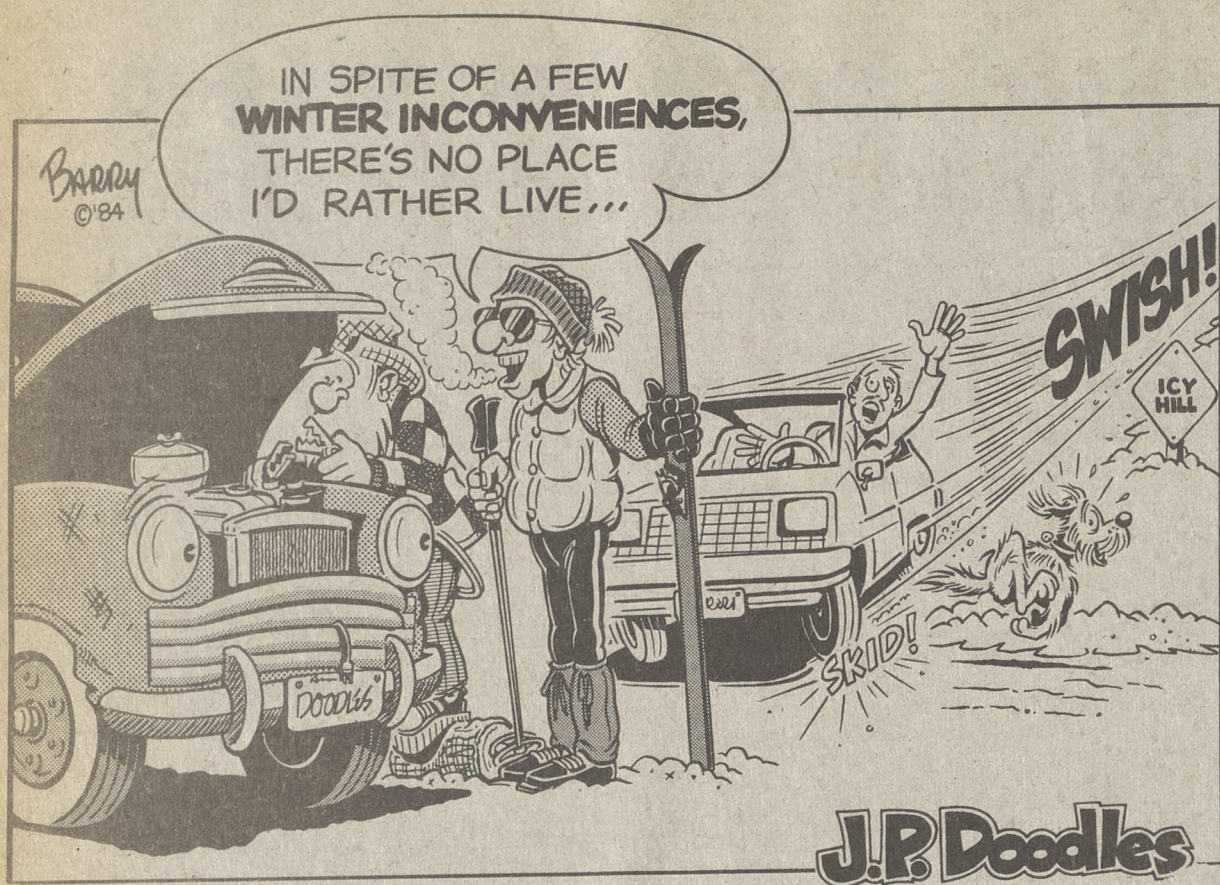


Perspective



Love this weather

Sometimes the wintery weather with its ice, snow and sub-zero temperatures may get to you, but when you think about it, isn't it nice living in an area where you can enjoy all four seasons?

Only yesterday

Highway beautification plan dicussed at mass meeting

50 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 26, 1934

The proposal to beautify the Luzerne-Dallas Highway by planting shrubs and flowers along its route was discussed at a mass meeting held at the Shavertown High School and attended by persons from all communities along the highway.

Contagious diseases, particularly scarlet fever, continued to be reported throughout the district during the week, with new cases being reported daily.

One of the few log cabins in the area was constructed on a wooded hillside on East Center Street, Shavertown, by Neil Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Henry.

You could get — Raisins, 11 oz. pkg., 5c; pea beans, 2 lbs. 7c; applesauce, 3 No. 2 cans, 25c; mayonnaise, pint jar, 13c; tomato catsup, 12 oz. bottle, 10c; Diamond Brand walnuts, lb., 21c.

