

Comment/Opinion

Price pattern for milk

by David M. Cleary
Harrisburg Bureau

Throughout Pennsylvania, a gallon of milk is four to six cents more expensive this month than it was in October.

That's understandable. Lack of rain during the summer gave dairy farmers smaller than normal crops of feed for their cows, and raised the price of the feed they must buy to make up the deficit.

But the price pattern across the state—\$1.85 in Philadelphia and \$2.07 in Reading for a gallon of milk containing between 3.25 and 4 percent butterfat—is harder to understand.

"Setting prices is a long and complicated process," says George Brumbaugh, a retired Montgomery County dairy farmer who is chairman of the state's Milk Marketing Board. As we visited, he was studying seven-inch thick volumes of testimony on which future prices for Philadelphia and its five-county marketing area will be based.

Brumbaugh admitted to a 22-cent-a-gallon price difference between Gilbertsville, in Montgomery County, and Boyertown, a mile away in Berks County. He said the main reason for the difference is that prices for Berks and 16 other east-central counties had been adjusted recently, while the process of setting rates in the Philadelphia area is now under way.

Part of the problem arises from the more or less arbitrary lines dividing one milk marketing area from another. Milk produced by a

dairy firm in Lebanon, for example, sells for \$2 a gallon in Harrisburg and \$1.85 per gallon in Delaware County. It is Delaware County in which that firm operates its chain of dairy stores, accepting the lower price because high-volume demand is present.

Philadelphia and its heavily populated suburban counties enjoy low milk prices because of economies of scale. It's much cheaper to deliver a semi-trailer full of milk to a dozen supermarkets in one city than to haul the same quantity to hundreds of rural stores in several one-ton trucks.

But that's only part of the picture, says Marianne Olson, of Pittsburgh, the consumer member of the Milk Marketing Board.

The board is required by law to set prices according to the testimony it hears. Farmers and dairy firms present their cost figures through lawyers skilled in the art of influencing juries and other decision-making bodies.

"Only in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas do we ever hear any expert testimony arguing for lower prices," Olson told us.

Small wonder. The board can't accept "I can't afford it" pleas from individuals, but must base its decision on cost factors the consumer cannot obtain.

In Western Pennsylvania, the consumer spokesman is a lawyer for the city of Pittsburgh, arguing against each proposed price increase on behalf of city residents.

Cumberland Farms, headquartered in Massachusetts,

repeatedly seeks lower prices in the Philadelphia area, where it operates 20-odd stores. That firm, presenting its own cost figures, keeps its competitors in line.

"I never vote against reasonable prices for farmers," said Olson, "but I voted against the last two retail price increases for Western Pennsylvania."

She was overridden by the votes of Chairman Brumbaugh and the third board member, dairy farmer Donald Lanius of York County.

A nickel of the latest seven-cent price boost for Allegheny and 11 other counties has been held up by State Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larson, upon petition by the city of Pittsburgh.

"Without consulting me, the other two board members are asking that the Larson ruling be reviewed by the full court," said Olson.

Sentencing Proposals 'Too Lenient'

For almost two years, an 11-member Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission has been working on "guidelines" designed to eliminate the jockeying by criminal lawyers to have cases heard by certain judges.

Last week that commission invited comments on a draft of its recommendations to the General Assembly, and was urged to make them stiffer.

Both Attorney General-elect Leroy S. Zimmerman, who will take office on Jan. 20, and Sen. Michael A. O'Pake (D-Kingston), who ran unsuccessfully against Zimmerman, called the guidelines "too lenient."

"The time has come," declared Zimmerman, "to tell these violent offenders that the system intends to punish them for their criminal acts—with rehabilitation being a secondary, but positive, part of that punishment."

The proposed guidelines "do not proclaim that message," he added. O'Pake said the guidelines are not only too lenient, but are loaded with loopholes.

"I am shocked and disappointed," O'Pake said, that "the commission has seen fit to propose guidelines that would allow deliberate criminals and repeat offenders to escape a just and appropriate sentence."

