board rental payment for the proposed elementary school was supposed to be about \$65,000 based on 4% bonds for thirty-seven years. The rental for the senior high school will run to the year 2000, and the new junior high school will probably be for about the same term.

But no bonds at 4% can be sold. The best rate obtainable is 5.75% for the money for the junior high school.

The 1967 valuation for the school district was reported by the county assessors as \$17,197,192. The sum of the bonds outstanding, plus temporary loans, plus annual deficits carried year after year, will make a total, as soon as the elementary building is started, amounting to half the assessed valuation of the school district.

And since the State Tax Equalization Board in figures for 1966 published last July showed a market value for the district of \$43,465,400, there is no guarantee that the state share of the rental will continue at the prevailing rate. As local income increases, state rental payments will probably decline.

D. A. Waters

Status Teachers  
Oppose Strikes

Key women teachers of the Back Mountain went on record as opposing mass resignations and striking, at a meeting of the Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, international honor society.

The poll was taken at the March meeting held last Saturday at Aldo Manor, Mrs. Ooe Beryl Austin presiding.

A "Giving of the Green" ceremony was held to share green stamps and greenbacks with the Alice Lloyd School, Pippa Passes, Kentucky for educational work in that Appalachia section. Seventy-five dollars were collected and enough green stamps to fill five books.

Mrs. Dorothy Bayless of Hazleton High School reviewed the book "Death in Life" by Liston of Yale who did psychological research on the effects of the Hiroshima bomb.

These Back Mountain members attended: Miss Pearl Averett, Mrs. Ooe Beryl Austin, Miss Lillian Burgess, Miss Hazel Baer, Miss Cornelia Davis, Mrs. Nora Dymond, Mrs. Sarah Dymond, Mrs. Marjorie Cosgrove, Miss Ruth Merrel, Mrs. Mildred Garinger, Mrs. Thelma Lamoreaux, Miss Esther Saxe, Mrs. Arline Trimble, and Mrs. Dorothy Withey.

Dallas Cadet Troop  
Works On Citizenship

Cadet Girl Scout Troop 639 of Dallas is now working on the Challenge of Active Citizenship and is in need of help. The project is to create a Girl Scout shelf in the Back Mountain Memorial Library for the use of all Girl Scouts in the Back Mountain as research facilities for badge work.

May we ask your help? If you have my books in any of the following categories, please contact 675-1217 at any time after 4:00 p.m. Camping and Campercraft Skills. Health and Safety. Cooking, Homemaking and Sewing.

Music, Games. Arts and Crafts. Child Care. Money Management. U. S. History, Science, Folklore, Nature Lore, Citizenship. International Friendship.

Signed: Nancy Rodda, Carol Pilger, Melanie Albert, Charlene Demery, and Georganne Kostenbauder.

## "Butterfly That Blushed"

Girl Scouts of Troop 656 Carverton recently attended the performance of "The Butterfly that Blushed," staged at Misericordia. As in the past the cast obliged the scouts by autographing their programs! Attending were: Meagan Davis, Cindy Cobleigh, Jane Marstell, Nancy Voitek, Debbie Werts, Elsie Harris, Sandy Perry, Susan Richards, Debbie Jo Wasserort, Leader Joan Wasserort and Mrs. Lois Davis. Three scouts were absent.

From—  
Pillar To Post

by HIX

So many momentous things have happened during the short span of a week that a flippant column, aimed at amusing and entertaining the readers with a tongue in cheek, seems completely out of place.

Pillar to Post seldom goes off the deep end. People have enough problems, and they need to laugh upon occasion. They need to laugh far oftener than they do.

But this week, there does not seem to be too much to laugh about.

A terrible thing has happened, and terrible consequences are being felt. Who pulled the trigger is of small moment. All of us have helped to point the gun.

At the time of this writing, the suspect has not been caught. We think, ourselves, that authorities are looking for the wrong man, but we may be proved in error, even before this paper goes to press.

We entertain a deep-seated conviction that the murder was staged too well. That the man who is supposed to have been responsible was a red herring drawn across the actual trail. That he made certain that he would be remembered instead of fading into the background.

Certain it is that advocates of violence have now received the go-ahead signal, and that they are now on the march.