40 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 28, 1944

Marine Sgt. Elwood Davis, 27, son of Squire and Mrs. Ralph Davis, of Alderson was "the kingpin of the telephone crew serving the crack Marine gunners, protecting New Georgia," according to a story sent to newspapers of the country by the Public Relations Section of the Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

With the sale of 69 War Bonds amounting to \$8,850 and War Savings Stamps amounting to \$59.25, making a grand total of \$8,909.25, Dallas Senior Woman's Club exceeded its goal by \$1,409.25 during the first week of the Fourth War Loan Drive.

Deaths — Miss Florence Michaels, Carverton; Sarah E. Morgan, Outlet; Joseph C. Hawley, Pikes Creek; Augustus J. Dienstel, Noxen; Mrs. Rhoda Webb, Noxen; Aaron R. Tyson, Trucksville; Harry E. Thomas, Dallas; Mrs. Calvin Warner, Trucksville.

You could get — Cabbage, 5c lb.; grapefruit, 3 for 20c; turnips, 4c lb.; whole wheat bread, loaf, 10c; oranges, 27c doz.

30 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 22, 1954

Because of a change in manufacturing processes that permitted the plant to manufacture a new line of fabrics made from glass filaments, prospects were bright for increased employment at Fernbrook Plant of Bloomsburg Mills.

Among the top dairy herd winners at the 38th annual

Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg were three Back Mountain exhibitors. They were Raymond Goeringer's Lake Louise Farm, Conyngham's Hillside Farms and Ralph Sands Sansdale Farms.

PTA groups okayed the possible jointure of Dallas, Franklin, Lake, Noxen and Monroe townships into one school district.

Married — Florence Truska, Harveys Lake to Sgt. Edward Boyle, Wilkes-Barre; Doris Nicely, Shavertown to Julius Tischler, Shavertown.

Deaths — Rev. Michael Oleksiw, Harveys Lake; Loxley W. Fisk, Sweet Valley.

You could get — Pork chops, 79c lb.; tuna, 6½ oz. can, 37c; Supreme bread, 2 lvs., 27c; oranges, 2 doz., 45c; frosted shrimp, 69c lb.

20 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 30, 1964

everell V. Chadwick was seated as president of the Back Mountain Protective Association at the organization's regular meeting.

Donald Bulford was elected fire chief of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co., Dallas and Henry Peterson began his 11th year as president of the association.

Frank Lange, chief of police of Dallas Township, was elected president of the Back Mountain Police Association, announced that the organization would sponsor an Advanced State Police Procedure Course.

Married — Joan Brobst, Shavertown, to Peter Skopic, Lehman; Dorothy Jean Gunderson, Michigan, to Fredric W. Anderson, Jr., Shavertown.

Deaths — Mrs. Jessie L. Howell, Trucksville.

You could get — Oranges, 69c doz.; bacon, 1 lb. pkg., 49c; shrimp, 98c lb.; pancake mix, 2 lb. pkg., 33c; fruit drinks, 46 oz. cans, 30c.

10 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 24, 1974

Many Dallas Borough taxpayers received summary criminal complaints for neglecting to file statements of their one percent earned income tax.

College Misericordia kicked off its Golden Jubilee Campaign.

Deaths — Walter Hicks Sr., Trucksville; Mrs. Eugene Harvey, Sweet Valley.

You could get — Granulated sugar, 5 lbs., 58c; regular or diet Pepsi, 8-pack, 16 oz. bottles, 59c; Tastykakes, 69c; pies, 59c; Duncan Hines cake mixes, 2 pkgs. 89c; bartlett pears, 3-16 oz. cans, 51c.

Library has tax information available

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has income tax information publications volumes one to three available in the reference area of the library. Tax Guide for small business and Your Federal Income Tax, along with the instructions for the various forms are in limited supply. Patrons may photocopy the page they need and return the

publication to the front desk. The following forms are available for home use: Form 1040 with instructions for schedules A,B,C,D,E,F, and Se; Instructions for preparing 1040 EZ and 1040 A; Farmers' Tax Guide, publication 225; and publication 910, taxpayer's guide to IRS information, assistance and publications. We have tax reference books available for help in your filing.

January is National Hobby Month and we have displayed a poster from the American Library Associa-

tion with specific hobbies such as 'models, crafts and collectibles' noted by classification numbers where they are available in the library. Your library has hundreds of books on a wide variety of interesting hobbies and leisure time activities. You can make good use of your leisure time by working on a satisfying hobby. Visit the library during hobby month and browse through the hobby books and find your favorite!

New books at the library: "Who Stole Stonehenge?" by Leela Cutter is a mystery that begins the night of the worst blizzard in decades, when electricity falters, televisions go awry, and strange lights are seen amidst the ice and slush - a regular Walpurgisnacht. The storm clouds lift at last - to reveal an all too empty Salisbury Plain!

