

# Editorial

## OPINION

### TV news is different

By EDWIN FEULNER

Television has come a long way since its black and white beginnings. But despite the obvious technical advances, the change appears to be for the worse.

While the prime-time "soaps" like "Dallas," "Falcon Crest," and "Dynasty" provide the sleaze-tease network officials feel viewers want, most American expect more than high-tech glitz when Dan Rather comes on the screen. But tv news is not what it was when John Cameron Swayze and Edward R. Murrow delivered the daily report.

A two-hour taped interview when exposed to the editing process is reduced to a few seconds of subjective mumbling that may or may not reflect what the individual said. The artificial world of the cutaway becomes a substitute for reality. Issues as complex as tax policy or nuclear disarmament are reduced to thirty seconds of talking heads and visual mush. That's the nature of the beast.

But what happens when that beast gets out of control? Ask General William C. Westmoreland, one of its victims.

It all began when General Westmoreland agreed to be interviewed by CBS reporter Mike Wallace.

A few months later, in January 1982, CBS television aired a controversial documentary "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," accusing Westmoreland, former commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, of conspiring to deceive the U.S. public and government officials about the size of North Vietnam's fighting force in the year leading up to the January 1968 Tet Offensive.

In his new book, *A Matter of Honor* (Macmillan, 1984) Don Kowet provides a fascinating inside look at the making of the CBS documentary, which led to the largest libel suit in the history of American media - Westmoreland vs. CBS. The case is now being tried in New York with the conservative Capital Law Foundation, a public-interest law firm representing Westmoreland. Kowet has been following the story for years and co-authored the TV Guide cover story which first questioned the fairness and accuracy of the CBS report.

According to Kowet's description, the techniques used to make the documentary are suspect at best. To support their accusations of a cover-up by Westmoreland, Kowet says a CBS producer juxtaposed statements made by Westmoreland in two, separate interviews regarding the enemy count. In 1967 on "Meet the Press," Westmoreland said the enemy was infiltrating South Vietnam at a rate of some 5,500 a month, while fourteen years later, in the Wallace interview, he cited a figure of 20,000.

What viewers didn't know was that the "Meet the Press" film clip was deliberately edited to delete a qualifying statement in which Westmoreland added that the North Vietnamese had the capability of "stepping up" the troop movements. As a result of the discrepancy in the two figures, CBS alleged that the general had deliberately deceived the American people.

(Edwin Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.)

## REMEMBERING....



### One-Room School

Shown here are students of the Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse in Franklin Township in 1925. From left, first row, Oscar Corby, Evelyn Corby, Doris Wells, Irene Wells, John Kolesar, Steve Zavatski. Second row, Elizabeth Hess, Betty Welter, Helen Zavatski, Hilton Long, Anna Kolesar. Third row, Josephine Zavatski, Stella (unknown), Henry Hess, and Miss Burgess, teacher. (Thanks to Henry E. Hess of Dallas, for the use of the photo.)

## Only yesterday

# Back Mountain held to its Republican Party

50 YEARS AGO - NOV. 9, 1934

Traditionally a G.O.P. stronghold, the Back Mountain held to its Republican Party as the New Deal Democrats gained votes in most of Pennsylvania. Dallas, Kingston Township and Dallas Township gave Republican candidates a three to one lead. Congressman C. Murray Turpin, Republican, won his seat as did Willard G. Shortz, Republican to House of Representative.

Alumni of Kingston Township celebrated Homecoming Day with the annual football game against Dallas Borough High School. Committee members in charge of homecoming were Willard Woolbert, Fred Finney, Richard Cease, Palmer Lewis, Daniel Richards, Robert Eck, Douglas Riddle, Karl Woolbert, and Howard Isaacs.

You could get - Mackerel or sea trout 2 lb. 25c; oysters 2 doz. 23c; pork loin 14c lb.; fresh mushrooms 29c lb.; Winesap apples 4 lb. 19c; green onions 2 bunches 9c; radishes 3 bunches 10c; 2 ft. table lamp \$1.09.

40 YEARS AGO - NOV. 10, 1944  
Two old friends - one from Dallas Township, the other from Dallas Borough met on a flying field in Italy. Pfc. Joseph Wallo, and Lieut. Frank Kamor met while serving their country in Europe.

Lehman Township schools achieved the distinction of being the first school in Luzerne County where 90 percent of the student

body was buying War Bonds and Stamps.

Engaged - Roberta Quail to P.O. 2-C Donald E. Kreidler.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dymond, Shavertown, 25 years.

You could get - Whiting 15c lb.; haddock filets 36c lb.; 50 lb. bag potatoes \$1.59; rice 2 lb. pkg. 23c; marmalade 2 lb. jar 19c; Hom-delite salad dressing 22c pt.; evaporated milk 3 tall cans 26c.

