

# Chatterbox

## Comment

With the coming of 1983, we take time to reflect on the past and pin our hopes for a better future. Many of us have good reason to wish for a happier New Year, but therein lies the beauty of the beast. Regardless of the pain and heartache endured in 1982, mankind possesses an innate ability to start anew as the calendar opens to a new year. While wishing each and every Dallas Post reader a healthy and love-filled New Year, we also note a few helpful resolutions to consider:

## A time for reflection

-That our nation's leaders will resolve to work toward the construction rather than destruction.  
-That "big business" will resolve to remember each employee as the living, breathing, thinking human being he is rather than just another cog in the wheel of profit.  
-That our elected officials will resolve to treat their offices with the respect the sacred trust implies and remember who put them there and why.  
-That our educators will resolve

to set examples of maturity and fairness for our children, who need as much stability as they can find in our unstable world.  
-That those involved in nuclear research will resolve to channel its energies into medicine rather than breeder reactors.  
-That those who litter and deface the beauty of our world will resolve to find more productive ways of spending their time.  
-That those of us who are blessed with mental and physical health

will resolve to remember the wonderful learning and loving which come from accepting the mentally and physically handicapped.  
-That parents and children will resolve to cherish and hold dear the love, safety and support which result from the union of family.  
-That we will all resolve to preserve and actively protect our environment and natural resources for our children and their children.



## A Little Fact; A Little Fancy

from Mak

It wasn't a meeting, but an informal discussion recently between members of the Fall Fair Association and the Lehman Township Zoning Board. The object of the gathering was to clear the air of the differences between the two groups without the often hostile and highly emotional public input which normally accompanies their meetings. Spokesmen for both sides admitted everyone made concessions, but optimism is the feeling about future dealings. Bob Bayer, of the Fall Fair, said the Association is starting from scratch with Lehman at this point. As soon as the township's new zoning code is enacted, Fall Fair will apply anew for a fair permit. The Association also will apply properly for permission to erect a fair sign. Bayer said his group will be careful to follow regulations to a 'tee', but that Lehman promised to do its share as well. The zoning board has agreed to make any complaints or problems with the fair known to the Association via a formal letter, rather than dragging things out at meetings and in the press. Both sides have agreed to name a few pertinent personnel as spokespersons so that rumors and exaggerations are kept to a minimum. While both sides believe their complaints are valid, the dissension has seriously affected each one's credibility. One wonders if those who have let personal animosities affect their judgement in the past, are now ready to give it up in the interest of public benefit.

throughout the month of December and found out that Pat wanted an autographed picture of Roger Mudd in her stocking. Of course, Pat has been a good girl this year, and so Santa granted her wish. She received her photograph of the famous newscaster on Christmas Eve, and to her surprise and happiness, it was signed by Mudd himself. So, all ye non-believers—take heart and get back into the spirit of the holiday. Maybe next year, he'll fill your wish, too.

To the gentleman who likes his horseradish hot—the one I met in the Dallas Acme while purchasing horseradish root to be grated. I don't know who devised the idea of grating that taste burning root into a sauce for seafood, ham and other foods, but I agree, it was one heck of an idea. By the way, ours came out just right! It burns the tongue and brings a tear to the eye, just the way you said you like it. Haven't found it commercially prepared that way yet. And to make it even easier, modern technology has once again come to the aid of the homemaker and provided a food processor—which makes the job of grating almost fun.

With the holiday season at its peak, state legislators have done a good job of reminding us of our social responsibilities with passage of the drunk driving bill. Prompted by such lobby groups as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), lawmakers put together a mandatory sentencing package which can be very effective if taken seriously and enforced. The bill includes education as well as punishment and offenders have the opportunity for rehabilitation rather than an instant jail sentence. I have discussed the idea of mandatory sentencing with some members of the judiciary and found they are not necessarily in favor of it. One local District Justice told me, it precludes consideration of circumstances and is therefore not always fair in his opinion.

The people who commonly combine alcohol and automobiles are not intentionally bent on crime, but the statistics make the problem hard to excuse. Last year, in Pennsylvania alone, about 20,000 persons were charged with drunken driving. Another 943 persons were killed in drinking related accidents. Undeniably, strong measures were needed in this area. But, for the person who honestly believes alcohol is a necessary social function—and by the number of watering holes in existence, there must be quite a few—some changes in drinking habits, such as slowing down, cutting the amount and giving your car keys to a friend, rather than taking a chance, could keep you out of jail and alive, a little longer.

