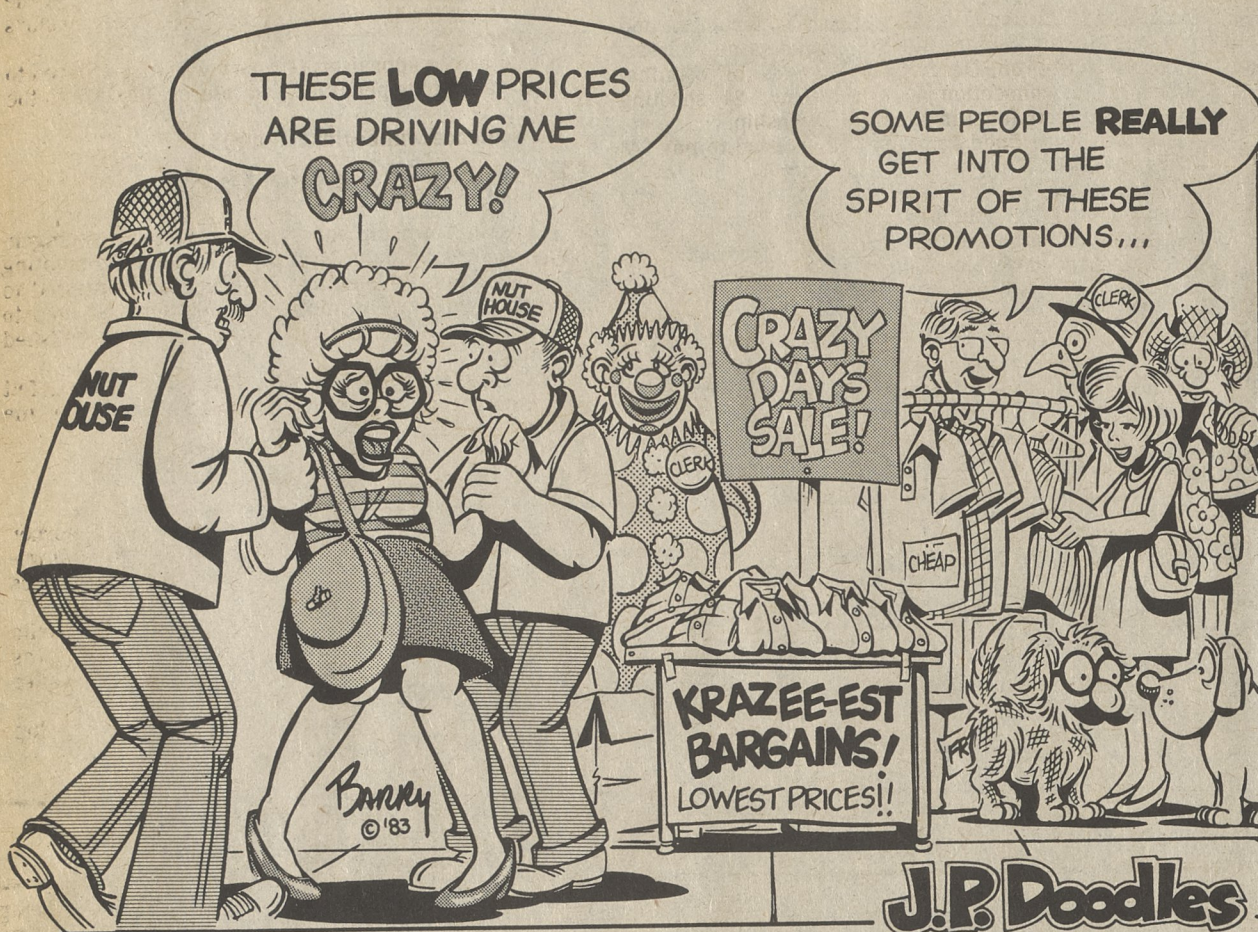


Perspective



Christmas shopping

With only four shopping days remaining before Christmas, retailers offer all kinds of "bargains" and all kinds of "sales" to attract customers into shopping their stores. The commercialization of Christmas, with the pushing, shoving and grabbing of people doing their holiday buying seems to have gotten out of hand somewhere along the line.

Only yesterday

Race elected board president

50 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 22, 1933

James Race was elected president of Dallas Township School Board. Race replaced Adam Kiefer who resigned for personal reasons.

The unusual number of scarlet fever cases in the Harvey Lake area brought a request from Elmer N. Kerr, State Health Officer, to take all precautions during the next few weeks to prevent spread of the disease. Nine cases had been reported in the area.