"The Plot to Kill the Pope" by Paul Henze is a story in which an expert reconstructs the conspiracy involved with the act. On May 13, 1981, a young Turkish terrorist named Mehmet Ali Agca came within inches of mortally wounding His Holiness Pope John Paul II in a dramatic assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square. A cynical and logical plot.

"The Enthusiast" by Gilbert A. Harrison is written about the life of Thornton Wilder. From boyhood in Wisconsin, California and China, his imagination was fired by books and the theatre, though he showed little early promise of becoming a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner. Wilder is seen as an eager, desperately literary Oberlin and Yale undergraduate.

"Falls The Shadow" by Emanuel Litvinoff is a novel that clutches the reader and doesn't let go long after one has finished the book. Would a Nazi officer, to save himself, pass himself off as a Jew for the rest of his life? In Tel Aviv one morning, Avram Benami is shot to death and the killer wants to be tried for his offense. A very effective cover-up.

Come to the library to find what share of our services you are missing!

OPINION

Guest editorial

Federal spending: The threat to our economy

By DONALD T. REGAN

In 1816, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest danger to be feared."

For some years now, it seems Congress has paid little attention to that admonition. Spending by our federal government has reached excessive proportions. One in every four dollars generated by the U.S. economy goes to finance the national government. The trend of spending has been upward for some decades, but the growth rate in the past 20 years has been especially rapid.

For too many years Congress has been denying itself very little. Our legislators in Washington, whether for genuine but misguided reasons, or for political reasons, have virtually institutionalized high and potentially dangerous spending levels. And they have grown accustomed to being able to spend without too much protest.

But, they seem to forget that the check to pay for all their spending has to be endorsed by the American taxpayer. You are footing the bill, and accepting the risk, for what has become burdensome and dangerous spending levels.

The danger lies in the prospect of retarded economic growth for generations of Americans - your children, your children's children and beyond. Instead of an outlook calling for growth and expansion, this country could face lessening opportunity and a diminishing chance for prosperity to which every American is entitled.

This nation was not founded on a principle of large-scale government involvement in private life. Quite the contrary, the 13 original "United States" were born amidst an atmosphere of fear that a national government would have too much control over states and individuals.

However, out of the Great Depression came a fundamental change in national policy - widespread government assistance and extensive involvement in

private life. And given the circumstances of the day, that shift was popularly accepted.

The trauma of the 1930s changed attitudes about the role of government in private life. And the expanded role provided a springboard for those economic theories that advocated greater government spending to deal with recession.

Couple this with government's propensity to expand and control. Add the fact that there is no forced discipline on government spending (since government can simply borrow more or tax more) and you have the basis of our present problem.

I think public sentiment changed some years back as paychecks shrank due to large tax bites. But, by then, this policy of seemingly endless spending increases was firmly imbedded.

To actually reverse that trend will take no less a fundamental change today than the change that began more than 50 years ago. It is going to take a courageous, selfless Congress to keep America on the path to economic health. Unfortunately, we have not seen enough of this courage. There is no indication that a majority in Congress is resolved to cut spending.

Without corrective actions, our economy will ultimately face terrible consequences. But we simply must act. I advocate some type of line-item veto or impoundment type of authority for the President. Currently, the President must accept or reject entire spending bills, even if he finds some of the spending unneeded or excessive. With a line-item veto or impoundment, he could hold back what is excessive while still accepting what is truly needed.

Forty-three of the nation's governors have this power. Mayors and county executives have it. Isn't it time the President of the United States had it?

Every American has a large stake in the economic decisions made in Washington. So we should let our representatives know how we feel - then we have a say in how much to spend and on what.

(Donald T. Regan is the United States Treasury Secretary.)

It's that time

Tax tips for single parents

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Between now and April 15, income tax is first and foremost in most of our minds. In an effort to make filing income tax forms a little easier for our readers, we will publish some tax tips each week for the next five weeks. The tips, which begins this week with "How single parents can cut their tax bill," are furnished by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Philadelphia.)

Like so many of the 6.5 million single parents in America, Maria longs for those precious few moments at night when she can relax. At 7 a.m. Maria drops off her son at her mother's house and leaves for the hospital where she works as a nurse's aide. Then, at 5 p.m., three times a week, she drives 20 miles to a restaurant where she works as a waitress. Maria works two jobs because she needs the extra money to get by. After all, taxes take such a big slice from her income.

But single parents like Maria might be able to strike a better deal with the tax collector than they realize, says William L. Smith, Jr., CPA, President, Northeastern Chapter, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. They should take advantage of the child care tax credit and some often overlooked deductions. In addition, they need to understand how alimony, child custody agreements and child support payments can bring the best possible tax advantage.