A must for residents of the Lake-Lehman school district is a visit to the newly renovated Junior High School building. It is truly worthy of pride. New gymnasium and cafeteria, bright and colorful classrooms, carpeting; the building has really been transformed.

An interesting fact came across my desk the other day, from the Big O, Sen. Frank O'Connell. According to the Senator's Dec. 13 report, state lawmakers introduced 4386 bills during session of the General Assembly.

In the 203 member House, 1730 measures were proposed while 1656 bills were filed in the 50-seat Senate. As of Nov. 30, the last day of the 1981-82 session, legislators sent Gov. Dick Thornburgh 402 bills including 50 appropriation measures. During the session, the governor wrote five vetoes and had one overridden.

For those of you who do not believe in Santa Claus, Pat Gregory has good news. Obviously Santa does, like all discriminating readers in the Back Mountain, enjoy his copy of the Dallas Post every week, and reads it thoroughly. At least he read the Christmas Wish List published

## Library News

### Origami at the library

BY NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
The wonderful world of origami. Our display case in the library is filled with some really magnificent items of origami made by Anthony Stallone of Harveys Lake. He is 14 years old and a member of the freshman class at Wyoming Seminary. Anthony has been making origami projects since second grade and has spent some time at the library the past few months preparing the origami for the display case. They were fascinating to him and he can now make a frog in about five minutes. There are 19 animals in the case plus Mary and Joseph and the baby and two nuts. He has set up display cards showing the seven steps necessary to complete a bird.

It was important to me that he make a squirrel and he thought it was too difficult. However, he did make father and son squirrel, each taking about 15 minutes. There are three pink mice, sister and brother blue elephants, mother and three small rabbits, two butterflies, three cranes, 2 flying and one trying, an alligator and a frog, and a red parrot. There is special origami paper and the library has many books on making origami. The intricacies of paperfolding, called origami, is shown in the display. They will be on display for four weeks. The timing is perfect, as January is National Hobby Month. Well done, Anthony.

Have you heard an Englishman say something like "I had the privilege of driving to New York a few years ago to pick up a friend at Kennedy

International who was arriving from England. Jessie Moore is a delightful person and the way she pronounced squirrel was just intriguing to me. It became sort of a password with us and when she returned to England, she sent me a needlepoint framed picture of a squirrel, which hangs in my office at the library. Entering or leaving my office, I smile at it and remember a woman who left a lasting impression and who became a very special friend. Now you know why the squirrel is important to me.

New books at the library: "Walt Disney's Epcot" is a book that shows and tells the story of Epcot Center's creation. It is a visually stunning story. Nowhere else in the world is there anything like it and no one but Disney could have done it. It is the talk of the planet! "Solitaire", by Graham Masterton, is a novel of explicit romance and violent adventure. Above all, there is the diamond-350 carats in the rough, a diamond that men kill for and women die for. Exile, suffering, murder, unconditional love and hatred create a turbulent story.

Here's a New Year's resolution that will pay you great dividends. Resolve to visit your Back Mountain Memorial Library once a week. You will be surprised at the wide selection of books and other library materials available to you. The wonderful world of books awaits you at 69 Main St., Dallas. Try something new for 1983. Read and dream and learn.

## Only Yesterday

# 1953 New Year's baby!

50 Years Ago - Jan. 13, 1933

C.A. Frantz was elected president of Dallas First National Bank at the institution's annual stockholder's meeting. Herbert H. Hill was elected to the directorate.

George H. Bronson, Sweet Valley merchant, was appointed postmaster at Sweet Valley.

Deaths—Franklin B. Umphred, East Dallas.

You could get—Sweet cream butter 2 lb. 53c; sliced bacon 19c lb.; coffee 25c lb.; wet pack shrimp 2 cans 19c; pineapple 2 cans 25c.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 8, 1943

Following a custom of many years, the Stork greeted Dr. H.A. Brown of Lehman again on New Year's Day. The old fellow kept his appointment with Dr. Brown at Nesbitt Hospital where he stopped off for a moment while delivering a baby daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shouldice of Jackson.

Barne G. Tribler, Danish born seaman and adventurer, died. Barne, who resided in Huntsville, was a cabin boy on the famous Titanic when it sank. Tribler saved himself and the life of a Scotch girl

as the Titanic went down.