Birthdays - Dr. L.L. Sprague, president of Wyoming Seminary, 89 years old.

You could get - Turkeys 25c lb.; chickens 17c lb.; ducks 19c lb.; hams 13c lb.; mixed nuts 19c lb.; oranges 5 lb. bag 25c; cranberries 2 lb. 33c; butter 2 lb. 43c; lemon, citron and orange peel 29c lb.; dates 2 lb. 17c.

40 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 24, 1943

Christmas Mass marked 15th anniversary of St. Therese's Church in Shavertown. The anniversary signaled liquidation of Parish debt on church property valued at \$115,000. Father John J. O'Leary was church pastor. Fred Hennebaul was St. Therese's choir director.

Little Theatre presented "The York Nativity," a Christmas presentation patterned after Old English Miracle Plays.

Engaged - Jean Hadsel to First Sergeant Herbert Updyke.

Married - Frances Bond to Walter Rauch.

You could get - Smoked hams 35c lb.; pork loins 25c lb.; oranges 31c doz.; sweet potatoes 2 lb. 19c; apples 3 lb. 29c; fruit cake 2 lb. 90c; assorted chocolates 1 lb. 59c; pecans 39c lb.; cranberry sauce 16c can.

30 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 25, 1953

Fires flickered out in Sweet Valley's six-one-room school houses as students moved into the new Ross School Building. Supervising Principal Lester B. Squier officiated at opening ceremonies.

James D. Hutchinson, Luzerne County Farm Agent for 35 years was elected president of Pa. Agricultural Association at Pennsylvania State College.

Engaged - Kathleen Mary Lavelle to James J. Barlow; Elizabeth Johnson to Clayton Williams; Beverly A. Davis to Russell Beck; Beverly Strunk to Norman Roderick.

Married - Louise Garnett to Conrad Hislop.

Deaths - Thomas Eipper, age 93, Huntsville; Mrs.

Andrew Todd McClintock, Demunds Road; Mary Wright, Trucksville.

You could get - Turkeys 53c lb.; veal roast 69c lb.; oysters 79c pt.; haddock fillet 45c lb.; cranberries 23c lb.; emperor grapes 2 lb. 29c; Virginia Lee doughnuts 19c doz.; bread lg. loaf 15c; Bosc coffee 89c lb.

20 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 23, 1963

Lake-Lehman High School became the newest Key Club to receive a charter. Kiwanis Directors and Dallas Key Club helped with the installation of the club's first president Mike Casey.

The Back Mt. Bird Club Christmas Bird Count was staged in near zero weather. This annual round-up of birds is part of the nation-wide Audubon Society round-up. Edward Johnson, former club president was leader of the round-up.

Engagements - Eleanor Jean Drochak to Robert Earl Hendrick.

Married - Sharon Casey to Fred F. Schultz.

Deaths - Oscar Patton, Noxen; Bessie Ruch, Demunds Road.

You could get - Turkeys 31c lb.; semi-boneless hams 59c lb.; oranges 49c doz.; cranberry sauce 2 cans 39c; Kosher pickles 39c qt.; shrimp, jumbo size, 97c lb.; Marvel ice cream 59c half gal.; mixed nuts 49c lb.

10 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 20, 1973

By reducing classroom temperatures to 68 degrees, reducing lighting in areas where it was unnecessary and winterizing and sealing unused areas, Dallas School District did its part in fuel conservation.

Dallas Women's Club Chorale observed its Silver Anniversary. The group held its first rehearsal Jan. 26, 1948. Mrs. Norman Patton was director, Mrs. Albert Morse was accompanist.

Married - Mary Kathryn Toole to Sylvester T. Myers; William W. Scrantron III and Carol Beverly Vange.

Deaths - Oscar Swan, Dallas; Martha Smith, RD 3, Wyoming; Grace Hughes, Sutton Creek Rd.; Josephine Lahr, Shavertown; Mary Hubbell, Noxen; Ellis Wildoner, Hunlock Creek; Edward Puzo, Shavertown; Richard Derhammer, Dallas; George Delvecchio, Dallas; Guy Llewellyn, Sr., Harveys Lake; Lottie Kormas, Hunlock Creek.

You could get - turkey 68c lb.; boneless round roast \$1.29 lb.; smoked hams 88c lb.; lobster tails \$3.99; fancy shrimp \$2.49 lb.; potatoes 10 lb. 99c; tangelos 59c doz.; pumpkin pie 89c; mixed nuts 79c lb.

