

Comment/Opinion

BURNHAM

Shake, splatter and roll

by L.D. Burnham

You might wonder why I'm perched on this ladder with my typewriter. I'm proving that it wasn't stupid of me to paint my house by myself. Why should I hire someone who paints houses everyday when I can take a month or two and paint it myself?

Painting your own home is one of life's decisions to be made after great prayer and meditation. Once you have decided to undertake this ritual you'll need an affirmative plan of action. If you proceed in an orderly, step-by-step fashion you'll find that painting the house isn't half of what you expect it to be.

Of course, early in the project you'll need to determine paint type and color. Paint is on sale all summer so there's no problem there. Not that it's really any cheaper, but it is on sale.

And since it's so reasonably priced, buy plenty. You never know when you might need four or five extra gallons of paint for touch up. Why, I sleep much better knowing that I have enough paint in my garage to keep my house painted for the next 27 years. I call that smart buying.

Naturally, you'll have to decide on a color. Paint companies should be criminally charged for the things they call paint. Morocco Maroon. Jefferson Jasmine. Caribbean Cream. Aztec Apricot.

Now, who's responsible for these things? How am I supposed to know the difference between maroon from Morocco and some place like Michigan, let's say? And I'd expect that Aztec Apricot might be a bit faded by now. What ever happened to colors named as I recognize them? Raspberry red, lemon yellow, orange orange.

My house is painted in exquisite Jersey Buff. Who named that? I'm humiliated to say that I own a house even faintly associated with Jersey (as in New) and that it's in the buff.

"Mine's the Jersey Buff house on the left."

Personally, I don't like the color. Neither does my wife. But out of the one thousand, two hundred and fifty-four color samples we looked at that was the only thing on which we could agree: that we both don't like Jersey Buff. Since it was the only thing we could agree on—we bought it.

Paints come in many types too so

make up your mind early whether you want oil base or latex or metal flake. Why, for a song you can pick up some no-drip, one coat, self-priming gell that will encase your home in a latex shell. And it's so convenient to use.

The one thing I wonder about: the brushes clean up so easily with water, what happens to my house cometh the first rain? Is my house now water soluble?

You'll need some other basic equipment. A heavy, unmovable ladder. Plenty of brushes so in case you have any guest drop by...a scraper or two with blade honed to a razor-sharp edge. And you'll need some rags and a drop cloth with a target area painted on it for your first fall from the ladder.

It's wise also to enroll in a gymnastics course before you begin. It's cheaper than paying for therapy after you twist your body into pretzel-like contortions while trying to stretch into corners.

It is wise to be sure your insurance is paid up. I mention that only in passing.

Just a few more details. Before you actually begin question yourself one more time, "Do I really want to

do this?" For as soon as you begin scraping and caulking you'll discover that you are not alone. You're saving one home and destroying the homes of millions of insects and rodents.

And they don't take eviction lightly. The welts on your legs will prove it. Have you ever looked eye to eye with a wasp while you're 20 feet up on a ladder? Wasps have this little leer on their faces before they attack. Paint brushes make poor swatters.

Most of the bugs, however, destroy themselves out of grief—right in the freshly smoothed latex. Their black little bodies become encased in a latex lump as a kind of memorial to the cause of insect rights.

Before you begin your very own version of shake, splatter and roll, determine very precisely the surface area to be painted. This sounds so elementary until you find that no matter how careful you are paint has instinct of its own. It likes to wander. Surface-to-glass drips give your home that polka-dot look that will make the house an eyesore and entice your neighbors to yell things such as, "Hey, Burnham! Aluminize it!"

Editorials

The Harvey's Lake 'non-tax' increase

It can happen in business as well as in government: you can't see the forest for the trees.

Harveys Lake's borough council has successfully evaded taking responsibility for an increase in the borough's tax millage by discontinuing the garbage collection service.

But there's a very real "non-tax" cost increase which becomes an indirect tax, as every resident becomes responsible for the disposal of the refuse created by his household.

If each of the 1400 residences at Harveys Lake were inhabited by a year-round resident (which we realize is not the case) and each contracts with an approved garbage collection service at \$5 per month (and there may be some rates which are lower), the indirect tax computes to \$84,000 per year.

Since there's no rebate of taxes already justified and budgeted for garbage collection of \$26,000, the total projected bill for garbage collection in the borough could conceivably be a maximum or more than \$100,000.