30 YEARS AGO - NOV. 12, 1954

A 300 lb. bear was shot and killed by George E. Gay and his son George R. on their Sugar Hollow farm. The bruin had been killing sheep. It was believed to be a cinnamon bear.

Hugo Winterhalter, musical director for RCA Victor recording department, music arranger and top orchestra leader paid a brief visit to College Misericordia to visit his old friend Sister Mary Bertrand, RSM, head of the College Music Department.

Married - Joy Lou Steele to A2C Duane Wickhard; Marian Parsons to William Eckert Jr.; Christine Crispell to Robert C. Lewis.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ide, 25 years.

You could get - Picnic hams 33c lb.; chicken breasts 63c lb.; standing rib roast 59c lb.; seedless raisins 2-15 oz. pkg. 35c; grapefruit 4-25c; chestnuts 2 lb. 35c; dates 29c lb.; brussel sprouts 25c basket.

20 YEARS AGO - NOV. 12, 1964  
Firemen from the Dr. Henry M. Laing Company, Dallas extin-

guished a persistent fire in the roof of Orchard Farm Restaurant. It was believed that gradual burning had been going on for some time as among the charred roof beams one was burned almost halfway through.

Dallas contractor Raymond Hedden was low bidder on the new Dallas Post Office.

Married - Patricia McCue to Conrad Hislop.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dymond, Shavertown, 45 years.

Deaths - Arthur J. Webb, Orange; Horton Shultz, Muhlenburg.

You could get - Canadian bacon 89c lb.; boneless round roast 79c lb.; Polish sausage 59c lb.; grapefruit 6-49c; carrots 3-1 lb. bags 29c; raisin bread 29c loaf; giant bottle Downey 33c; Thrill giant bottle 53c.

10 YEARS AGO - NOV. 14, 1974

Kingston Township Ambulance Association donated its old ambulance to the Kunkle Fire Company.

Ben Orfaly, Andrea Fulton and Joseph Ruotolo were appointed to the Harveys Lake Zoning Board.

Cynthia B. Smith, Dallas, was elected to serve on the student senate at Juniata College.

Engaged - Michele Louise Masoner to Mark P. Steele.

Deaths - Philip E. Rineman, Shavertown.

You could get - Ground beef 88c lb.; franks 89c lb.; shrimp \$1.69 lb.; Parkay margarine lb. bowl 69c; grapefruit 3-39c; turkey breast 55c ¼ lb.; 22 oz. Lux 56c; tomato sauce 7-8 oz. cans \$1; food wrap 69c.

## LETTERS

### Director encourages caution with eyes

DEAR EDITOR:

Eye specialists are warning us more and more about glaucoma. Why? Because it is a leading cause of blindness. Glaucoma, the "sneak thief of sight" often has not noticeable symptoms and often steals sight so gradually that the victim is unaware of its loss.

Glaucoma is the presence of increased pressure within the eye, resulting from an excessive accumulation of the fluid that circulates in the eye to provide nourishment to the tissues. This pressure restricts the flow of blood to the optic nerve, damaging its ability to function properly.

Because glaucoma sometimes lacks symptoms, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind is urging Pennsylvanians to have their eyes

examined regularly. The early signs of trouble can be easily detected through a routine professional eye examination.

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind's efforts to inform Pennsylvanians about glaucoma, Governor Thornburgh has set aside Thanksgiving week as THANKS FOR SIGHT WEEK in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind emphasizes that the earlier glaucoma is detected and medical treatment received, the better are the chances for stopping the "sneak thief of sight."

RICHARD M. EDWARDS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WILKES-BARRE BRANCH  
PA. ASSOC. FOR THE BLIND

### She's thankful for help

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for everyone whose cards, letters and prayers help speed my recovery following my recent illness.

I am especially grateful to members of the Lehman Volunteer

Ambulance Crew and the Lehman community. I would also like to thank the doctors and nurses at Mercy Hospital, Scranton, for the wonderful care they showed me.

Thank you again. God bless you all.

FLORENCE CAMPBELL  
LEHMAN

### Simon's liked the story

DEAR EDITOR:

My wife, Dawn, and I find it hard to express gratitude for The Dallas Post, its staff, and Mrs. Charlot Denmon for the excellent article written about our family and our restaurant.

It has helped greatly by letting

the public know about our improvements and the fact that we are now involved with food family dining.

Can't thank you enough.

DAVID W. SIMON AND FAMILY  
COUNTRYSIDE INN  
DALLAS

### Couple thanks Post for story

DEAR EDITOR:

Thank you (Joan Kingsbury) for writing a lovely, positive article about "living in step."

Both Bill and I were very pleased. Hopefully, through the articles,

others in a similar situation will seek help or reaffirmation.

Thanks again.