Engaged—Doris McCarty to J. Edwin Ide; Margaret Glahn to Stephen Sanders, Jr.

Married—Patricia Ann Lyons to Robert Jones.

Deaths—John M. Crispell, Jr., Beaumont; David J. Davis, West Dallas.

You could get Florida oranges 30c doz.; sweet potatoes 5c lb.; Premium Crackers 2 lb. 17c; snappy cheese 37c lb.; lamb chops 45c lb.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 9, 1953

Sally Kear and Ida Mae Kiefer both of Dallas, critically injured in an automobile accident that claimed the lives of three companions, were recovering slowly.

Christine Donahue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Donahue, Woodlawn Drive, Dallas, was the first local baby born on New Year's Day. The 8 lb. 12 oz. little lady arrived at 3:10 a.m.

Engaged—Constance Petroski to ensign Stephen Krupinski, Jr.; Ruth Haycox to Donald N. Besecker; Doris Kirkendall to

Raymond Myers; Janet Miers to Albert W. Hontz, Jr.

Married—Mary Bethia Allen to Burton W. King; Diana Llewellyn to Pvt. Edward Barnes.

Deaths—Edwin F. Hay, Carverton; Harry Ruggles, Kingston; Charles Spencer, Shavertown; Ethel Yapple Oliver, Dallas.

You could get—Coffee 79c lb.; leg of lamb 59c lb.; bananas 5c lb.; fresh mushrooms 49c lb.; granulated sugar 10 lb. 99c.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 10, 1963

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Calkins, 84 Jackson St., Dallas, had the distinction of being the parents of the first New Year's Day baby born in the Back Mountain. The eight pounds 12 ounce girl arrived at 7:40 a.m. at General Hospital.

Married—Eileen Catherine Cummings to John Joseph Comer, Jr.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Haring, 49 years; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stitzer, 47 years; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dimmick, 25 years.

Deaths—Blanche Hontz Cragle,

Pond Hill; Rowland C. Shelley, Windgap Farm; Irene F. Myers, Shavertown; Haydn B. Fry, Dallas.

You could get—Hams 35c lb.; tomatoes 29c lb.; mushrooms 39c lb.; coffee 1 lb. can 65c; peanut butter 1 lb. 2 oz. jar 61.

10 Years Ago - Jan. 11, 1973

Edward Richards was re-elected permanent chairman of the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors. Michael Stanley was appointed permanent secretary-treasurer. Ben Jones III was retained as solicitor while Paul Sabol was reappointed police chief. Officers are Bill Pugh, John Appel and Luther Rozelle.

Engaged—Dorothy Susan Weaver to Larry John Harris.

Deaths—Joseph M. Giblin, Laura Eva Ellsworth, Jesse W. Miller, William Harvey, Dallas; Blanche Knorr, Trucksville; Arabella Levan, Harveys Lake.

You could get—Chicken breast or leg quarters 39c lb.; Delmonico steak \$1.99 lb.; grapefruit 5 lb. bag 75c; grapes 39c lb.; fresh cranberries 3 1-lb. pkg. \$1.

## Letter to the Editor

# Are we getting our money's worth?

Gentlemen:

Luzerne County Commissioners have proposed a nice salary increase for themselves and their cohorts. Whether the jobs performed by these people are worth it, is a moot question. Of course, the incumbents understandably feel that they are underpaid while outsiders are likely to feel that they are overpaid. In April, the voters will have to decide the merits of the case. What, if any, criteria might be used to affect a sound decision?

I suggest there are several, but they might yield very different results.

First, from the political point of view, the cost of purchasing office has unquestionably risen very rapidly. Register of Wills Frank Castellino reported that he has to

spend between \$15,000 and \$20,000 every three years to get elected. Commissioner Edward Brominski is reported to have said that salaries are not raised, only the wealthy will be able to afford running for office. And Clerks of Courts Eugene Hudak has estimated the cost of running for his office runs into the thousands of dollars. It's a fact that as long as politicians run for office, the procedure is going to be increasingly expensive, and someone will have to pay for it.

From the administrative point of view, however, there is a real question as to whether costs have risen much in the past five years—certainly not by the 40 percent projected for the next five years.