O'Pake was echoed by Richard A. Lewis, who succeeded Zimmerman as Dauphin County prosecutor.

Lewis called the proposed sentences "inadequate" for white collar crimes, and for crimes of violence, political corruption and large-scale drug trafficking.

The commission, which includes Sen. George W. Gekas (R-Harrisburg) among its members, was supported by Arthur Goldberg, Harrisburg attorney and chairman of the Criminal Law section of the state bar association.

"It is important that those judges who were known as the ultra-lenient sentencing personalities set aside their personal approaches," Goldberg said.

Under rules which established the commission, legislators cannot amend the commission's recommendations, but must accept or reject them as submitted.



VISITS WITH SANTA—Two Back Mountain children stop to visit with Santa while on the annual Dallas Rotarians Christmas Shopping Tour. Rotarian Paul Priebe was the children's escort and standing by is the manager of Pomeroy's in the Wyoming Shopping Mall. (Duncan Whitehead Photo)

EDITORIAL

The loser

Since a group of Dallas residents tried to oust Dallas Basketball Coach Clint Brobst, high school student Paul Jobson has been the loser. The move to oust Brobst failed. Jobson transferred or was transferred from Dallas to Lake-Lehman School District.

There were charges that it was an athletic transfer. Jobson's defenders claimed that it was an academic transfer. There were charges and counter-charges. There were hearings and more hearings. Each time, Jobson lost. And now he is a sad loser. Jobson is a senior. The latest decision by the District II Committee prohibits him from playing basketball for a period of a year. So Jobson now spends his senior year on the sidelines, not on the court. What has Jobson gained?

If the PIAA rule about transfers has been stretched in the past, there is no justification that this should continue. The rule clearly states that athletic transfers will be prohibited and testimony indicates it fits Jobson's case.

Dallas administrators have proven that they do have a high school program for gifted students. They also testified that Jobson never talked with guidance counselors at either Dallas or Lake-Lehman High School. Jobson said he decided to transfer after hearing about Lake-Lehman's programs from a friend. Hearsay is not the way to decide one's future.

School athletic programs were initiated for a reason—to teach students how to win or how to lose graciously, fair play, learning to deal with situations, solving problems the right way.

Interested adults often play a valuable role in extra-curricular programs, especially in athletic programs. But in some cases, interests are diverted. Perhaps top administrators should take another look at high school athletic programs.

Is it time to evaluate the interests of the adults and the role they play in high school programs?

Has a teen-age high school student become the pawn of adult actions? Is it time for the administrators to evaluate what students are gaining or losing?

We believe the time has come to do just that. Has a high school student been hurt because of adult actions and, if so, isn't now the time to eliminate problems before another student is hurt.

PennDOT asks Rte. 415 bids

Tom Collins, district engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in Northeast Pennsylvania, announced that bids will be sought on Jan. 8, 1981 for the repair of a section of Traffic Route 415 in Harveys Lake Borough, Luzerne County.

The project is located approximately 0.5 miles south of the Luzerne-Wyoming County Line.

The work to be performed consists of the replacement of a portion of existing masonry parapet wall.

Traffic will be maintained through the construction area during the project.

Post Office sets hours

The Post Office in Dallas will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, Postmaster Gawlas announced today.

On those two days there will be no regular window service.

No collection service will be

provided on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Regular collection service on Dec. 24 and 31, will be provided by the carriers in residential areas.

Normal collection service will resume on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Window service will be available at the Dallas Post Office on Dec. 24 and 31.

ONLY YESTERDAY

50 years ago—Dec. 19, 1930

Christmas programs are planned by all local churches. Back Mountain residents are invited to enjoy these unusual musical numbers.

Pennsylvania State Department of Forests and Water estimate that 2,000,000 Christmas trees will be used this year.

First National Bank of Dallas increases stock capitalization \$25,000.

Area Girl Scouts work very hard to bring holiday cheer to area residents. The girls are busy making stuffed cats and dogs for needy children, providing baskets of foods for needy families and trimming trees in various area institutions.