Opinion

Where's our 'spirit'?

In years past, the spirit of Christmas has been bought, boxed, wrapped and given to someone special.

This year is obviously no different as retailers are enjoying one of the most productive years of the decade and shoppers are still crowding the stores to find just the right Christmas gift.

Is this what the Christmas spirit is all about?

I have always been taught to consider a "spirit" something that could not be looked at, felt or heard. A "spirit" is supposed to be just a feeling that exists within a person's being.

Seems to me the Christmas spirit is taken in the wrong context anymore.

Why, we can't even feel the Christmas spirit these days because our bodies are so weary and our wallets so empty.

Christmas traditions are holding the American public captive today. Traditions have taken over our thinking, our acting and our believing. They have a tight hold around our necks and our choking us to death.

People continue to spend small fortunes in December and then use the remaining 11 months of the year paying their bills.

And it isn't only gifts that are costing us so much money as we shell out our hard-earned dollars on Christmas trees, ornaments, house decorations and baking needs for the tons and tons of goodies we serve our holiday guests.

And don't forget the holiday trip to the liquor store that takes every last cent we have in our pockets.

Consider the amount of time you spend Christmas shopping during the months of November and December.

It seems every year the Christmas shopping season begins earlier as people attempt to get their shopping done ahead of time. That, however, never seems to work as shoppers continue to crowd the stores right up to the last minute every year.

When you think of the time you spend working and the time you spend sleeping, no doubt the time you spend Christmas shopping exceeds the time you spend doing the other two.

By the time Dec. 25 rolls around, the average person is so tired, so broke and so worried about whether or not the bills are going to be paid, enjoying Christmas Day is virtually impossible. By this time, the Christmas spirit has been dead and buried for almost a week.

Where does it all end?

Is it possible that all this tradition stuff will simply continue to get bigger and bigger as the years go by? Or is going to build itself to a point where it will just burst, then disappear?

Certainly, Christmas was never intended to be as commercial as we have allowed it to become. Over the years, however, everyone has jumped on the bandwagon and the whole idea of Christmas has evolved into one big free-for-all.

Since Christmas is only four days away and it's obviously too late to start anything new for this year, do yourself a favor. When you sit down to Christmas dinner, try to remember what this holiday is really all about. Remember, it is the birth of the Christ child that you are celebrating and not the invention of the Cabbage Patch Kid.

Remember Christ on His day. Remember what He did for us and how He gave up His life for us. Remember that Christmas is sharing, caring and loving.

Maybe, just maybe, if we try to celebrate Christmas for what it is, we can keep the real spirit of the holiday season alive just a little bit longer.

- DOTTY MARTIN

New bill asks gambling questions

Due to the misunderstanding on the subject of legalized gambling in the Poconos, state Senator Frank J. O'Connell (R-20), chairman of the powerful senate State Government Committee, sponsored an amendment to legislation calling for a statewide, non-binding referendum on the legalization of new forms of gambling.

O'Connell's amendment to House Bill 35 negates legislation allowing the manufacture of gaming machines in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In its place, the bill allows the state to ask three pertinent questions to qualified voters which are as follows:

Do you favor the legalization in Pennsylvania of gambling through casinos?

Do you favor the legalization in Pennsylvania of gambling by gaming machines? and,

Do you favor the legalization in Pennsylvania of gambling through casinos and gaming machines?

"The questions are phrased so the voters will have no misunderstanding. Further, the cost of placing the questions on the ballots is minimal and will be paid by the state," O'Connell said.

O'Connell clarified that his sponsorship of the referendum unchanges his position on gambling. "I am unequivocally opposed to slots and casino gambling," he said.

The Luzerne County legislator said that as a result of the referendum, the subject of gambling will be aired, debated and discussed. "The voters will be better able to make a conscious decision," he said.

O'Connell noted there is bipartisan support for the referendum. He

expects the full senate to pass the legislation this week. It would then go to the House for concurrence and from there to the Governor for his signing.

If approved, the referendum could appear before voters in the April primary when 203 representatives and 26 senators seek reelection.

"The position of those legislators would be more easily determined by the public," O'Connell said.

Though the referendum is non-binding, O'Connell believes it will give direction to the Legislatures and the Thornburgh Administration as to what the people of the Commonwealth desire.

O'Connell, whose district includes the Poconos, believes gambling will adversely affect the quality of life in Pennsylvania.

Are we still suffering energy crisis?

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

The question as to whether there still exists an energy crisis is one which will haunt America for some time.