Furthermore, there is a question as to management efficiency in County Administration. Are we really getting our money's worth for the tax dollars extracted from the county taxpayer? Could an outside private firm provide the same services to the County that are now performed by public employees—and at a lower cost?

A casual trip through the Courthouse on a typical business day might be revealing. It is strongly suggested that anyone interested in the expenditure of their tax monies take the time to make the visit (unannounced would be best). One observer has noted that the Courthouse operation is very much outdated and from the cost standpoint "needs to be dragged-kicking and screaming—into the 20th century. A

lot of the county business could and should be computerized."

Finally, consider the qualifications needed to fill our costly County offices. Does it take years of experience or education? Does one have to have an outstanding record for management efficiency? Obviously not. The only criterion is the necessity to be elected. This, incidentally, is not easy to do and requires considerable skills in organizations and personal relations. But the skills required to engineer a successful election are not at all the same required to manage government well or efficiently.

Is it any wonder then, that many think we get too little for our tax dollars?

Hugh P. King

## Mixed metropolitanism needed

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Have you ever noticed how many times someone will ask a person from Wilkes-Barre who visits Scranton, or a visitor from Scranton

who travels to Wilkes-Barre "Oh what a surprise to see you here. What are you doing in this community?" Over the years, there have been advances made to encourage a more cooperative spirit between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton or between Luzerne County and Lackawanna County. These have principally been in the form of specific actions which led to some new organizations. For example, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic is usually listed as the classic case where great improvement was achieved in music through the merger of two existing locally based organizations into a regional symphony orchestra.

The Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is an example of regional economic development efforts to facilitate economic improvement in a region which classically has undergone continuous economic distress, although it has achieved a remarkable comeback from the days when only one industry controlled the entire economic scene. These examples afford the means by which a more constructive program can be conducted toward

economic and cultural harmony.

The linking of Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties together with Monroe, into a single Metropolitan Area designation, has allowed the opportunity to market Northeastern Pennsylvania in a way which heretofore, has been closed. The designation, however, will reach a decade in 1983, and full marketing potential still has not been achieved.

There are many other times in which the mixing of metropolitanism does not take place and causes the question to be asked as to why it is strange for someone from the Scranton area to attend a Wilkes-Barre function or the reverse.

At no time in history of Northeastern Pennsylvania has there been more of a need for cross fertilization, and indeed, specific action to foster inter-governmentalism, regional investment opportunities, and other actions which would enable Northeastern Pennsylvania to be much more productive and logical in carrying out economic, social, physical, cultural and educational revitalization projects. Imagine, for

example, what the region could be if there were a single large governmental entity of four or five hundred thousand people, to supplement the small entities which frequent the region today.

One of the most difficult problems facing the region is its lack of identification, since in almost every other metropolitan area in the nation, a large city is identified immediately with that particular area. It makes marketing, economic stimulation, and almost any other factor easier to deal with than is the case in this region. Parochialism is fine as long as it does not interfere with the larger public good. In fact, the two-tier system of government, in which larger responsibilities are carried out by a larger unit of government and the more local responsibilities are carried out by smaller units of government, is a system encouraged by political scientists in many parts of the nation. Much more is possible to stimulate the economy and to accomplish other kinds of objectives in the region if a spirit of intertransfer of geography through visitation and actions were considered a normal course of event.

## Comment

# Bring the Post into your home

With the coming of the new year, the Dallas Post employees would like to wish each and every one of our readers a healthy and happy 1983!

Realizing that times are tough, we believe there is more need than ever for a close feeling of community. In that sense, a weekly newspaper, concentrating on the local area, its needs, its problems and its joys, can be a unifying factor. In such times as now, when social and economic influences tend to sap our energies, it's nice to know

that we are a part of a living, vital community like the Back Mountain.

Throughout the coming year, as in the past, the Dallas Post will continue to serve the Back Mountain covering local and school events, sharing accomplishments of our neighbors and keeping an eye out for areas where difficulties may arise.

Let the Dallas Post become a part of your home! If you are not a subscriber, there is no time like the present to become one. Having the local weekly in your home on a

regular basis adds a comforting touch.

Since we are a local publication, we welcome and request suggestions on how to better serve the community.

Remember, a local publication can only be as good as the community it serves. The Back Mountain is a great community. We deserve nothing short of a great hometown paper. The Post hopes to continue its tradition of excellence in 1983 and beyond.

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