For instance, Maria is eligible for a tax credit because she pays her mother to watch her son. In addition, she can cut her tax bill by deducting the costs of traveling from her job at the hospital to her job at the restaurant. She can get another deduction for buying and cleaning her uniforms for both jobs.

Take a look at how the child care tax credit works. If you must pay someone to care for your child or any other dependents while you are at work, you can reduce your tax bill by at least \$480 for one child and \$960 for two or more children. The credit works on a sliding scale based on your adjusted gross income. Parents with incomes over \$28,000 are entitled to the minimum \$480 credit. For a parent with two children and adjusted gross income of \$10,000 or less, the credit could rise to \$1,440.

Expenses that qualify for the credit include baby sitters, housekeepers or a nurse who cares for a dependent unable to care for him or herself. The cost of a day care center qualifies and so might a summer camp. You can even include the costs of paying a relative to care for your child as long as that relative is not also your dependent, as in Maria's case.

Single parents with less than \$10,000 may also benefit from the earned income tax credit. If your income is below \$6,000, you can receive a credit as high as \$500. On incomes above \$6,000, the credit is reduced by 12.5 percent for the excess over \$6,000.

Another tax saving idea for someone who works two jobs is to deduct the unreimbursed business costs. For instance, Maria can deduct \$640, the cost of commuting 20 miles from her first job to her second job three times a week. This is based on a rate of 20.5 cents per mile. She can also deduct \$200, the cost of buying and cleaning her uniforms for work. If Maria's taxable income before these adjustments was \$11,500, the added deductions would reduce it to \$10,660 and cut \$153 from her final tax bill.

Most single parents are divorced or separated, and one of the most confusing questions for them is which spouse claims the exemption of their children.

General, the exemption goes to the custodial parent, CPAs say. But there are exceptions. The noncustodial parent gets the \$1,000 exemption if it's provided for in a divorce decree or separation agreement and if he or she provides at least \$600 a year in support. The other instance in which the non-custodial parent claims the exemption is when he or she contributes at least \$1,200 a year for support of the child and the custodial parent doesn't establish that he or she paid more.

Divorced people who pay or collect alimony or child support should be sure they are getting the best tax break they can. Alimony payments are taxable as income to the person receiving them and deductible by the person paying them. Child support is neither taxable nor deductible.

STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill last week from Rep. Frank Coslett, 120th Legislative District:

STATE TAXES imposed on fire insurance premiums written by out-of-state insurers are still not being equitably distributed to the proper municipalities, so Rep. A. Carville Foster Jr. (R-York) has introduced a bill to correct the situation. Foster's legislation was approved by the House Local Government Committee this week.

Current law imposes a 2 percent tax on all fire insurance premiums written by so-called foreign companies. Too often, Foster contends, the money is distributed to the municipality with the post office address of the insured and not to the municipality where the insured property is located.

The law discriminates particularly against rural and suburban areas, the lawmaker stressed. Foster's bill would restructure the distribution formula.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMIC outlook improved this week when three European firms announced plans to locate subsidiaries in the Keystone State. The announcements came during a trip to West Germany and England by Gov. Dick Thornburgh. A British electrical equipment manufacturer unveiled

plans to locate a marketing and sales headquarters in Lancaster.

Earlier in the week, two West German firms - an electrical components manufacturer and a bus producer - said they also intend to open operations in Pennsylvania, one in Chester County and the other near Harrisburg. The new businesses could create up to 700 new jobs within three years. There are 480 foreign companies in Pennsylvania employing 102,000 people.

AVIAN INFLUENZA has devastated the poultry industry in southeastern Pennsylvania and the legislature is being urged to provide

financial assistance to farms hard hit by the disease.

In December, two Republican lawmakers, Rep. Kenneth Brandt and Sen. Noah Wenger, both of Lancaster County, proposed legislation requiring the state to financially assist farmers in recovering from the effects of the depopulation of 9.1 million birds in 221 flocks.

This week, Gov. Thornburgh sent a letter to legislative leaders urging them to allocate up to \$2 million to aid farmers. The federal government has committed \$27 million so far to the eradication program and for payments to the owners of dead birds.

Government publications are listed in new catalog

The US Government Printing Office has released a free catalog of almost 1,000 of the Government's bestsellers. Official sales agent for US Government publications, the GPO stocks more than 16,000 titles, including 550 subscriptions.

To create the catalog, popular and general-interest titles were selected from this inventory. Featuring books on children, energy, gardening, history, space travel, and more, the illustrated, annotated catalog is

designed to make Government books more accessible to the general public.

The U.S. Government Books catalog is part of an extensive program being undertaken by the Government Printing Office to make Americans aware of the information resources available to them through Government publications. The catalog may be obtained by writing New Catalog, P.O. Box 37000, Washington, DC 20013.

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