Having experienced the 1970's in a revolutionary sense as far as energy is concerned, the nation is now going through what may be termed a stagnant condition in relation to its energy future. Prices have dropped at the gasoline pump and no longer is the "condition red" signal on as far as energy conservation is concerned. More dramatic is the decrease in concern for alternative fuel sources such as synfuels, coal development and, in general, new technology to change the way the nation runs its energy engine.

On the other hand, to the nation's credit, there has been a significant conservation ethic practiced, and our dependency on the importation of oil has substantially decreased. However, the job is not done and the danger exists that an energy crunch

can occur at some point in the future which will bring back the hectic and harrowing days of the 1970's.

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, the trends away from energy conservation are most noticeable in a decrease in utilization of public transportations and the general lack of interest in such techniques as van pooling and ride sharing.

Currently, the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is carrying out a program to encourage ride sharing and van pooling by contacting and speaking to industry and major non-profit organization executives and conducting questionnaire surveys in this field. Interest has been limited thus far, although efforts continue to encourage such usage. In fact, it is hoped that ride share matches will occur as has been the case in the past in order to lessen some dependency on individual automobiles.

In a number of ways, the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is attacking energy issues.

1. Ride share and van pool program to encourage utilization of these techniques.

2. Establishment of an energy center to encourage energy conservation through designation by the Governor's Energy Council.

3. Appointment of an Anthracite Production and Coal Utilization Committee to examine this issue and encourage the revitalization of anthracite.

4. Energy development policy recommendations to help the Commonwealth implement the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority function.

These and other measures are designed to promote energy as part of an overall economic revitalization program in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Anyone wishing to pursue the subject of ride share and van pooling and obtain technical advice on these techniques should contact the Economic Development Council, Box 777, Avoca, PA 18641.

(Howard J. Grossman is the Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.)

Library dresses up for Christmas

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

It's beginning to look like Christmas at the library. Our large lighted wreath has been hung on the

front of the building, the name sign has been decorated, the book shelves have been decorated with greens and ornaments, and our display case is filled with our own special holiday wishes. The case features a lighted

church with stained glass windows, a prayer for peace in the world; a small green ceramic lighted Christmas tree, a hope for a festive holiday season; a lighted snow mountain and frozen lake with skiers and skaters, a wish to enjoy the outdoors during holiday vacations; Santa's work shop, keeping the children uppermost in mind; and a beautiful porcelain nativity scene to remind us of the real reason for Christmas.

From the staff at the Back Mountain Memorial Library: Bill, Nancy, Marilyn, Charlotte, Patricia, Ann, Lisa, Melissa, Ed and Ron, best wishes for a beautiful holiday season with a special hope for peace in your hearts and joy in the world.

The library circulated 6,123 books during the month of November: adult books, 3,855 and juvenile books, 2,268. Book Club books checked out were 205, reference questions 760 and 421 new books were added to the collection. 74 new borrowers joined the library.

New books at the library: "Tabernacle" by Thomas Cook is a story of The Mormons and a man who believes in the mission that God has made manifest to him; to restore the sanctity of the Mormon Church. He kills according to the will of God. The purification includes multiple murder.

"The Queen" by Ann Morrow is a warm and lively profile of Queen Elizabeth II, which takes the reader behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Queen's vacation homes. It covers her life and work from her birth in 1926 through the Falklands war in 1982.

"China Gate" by William Arnold is a novel of adventure, love, crime, business and honor in post-World War II China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

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Letters

PennDOT responds to letter

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a letter written to Senator Frank J. O'Connell from Thomas J. Collins, district engineer for the Department of Transportation. The letter is in response to O'Connell's previous letter, requesting that a study on speed limits be done on Route 309 in Dallas Township.)

Honorable Frank J. O'Connell
701 Market Street
Kingston, Penna. 18704
Dear Senator O'Connell:

This reply is in reference to your letter of November 18, 1983 and attached letter from Mr. Al J. Baloga regarding a reduction of the 45 MPH speed limit and lane markings on a portion of T.R. 309 in Dallas Borough-Township.

A speed limit study, to include radar speed samplings, will be conducted December 8th and 9th, 1983 in order to determine the feasibility of a speed limit reduction. The existing 45 MPH limit was approved and posted on December 12, 1980. At

the same time we will review the existing paint pattern to determine what, if any, further lane restrictions are justified.

At the conclusion of the study, you will be advised of our findings and recommendations.

I appreciate your interest in highway and pedestrian safety.

Very truly yours,
Thomas J. Collins, Jr., P.E.
District Engineer