Married: Gertrude Landers to Dr. Robert M. Bodycomb.

You could get—Sleds \$1.50; roller skates \$1; scout knives 95c; dates 2 lbs. 35c; mince meat 2 lbs. 35c; walnuts 32c lb.; eggs doz. 37c; hams 25c lb.; coffee 23c lb.; Hershey's kisses 2 lb. 37c.

40 years ago—Dec. 23, 1940

Front page of the Dallas Post features Christmas messages from Rev. Herbert E. Frankfort, St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Rev. Harold G. Durkin, St. Therese's

Church and Rev. Francis Freeman, Dallas Methodist Church.

Celesta Prutzman, age 86, was the first teacher in the Dallas High School. In addition to her public school teaching career, Mrs. Prutzman has been a Sunday School teacher for 50 years.

Candy, ice cream, cookies and presents delivered by Santa Claus himself make the Dallas Junior Woman's Club Christmas Party an afternoon of fun.

In the spirit of the season, Lehman, Dallas, Kunkle, Trucksville, Idetown, Shavertown, Alderson and Noxen Methodist Churches, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas Primitive Methodist Church and St. Therese's Church plan elaborate programs for Christmas.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Major, 40 years.

Now playing at local theatres—Himmeler Theatre, "City For Conquest"; James Cagney; Kingston Theatre, "Little Nelly Kelly"; Judy Garland.

You could get—Turkeys 24c lb.; pork loin 13c lb.; oranges 25 for 25c; cranberries 15c; plum pudding 23c can; coffee 23c lb.; eggs 31c doz.; mince meat 9-oz. pkg. 10c; flour 24 lb. bag 89c.

No martyr

by Dick Swank

Pennsylvania Press Bureau

When three members of the Atlantic Life Community poured out the blood of themselves and their followers upon the turf of Veterans Stadium at the Army-Navy football game I realized that through the accident of having been born in a generation too soon I had missed all the thrills of becoming a full-fledged masochist. It also occurred to me that within every man there is a quiver of the flesh that taken the right way could lead to martyrdom.

The three men on the football field were all in their thirties and one, at least, professed to be a minister. Their excuse for their actions had something to do with the ban of atomic warfare and nuclear power in general, something with which all of us are concerned but not extensively enough to make fools of ourselves to the world.

Nevertheless, I felt a stab of recognition in their torment because I am sure that within each of us lies the sense of self-abasement, the desire to atone for

our comfortable lives in some small way—a feeling that easy existence must be underlined with an occasional walk through the briar patch.

To persevere the morality of living our years bereft of noble pains, those of us who would eat of both cakes find diversion. To suffer, if one cannot smother it, is simply remedied by going hunting, for instance, and standing miserably along some mountain trail, hands freezing, nose running, hungry, footsore, shivering from rump to chilblained neck. Or perhaps one might join with eighty thousand other citizens to self-destruct at a Penn State football game, high in the bleachers on a snowy, foggy, gloomy day at Nittany. There are many ways to satisfy the agony of wanting hurt.

As I watched those kneeling throwbacks to the horrible days of Roman glee at the plight of Christians succumbing to the chopping jaws of wild beasts, I counted the blessings of a warm fire and a closed room. I didn't miss being a martyr one bit.

Dallas Bank increases capital

30 years ago—Dec. 22, 1950

Boy Scouts lead the search for three-year-old Nancy Davis, who wandered away from her yard just before sunset. Happily Nancy was found after a short search, no worse for the experience.

William R. Neely, retired Lehman merchant and vice president of the First National Bank of Dallas, submits his resignation to the bank's Board of Directors.

Mrs. Alice Uhl and her daughter, Becky, are overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. Fortunately, mother and daughter have recovered very nicely from the incident.

John Nash, Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion, supervisor of the Ground Observer Corps for the Dallas area, calls for volunteers to man the area air raid observation posts.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Major, 50 years.

Deaths—Harriet Greenwood, Overbrook Avenue; John M. Reese, Dallas.