We feel the winds of change, and their breath is cold upon us. We are headed, we know not where.

A mob is unpredictable. Violence is wildly contagious. There are lawless elements in our society, both black and white, who are panting for a chance to take the law into their own hands.

I have a background which enables me to have a better understanding of relations between the races than many people have. Born in Pennsylvania in a country parsonage far out toward the Ohio border, I had never seen a colored person until I was six years old. I had never known that there were other races. Children live encapsulated in their environment.

When we moved to Baltimore in 1898, my parents had told me there would be colored folks, and I was not to stare. Colored . . . pink, green, blue? I tried to make a picture of colored people on my drawing pad with my new crayons.

The sedate colored woman who moved into our kitchen was chocolate brown, and I loved her on sight. She was warm and motherly, and just exactly the right color. I got out my drawing pad and the brown crayon and got to work again.

I was brought up in a border state where races were strictly segregated. We took this for granted. It was the way that things were, and not to be questioned.

When I went away to school, it was in the north. The question of color did not arise. Nor did it arise during the college years. Students were in college to study in those far distant days, not to demonstrate. Our fathers, having paid a substantial sum, for our tuition and our housing, expected us to study.

When I married, it was to a northern man, and there was a new home in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

My husband took me to a church supper, where there was a distinguished looking colored couple. The man, a lawyer, noting that I was a stranger, came and sat beside me at the supper table, to welcome me to the church and the community.

For a moment I was completely at a loss. I like to think that innate breeding took over, for it was only for a moment. The amazement turned to interest, and in no time we were discussing the war in Europe. At that time, it was not our war, though the time was drawing near.

On the Pacific Coast, years later, the schools were alive with Orientals, small and fragile looking children for the most part. Perhaps there was a racial problem, but if so, I never knew it.

When we lived in Texas for a few months, my eldest son was the only American child in his class at school. All the rest of the children were Mexicans.

At the present writing, I have a daughter who operates a nursery school in Virginia. She has two little colored children in her kindergarten, and in the course of her recreational work during the summer, she has supervision of two playgrounds for colored children as well as supervision of playgrounds predominately white.

To her, a child is a child, small hands placed confidently in hers, small faces lifted in complete trust.

## TOO LATE NOW, BUT SPEAK UP

Now that it is too late, a good many people of the Dallas School District are deploring the loss of a possible swimming pool, for which designs had been incorporated into the plans for the new Junior High School.

A good many people are also writing in, to compliment the school board upon a wise decision not to spend the money.

We get it all, here at the Dallas Post. We ask that you keep your letters short, otherwise there is difficulty in finding space for them.

The complaint which we published last week in Safety Valve would have been twice as effective if half as long.

It is much harder to write a short article than a long one.

It's like a speaker who is limited to ten minutes. He can compress an hour's worth of platitudes into a short space if he is watching that minute hand.

## Dallas Kiwanis Festival Of Music

Finals of the Second Annual Kiwanis Music Festival held Saturday night, showed the Trumpet Trio of Dallas High School taking fifth place in stiff high school competition, and an honorable mention for Alto Sax player Robert Morgan of Dallas.

Trumpet Trio members are Larry Earl, Tom Vernon, and Tom Shaver. Wilkes College was well represented. James Ferrario, a freshman, is accomplished pianist and vocalist. He took first place in the College Open.

Second place went to the Percussion Trio from Wilkes, and an honorable mention to clarinetist John Vanderhoof.

A tenth grade student from Peckville, Edward Polochick, placed first in the high school division. He has played with the Seranton Philharmonic, the Niagara Philharmonic, Ballet Symphonies of Seranton and Bethlehem, and was a winner in 1966 and 1967 Baldwin competitions.

Second place in the high school division went to Robert Hall, Wilkes-Barre; third, to Andrea Lukesh, Exeter; fourth to "The Chosen Few" from Meyers High.

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## ALLEN GILBERT

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## Brian Charles Lee

M. and Mrs. Herbert Lee Jr., of Harveys Lake, announce the birth of a son April 6, 1968, at Nesbitt Hospital. Brian Charles weighed six pounds, eleven and three quarters ounces upon arrival.

## Book Club Postponed

Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club is postponing its April meeting from the Monday after Easter to the following Monday, April 22.