Even if only half the borough's homes pay the projected \$5 per month rate, that computes to \$42,000. Add the \$26,000 paid in taxes budgeted for garbage collection and the total is at least \$68,000.

All this comes out of the borough resident's pocket, one way or the other.

Since the most commonly discussed bid price was \$32,000 per year, an increase of \$6,000 over the budgeted amount, the penalty charge on this "tax savings" is seven times the amount of the necessary tax increase. Either that or uncollected garbage damaging the lake's environment.

Signed letters are welcomed

The Post welcomes all signed letters to the editor which are generally responsible and not libelous. Deadline for submission of such letters is 5 p.m.

Author's names will be withheld on request. All letters are subject to review for the responsibility of claims and charges contained and may be edited for length at the discretion of The Post.

This week the Post received a number of letters, all of which are published herein except for a laudatory note praising Dallas Recreation Center's program.

Why the author declined to sign a very positive and favorable letter presenting justified appreciation and praise to a worthwhile community program is difficult to understand.

Nonetheless, we agree. Dallas Recreation Center is providing a worthwhile and positive alternative for the youth of our community.

First Eastern reports earnings

Richard M. Ross, Jr., president and chief executive officer of First Eastern Bank, N.A., reported earnings per share for the first six months of the year were \$3.16 compared to \$3.11 in 1979.

In a letter to shareholders, Ross noted that earnings gains made in the first quarter of 1980 "were sufficient to propel our half-year results past the 1979 results," even though second quarter

earnings were impeded by the high interest costs incurred on money market certificates issued in March, April and early May.

Despite the burdens imposed by high interest rates, however, Ross noted that assets grew to over \$680 million, a gain of nearly \$94 million, or 11 percent over the second quarter of 1979. At the same time, demand deposits increased 16 percent over the same period.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More on the Myers case

Re: "Myers Case Goes Back to HL Zoning Board..." July 24, 1980 issue

Dear Editor:

Although I have purchased and enjoyed The Dallas Post ever since the Howard Riskey years, I find it necessary, for the first time, to express some points relative to subject article that are necessary in the interests of fairness and accuracy.

Your information is correct, of course, relative to the suit being brought against the Myers' family. However, there are some interesting circumstances in this case, that, when examined, make it appear that both sides of the story are not being told.

For example: 1. The article indicates that the Myers' did not exercise their right to appeal the granting of the special exception. In actuality, the Myers' could not appeal the decision, since the Zoning Hearing Board cancelled several consecutive meetings after their initial ruling was made. There was a 2-1 vote in favor of the conditions for the special exception.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Love Canal in Kingston Twp?

The no dumping rule in Kingston Township is made only for some people. We had no yearly trash collection this year in Kingston Township due to not having a place to dump it. But there is a person dumping debris from the valley in Kingston Township who was not arrested, but was arrested for dumping debris in two different boroughs in Luzerne County.

This dumping of debris in Kingston Township is in a wooded area, not in

One of the members (who voted with the majority) had openly indicated that he had voted based upon misinformation, and that he wanted an opportunity to rectify his mistake at a future meeting. Unfortunately, for various reasons the Board did not hold another meeting until after this member was out of office!

When this matter was brought up before District Magistrate Leonard Harvey (where the charges were dismissed, incidentally) this former Board member, Mr. William Sherksnas, testified that he wanted an opportunity to change his vote when it became clear to him that he had voted unfairly, due to misinformation that was presented to him. Since the meeting was cancelled, he had no opportunity to rectify his position.

3. The special exception conditions, among which was the requirement that the Myers' hook up their boathouse to the Municipal sewer (even though they have no toilet in the boathouse) appeared, according to Magistrate Harvey, unfair, since "...why should the Myers' have the only boathouse at

Harveys Lake that has to have a toilet facility when it (the boathouse) is less than 500 feet from the residence?"

These are but a few of the points that indicate an inconsistency of fairness in the case. Dr. Slavin told me last year that he intends to "...see this thing through, even if it takes ten years and a lot more money". He also indicated that he would like Harveys Lake to be private, with limitations for motorboats and other recreational opportunities. Since Dr. Wienckowski (a chiropractor) sold his house and moved away some time ago, it appears that Dr. Slavin is the driving force behind this action; in fact, Dr. Slavin held a meeting at his home with the two Zoning Hearing Board members (Joseph Ruotolo and Ben Orfaly) that voted for his interests, right after the dismissal by Magistrate Harvey. The dissenting member of the Board was not at Slavin's home that evening.

