

# Commentary

## LIBRARY NEWS

By **NANCY KOZEMCHAK**  
Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has been decorated for the Christmas holiday season and the display case is showing some special seasonal items. There is a miniature nine-piece white ceramic nativity scene with a church in the background and a small green ceramic Christmas tree, which creates a tranquil and blessed holiday atmosphere.

Arch Austin, a former Dallas school district administrator, presented me with a large antique edition of La Fontaine's fables. This book was published by Cassell, Petter, and Galpin in London and New York. It was translated into English verse by Walter Thornbury. The book is in very good condition and will remain in the protected antique section of the library. Thanks, Arch, we do appreciate receiving this particular edition.

The "Adopt A Book" program is underway and we have already received a few books. It is a worthwhile program and hopefully more people will consider joining the program. We have not been able to purchase some of the new titles and this is a way you can help your library stay ahead with current books. When shopping for books for Christmas presents, why not buy two, one for the gift and one for the library.

Clarence J. Michael, an ardent user and supporter of the library, was telling me the other day he saved himself about \$2,000 by using a library book to put a new roof on his home. He and his son, Darren, who is 12 years old, used a book "Do-it-yourself Roofing and Siding" by Max Alth along with a few other books from the library and learned how to do the job which cost \$750 for materials. Mike has made many toys and things through the years by using books and has said, "You can save money by using your library books."

A very special thanks to some great people from the Dallas School District. We purchased an old safe from the Trucksville School and could not find the combination to get it open. With the help of Tom Dickinson, Mrs. Geneset at senior high, Mrs. Young at Westmoreland and Mr. Zachary at Westmoreland, we now have the combination. Thanks for your cooperation!

A slogan on the Campbell's labels can be at the children's department is "Labels for Fables" and this is a reminder, we are still collecting all kinds of Campbell's products labels. These labels are being collected at both the children's and the main library.

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

## STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

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

**LEGISLATION PROTECTING** the identity of the natural parents of adopted children was among the many bills signed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh. Sponsored by Rep. Stephen F. Freind (R-Delaware), the measure closes a loophole in state law which allowed adopted children to discover the identity of their natural parents simply by applying for a birth certificate after age 18. The new law requires the consent of the natural parent before the identity is revealed. Freind contended that the loophole may have encouraged some women to opt for abortion rather than adoption, and have the child discover their identity later in life.

**UNDER THE NEW** auto insurance law, Pennsylvania motorists are required to pay an annual \$5 fee to form a fund to aid accident victims with medical bills in excess of \$100,000. Until this week, however, a dispute had been brewing between the state and the insurance industry over the method of collecting that fee. The state Insurance Department announced that an agreement had been reached directing the insurance industry to create a non-profit corporation for collection of the Catastrophic Loss Trust (CAT) Fund. Collection of the \$5 yearly levy is expected to begin in April, 1985.

**A HOUSE COMMITTEE** released a 95-page report on the state of the Department of Environmental Resources and recommended certain policy changes within that agency. The Democratic-controlled House Conservation Committee focused on DER's monitoring of so-called sludge dumping in the Commonwealth and called for revisions in its procedures. The study suggested that DER develop more stringent regulations regarding the dumping of sludge in abandoned mine areas and using it on farmland. The report said increased bonding limits should be instituted from generators, haulers and landowners where sludge is deposited. The panel's study also recommended a number of policy changes within DER.

## Editor's notes

### A little of this... ...a little of that

A NICE WARM WELCOME to John Rodgers who has joined the staff of The Dallas Post as a sports-writer. John, who most recently served as a sportswriter for The Times Leader, will be covering College Misericordia basketball, Penn State/Wilkes-Barre basketball, Dallas and Lake-Lehman wrestling. He will also be writing a weekly sports column, expressing his views on Back Mountain athletic happenings. Watch our sports section for John's first column - I think you'll like it!

BECKY GINGO, one of our newspaper carriers, is \$16 richer since last Wednesday. Becky managed to sell five new subscriptions to The Dallas Post which allowed her to pick five candy canes from our Christmas



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tree. The idea is the brainchild of our circulation manager, Jean Brutko, and the carriers are simply having a ball with it. Each time a carrier signs up a new subscriber, the carrier gets to pick a candy cane off the tree. Attached to these candy canes are dollar amounts and the carrier is paid, right then and there in cash, whatever dollar amount shows on the candy cane. The kids love it, we're getting more subscriptions, and Jean is simply thrilled with the whole program.

HOW ABOUT the recently advertised Student-Athlete Award The Dallas Post is going to award this year? We're really excited about it and think the student-athletes at Dallas and Lake-Lehman High School should be, too. At the end of the school year, we will award a plaque to a male and female student at both Back Mountain High School that we feel is most deserving of such an award. We'll be working with the guidance counselors and athletic directors at both schools to make the decision as fair as possible. This award, however, is just one more way The Dallas Post shows how interested it really is the youth of the Back Mountain.