MARSHA HOWES  
BILL HAKKARINEN  
DALLAS

## LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Staff Correspondent

I would like to personally say thank you to some terrific community minded individuals. Namely, the people who have allowed the library to borrow parts of their collections or hobbies for our display case in the library.

This case is approximately 15" high, 19½" wide and 50" long with a wooden base that attaches to the top to keep it permanently in tact and covered at the same time. The case sits on a large table in the front section of the main library for the public to enjoy.

I am always looking for different types of collections to display. At the present time, we have a collection of salts, having just enjoyed music boxes. Through the years, we have had collections of beer cans, seashells, fancy tin boxes, auction antique items, camels, letter openers, salt and pepper shakers, dolls, bells, and Christmas items, just to mention a few. These make a very

eye catching display and our patrons seem to enjoy studying them.

If you have a collection or a hobby that you would like to share with us and our patrons, just call the library and ask for Nancy and I will be happy to set up a time for your display.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club will be meeting in November on Monday, the 12th in the new library building on Huntsville Road on the second floor. The hospitality committee consists of Grace Martin and Frances Linskill. An interesting program has been planned and members and guests are invited to attend.

The Collectors Group will meet at 7:30 on Wednesday, Nov. 14 in the Dallas Borough Building on Main Street. June McCloskey will direct the activities.

New books at the library: "The Dossier" by Pierre Salinger and Leonard Gross is the story of an American newsman in Europe who is onto a story that will change - and may cause him to lose - his life. Tracking down the story of a lifetime, he is catapulted away from the sidelines into the fray. The dossier he is looking for is in Moscow buried deep in the vaults of the KGB. A professional adventure set with entertaining realism.

"First Among Equals" by Jeffrey Archer is a novel of titanic rivalry. It is an explosive mixture of passion and politics. It is also a story so intensive, so compelling, that it is ultimately unlike any other.

## We need your help!

M.K. Gilbert, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky, is seeking a copy of an obituary that appeared in The Dallas Post in 1911.

Because The Dallas Post has records dating back to the early 1920's, we are unable to help this person. Therefore, we are making an appeal to any member of the Back Mountain community who may have issues of The Dallas Post prior to 1920 who may be able to locate the information this person requests.

M.K. Gilbert is seeking a copy of an obituary of Stephen Allen Edwards who died August 20, 1911, at Pikes Creek. Anyone who may have any information concerning this material is asked to contact Dotty Martin, editor, at The Dallas Post, at 675-5211.

## STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

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

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION Committee members met in Harrisburg to investigate allegations that state aircraft were misused by the Transportation Department. The limited investigation was initiated by a four-year-old incomplete report released by the auditor general's office. The report alleged that Transportation Secretary Thomas Larson, allowed his wife to travel on state-owned aircraft without a legal basis. Larson responded that Transportation Department legal experts found no rules forbidding such procedures. The Democratic representative who chaired the meeting said it was "unfair to submit an investi-

gative report that was incomplete."

-O-

TAXPAYER DOLLARS will no longer be used to purchase foreign steel for use in public projects, Rep. Elinor Z. Taylor (R-Chester) said this week. Taylor, a co-sponsor of Pennsylvania's new "Steel Products Procurement Act", noted that the new statute will protect domestic steel producers and save the jobs of steelworkers across the Commonwealth and the country. Under the act, all state and public agencies must require that all contractors certify steel products used in public works projects were manufactured in the United States. The new statute also establishes penalties for contractors who intentionally violate the law. "The time has come

for Pennsylvania and all of America to start looking for and protecting our own interests," Taylor said.

-O-

MOST REPRESENTATIVES were in their home districts for the last-minute campaign before Tuesday's General Election. Up for grabs are all 203 seats in the state House. Late in the week it was reported that a record number of Pennsylvanians are registered to vote. Unofficial figures released by the state Bureau of Elections indicated that Republicans had increased their registration rolls by 251,000 and Democrats by 198,000 since April. In Pennsylvania there are 3.3 million registered Democrats and 2.4 million Republicans, according to the Election Bureau.

## Now, you can mount studed tires

The Valley Automobile Club, AAA, recently reminded drivers preparing their cars for winter weather that mounting of studed tires can now be done. According to the Vehicle Code, mounting of studed tires was delayed until November 1.

Pat Higgins, Safety Director, The

Valley Automobile Club, said that drivers using studed tires can now mount them and must remove them before April 15, 1985, to comply with the law.

Higgins also noted that drivers using studs should exercise extra caution because the studs increase stopping distance under most Penn-

sylvanians winter driving conditions. Higgins said that tests show stopping distance on wet concrete increases 27 percent with studed tires compared with conventional snow tires.

"Drivers using studs must brake earlier to assure safe stops during all their winter driving," Higgins said, "not just on snow or ice."

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