All of the facts that I have referred to are just that, facts, and are verifiable. I would appreciate your printing this letter as it is an honest

attempt to inform the readers of the other side of the story. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Keith P. Yeisley

P.S. My wife, son and I are the tenants of Myers' apartment, and have been since June of 1979.

Editor's Note: Ben Orfaly, chairman of the Harveys Lake zoning hearing board, has advised that the meeting schedule of the board is not a factor in the hearing process since the appeal is to be made in 30 days to the court of common pleas. So far as he knows, the court was available during the appeal period.

The decision requiring toilet installation in the boathouse was primarily based on the Myer's commercial use of the boathouse, providing rental slips, and the second family permitted in the main dwelling. Orfaly said the board doubted the likelihood of renters going 425 feet each way to use the main dwelling's facilities. The Post stands by the accuracy of its article.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Big stink over garbage

Dear Editor:

We had another round at the special meeting of the Harveys Lake Borough Council—actually, it was a big stink over the garbage situation. You see, our council voted to do away with the paid garbage pick up that we have had for the past few years. It seems that this paid garbage service was getting too expensive and putting a squeeze on the budget.

So, a few weeks ago, the council voted to do away with paid garbage service, which means that all borough residents will have to hire and pay for their own garbage removal. Tonight's (July 28) special meeting was for the purpose of passing the ordinance which would allow private contractors to come into the borough to pick up garbage under borough regulations.

Tattersall defends speed boater's cause

Dear Editor:

I read an article this week in a local newspaper (a Wilkes-Barre daily) about the arrest of Mr. (Allen) Morrow and his son.

Mr. Morrow may be a lot of things, but his son is not. At the present moment, I am not even talking to Morrow, but I know his boat very well. It's a luxury craft with the latest equipment; and if there was a violation, why did (Fish Commission Waterways Patrolman Claude) Niefert have to high speed chase him all around the lake? Both him (Morrow) and his son are residents and unless the definition

of a lake is changed since I went to school, it is a body of water surrounded by land, and Niefert certainly knows, or should know that there is no way out of the lake and it is nine miles around.

So, there is no need for a high speed chase, endangering people's lives. This is just another case of police over-zealous, chasing a father and a son and trying to abuse their rights.

If Morrow has done any wrong, he's responsible, not his family.

Yours truly,
Richard Tattersall

getting homes on fire.

Also all of us in the Bunker Hill section depend on wells or springs for human consumption of which my well was contaminated after being good for 28 years.

But when I make a report of this dumping of debris in Kingston Township it cannot be found. I never know one could hide approximately 6,000 cubic feet of debris or has some people got bad

eyesight for the same reason. So I wish the dumping of debris could be stopped by the proper authorities before we have some kind of disaster as Love Canal of Niagara, N.Y., or poisoned substance as in the river in Pittston, or a lot of people getting sick from contaminated wells, etc.

Lou Moses

Well, Mr. Hoblak of the H.L. Taxpayers Association tired, with no success, to stop the council from taking any further action on the garbage situation until a study could be done. He said that the people of Harveys Lake would rather see the council raise the taxes and continue the garbage service.

The people would rather see a tax increase???? That's a new one! Well, anyway, the ordinance passed. But I must point out an interesting little trick by one council member; a cute political move.

Councilman Cappellini, who voted 'yes' to do away with garbage pick up, and even gave a strong statement as to why he thought it should be done, turned around tonight and voted 'no' on the ordinance to let private contractors come into the borough to pick up!! As many politicians are famous for, (and lawyers for that matter!!) he twisted things and talked out of both sides of his mouth, and tried to make himself come up smelling like a rose after falling into a pile of garbage. He took advantage of the situation.

It was apparent that many of the people sitting in the room were of the impression that this was the vote to do away with garbage service, when actually that was done weeks ago, with Cappellini voting "YES." Now, in front of a filled room, he gives a long speech and votes "NO." But, he was voting no on the ordinance to allow private contractors into the lake to pick up garbage!!!

If the ordinance didn't pass, I wonder what Cappellini had in mind for disposing of the lake's garbage? All I can say to this man's speeches is, "Bag it buddy, until you can give us answers and not political hog-wash!"

See you at the next meeting—they're getting more interesting all the time.

Charles Killgallon

Editor's Note: Both Cappellini and Councilwoman Michelle Boice explained their reasons for changing positions on the issue during the meeting. See P. 1 story.

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