CAN YOU BELIEVE it's going to cost us 22 cents to mail a letter in February? I am not a faithful supporter of the United States Postal System to begin with, but these postal rates have gotten out of hand. I sometimes feel it might be cheaper to buy a homing pigeon and teach him to deliver my letters.

GET THIS - The girls at the Dallas Branch of Wyoming National Bank have concocted a rather unique Christmas decoration. This decoration is so unique that the average person, even after staring at it for quite some time, will never be able to figure out what it is. See if you can guess - the decoration, which sits proudly on the counter in the bank, features a bullet casing attached to an evergreen branch that has nothing else on it. Give up? It's a "cartridge in a bear tree."

IN CASE ANYONE saw our office manager, Peggy Poynton, hanging around the front door of United Penn Bank in Dallas last Wednes-

day morning, you have no reason to fear. Peggy, a usually upstanding citizen, was not contemplating bank robbery, but rather waiting for the bank to open so she could obtain The Dallas Post payroll. The reason she looked so suspicious, however, was that it was 8:58 a.m. and the bank opens at 8:00 a.m. A little confused, our favorite office manager thought the bank opened at 9 a.m.

I WAS SO UPSET to hear about Bill Schroeder's setback last Thursday evening when the now nationally-famous figure suffered a stroke. Schroeder, you know, is the second-ever recipient of a mechanical heart and captured the hearts of Americans when his first request was for a nice, cold can of beer. How much more American can a guy be?

SATURDAY WAS Christmas tree shopping day for me and my step-sister, Susan. Being the practical-types that we are, we stopped at several different places and looked the trees (and their price tags) over carefully. Neither Susan nor I intended to spend a whole lot of money on our Christmas tree this year because, we figured, the tree really serves no practical purpose. After all, we thought, it will only be in the house for a few short weeks and who's really going to pay that much attention to it?

We finally found just the right tree - it isn't real tall but it's pretty round and makes a nice-looking centerpiece for the den in our home. It cost us a little more than we had wanted to spend, but after all, we thought, it is Christmas and it is only once a year. So, away we went with our tree.

Getting it into the house wasn't a real problem - only one chair had to be moved to make room for the tree. But, then, wouldn't you know it! The trunk of the bloody tree was much too big for the age-old Christmas tree stand we had so the poor fir had to lay on the floor for a while until we found a store that sold a stand big enough to hold our tree.

Oh, boy! The joys of Christmas preparations. When everything is said and done, I guess Christmas is a fun time of year. But, sometimes the weeks of getting ready for it can wear a person down, can't they?

PEPSI, OUR MASCOT, has returned to his home on Powderhorn Drive after spending several days at Dr. Post's animal hospital. Pepsi is a 15-year-old "mutt" (as we so affectionately refer to him) who belongs to Olga and Ted Kostrobala and their family. Olga, our typesetter, always has a companion with her as Pepsi used to accompany her to work almost every day of the week.

But, Pepsi, on one of his famous trips to Daring's for a bone was hit by a car while trying to cross the Dallas Highway. Fortunately, some kind soul called Dr. Post to inform him of the accident and the good doctor, without knowing who Pepsi belonged to, agreed to nurse the animal back to health. Although he still isn't himself yet, Pepsi is feeling much better and hopes to be able to return to work soon. As a serious dog-lover, I'd like to extend my personal wishes for a speedy recovery to my canine friend.



## REMEMBERING

### Dallas Methodist Church

The Dallas Methodist Church, located on Church Street behind the Rea & Derick Drug Store, looks almost the same today as it did years ago. The church is currently having a coating of aluminum siding added to its exterior, but other than that the grand old building is a constant reminder of our past heritage.

### Only yesterday

## Possible water rate increase raises residents' objections

50 YEARS AGO - DEC. 21, 1934

A request for a raise in the water rates caused vigorous objections from local residents who lived with the problem of an inadequate water supply. A hearing with the Public Service Commission was set to discuss the request.

Shavertown Improvement Association cooperated with churches to distribute food to needy families in Kingston Township.

You could get - Turkeys 32c lb.; stewing oysters 2 doz. 19c; roasting hams 19c lb.; duckling 31c lb.; sugar 10 lb. 50c; salmon 17c tall can; mixed nuts 19c lb.; figs 23c lb.; olives 6 oz. jar 13c; doz. eggs 35c.

40 YEARS AGO - DEC. 22, 1944

Three veterans from native fronts in World War II, Sgt. Elwood Davis, Sgt. Arthur Huntsinger and Sgt. Kenneth Davis, played an impressive part at Alderson Methodist Church during the unveiling of a new honor roll dedicated to 52 boys and girls from that community who were serving their country.