Now playing at local theatres—Himmeler Theatre, "The Good Hummer Man"; Jack Carson; Shaver Theatre, "Sierra"; Wanda Hendrix, Audy Murphy.

You could get—Whitman's

chocolates \$1.35 box; wallets \$1 and up; bathroom scales \$7.95; extra large size dolls \$3.49; women's robes \$6.99; women's nightgowns \$2.99.

20 years ago—Dec. 22, 1960

Back Mountain children can dial OR-5-1111 to reach Santa Claus.

Three hundred youngsters greet Santa at the Dallas American Legion Christmas party.

Tony Bonomo, Exeter purchases the Crown Imperial Bowling Lanes from Robert Hanson.

Lake-Lehman School District will build a \$2 million high school this spring. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction approves the 43-acre site near Lehman Center.

George H. Jacobs, senior at Westmoreland High School, has been notified that he will represent Pennsylvania on a national level in the Voice of Democracy contest.

Deaths—Hannah Brew, Pioneer Avenue; Scott Newberry, Millville; Arthur Gensel, Fernbrook; Julia Herezinski, Dallas; Frank Traver, Evans Falls; Edith Ashley, Hunlock Township.

Now playing at local theatres—Forty Fort, "When Comedy Was King"; Luzerne Theatre, "The

Development Authority, and others.

The Revolving Loan Fund is designed to provide funding in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for projects which an Operating Loan Committee of the Economic Development Council and a Multi-regional Loan Committee will review and make decisions on in coming months. The term of the loan will be approximately 5 years in length, and each loan will have to show one job per \$5,000 to \$7,000 of loan monies.

Other terms of the Revolving Loan Fund Program will be announced within the next thirty days as the loan program guidelines are published.

The Economic Development Council has received many requests

for information pertaining to the Fund and other requests are expected in the future.

So called development financing which includes a range of tools available at the federal and/or State levels may be what the 1980's offer to encourage private investment towards job creation and retention. Revolving Loan Funds are designed to allow the reuse of monies as the Fund is replenished through the repayment structure built into the loan program. More information will be made available in coming weeks. In the meantime, information can be secured with respect to the Revolving Loan Fund Program by writing the Economic Development Council, Box 777, Avoca, PA 18641.

The Big O reports

Stream improvement projects for the boroughs of Swoyersville and West Wyoming, facility maintenance and equipment money for LCTA, and maintenance projects for a number of state-owned facilities in Northeastern Pennsylvania head the list of local programs included in the Commonwealth Capital budget for 1980-81, passed by both houses of the General Assembly before adjournment, according to Sen. Frank J. O'Connell, R-20.

That budget bill awaits action by Governor Thornburgh, who has until Dec. 20 to act on the measure, O'Connell said.

"Although there may be some projects which are blue lined by the governor," O'Connell said, "I am hopeful that most of these projects will remain in the bill when the governor signs it."

The stream projects are slated for \$300,000 each, and the Luzerne County Transportation Authority will receive \$194,000 to renovate maintenance facilities and purchase equipment, if the bill is approved as passed by the General Assembly, he added.

Other projects include \$593,000 for the Anthracite Museum in Eckley, a sewage treatment project for the state correctional institution at Dallas, and a number of improvement projects at Bloomsburg and East Stroudsburg State Colleges and Penn State Hazleton Campus.

Tax Carryover Bill Signed

Gov. Thornburgh has signed a bill allowing businesses to carry tax losses over to future taxing years, making it easier for businesses to weather bad years followed by good ones.

"By evening out the tax burden," O'Connell said, "we are giving business a chance to deal with hard times by not forcing them to pay as much tax during a good year which follows. This is just one more effort to improve the business climate in Pennsylvania."

Tourism Bill

A bill to exempt tourist promotion agencies which receive state funds from being forced to pay sales tax on promotion purchases is on the governor's desk. He has until Dec. 20 to act on the measure.

The bill, SB 1252 was sponsored by O'Connell.

fruit cakes \$1.89 1 1/2 lb. cake; nut roll 79c; poppyseed roll 69c.

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