After a lapse of six years, a county-wide tuberculosis test of dairy herds was scheduled. County herds were due for such tests in 1942 but shortage of funds and trained veterinarians delayed it.

Married - Ilye G. Anderson to Flight Officer William Knecht.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Herman R. Garinger, 40 years.

You could get - Breyer's ice cream 65c qt.; checkers games 35c; cribbage boards \$1; bingo game 10c; 9 oz. pkg. mince meat 15c; ducklings 33c lb.; sausage 37c lb.; prunes 16c lb.; lb. jar peanut butter 25c.

30 YEARS AGO - DEC. 23, 1954

Rotary hosted 54 boys and girls at a party held at Prince of Peace Church. Santa dropped in to visit the children. Rev. William McClelland, pastor, and Robert Graves, party chairman were in charge.

Lake-Noxen students returned to school following a 14 school day absence due to lack of water.

Engaged - Jeanette Traver to Airman Dana Wright; Rebecca Gabel to Verne Anthony Stueber.

Married - Betty Arlene Gramley to Richard C. Weidner.

Deaths - A.J. Hufford, St. Paul, Minn.

You could get - Eggnog 65c qt.; Paper-Mate pens

\$1.69; Breyers ice cream 99c ½ gal.; Brownie Hawk-eye flash camera \$13.65; chocolate covered cherries \$1.25; hams 65c lb.; turkeys 43c lb.; tangerines 2 doz. 45c; 28 oz. jar mince meat 39c.

20 YEARS AGO - DEC. 22, 1964

A household on Munceytown Road, Lehman was in an uproar when a large doe dived through a breeze-way of the house shattering window panes and nearly inflicting injuries to a young girl. Although the doe caused about \$300 worth of damage, it did not receive any injuries and returned to the woods.

Faculty of Dallas Senior High School enjoyed their annual Yuletide party at O'Connell's Kingston House. Gerald Stinson served as toastmaster for the evening. High school principal W. Frank Trimble gave invocation.

Married - Marjorie Louise Baird to William W. Meade; Jennie Walter Sweezy to W. Edward Nafus.

Anniversaries - Lt. Col. and Mrs. Jack H. Magee, 25 years; Mr. and Mrs. C. Morris King, 47 years; Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Fiske, 25 years.

Deaths - J. Rovilo Munk, Lutes Corners; Anna B. Chisko, Huntsville; Mary W. Bowman, Loyalville.

You could get - Turkeys 29c lb.; haddock fillet 45c lb.; ducklings 45c lb.; 3 lb. sweet potatoes 29c; lb. Swiss Cheese 59c; fresh eggs, 2 doz. 99c; 2-8 oz. pkg. cream cheese 49c; Kosher pickles 35c qt.; ½ gal. Marvel ice cream 59c.

10 YEARS AGO - DEC. 23, 1974

Town House Restaurant employees held a Christmas party at the home of Dianne Sax, Shavertown. Attending were Donna Sax, Linda Sax, Lori Jones, Joseph Lazorick, Helen Lazorick, Dennis Dunham, Frank and Eva Rusavage, Lillian Turner, Tom and Marge Reese, Grace Ravert, Dale Hall, Ralph Ravert, Sue Martin, Carl Martin, Dave Baloga.

Navy Machinist Mate First Class Charles J. Balavage, RD 2, Harveys Lake visited Hong Kong as a crew member of the nuclear powered attack aircraft carrier USS Enterprise.

Deaths - Jean Harrison Cole, Shavertown.

You could get - Turkeys 53c lb.; round roast \$1.39 lb.; mince meat \$1.29 28 oz. bottle; sweet potatoes 2-16 oz. cans 89c; celery 29c bunch; Sunkist oranges 10 for 69c; Land o'Lakes butter 89c lb.

## OPINION

### Landfill shortage may stunt economic growth

By **HOWARD J. GROSSMAN**  
Special to The Dallas Post

Unless we solve the problem of a shortage of landfill disposal sites for industrial residual waste in Northeastern Pennsylvania, economic growth may be stymied. While these words are strong, they represent one of the greatest threats to the economy of the region in some time. Somewhat paralleling the railroad crisis which has threatened economic stability twice within the last 10 years, the shortage of landfill sites for non-hazardous industrial residual waste, as well as household waste is a problem whose time has come for solution.

No greater authority than recent secretaries of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources have identified this problem as the number one issue facing Northeastern Pennsylvania, and as an issue which is of highest priority in the entire Commonwealth. In fact, a former Secretary of Environmental Resources stated that Northeastern Pennsylvania has the worst problem in the entire Commonwealth.

The shortage of permitted landfills to handle such waste streams has been proven through evidence collected by the Industry Waste Advisory Committee of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Depending upon how fast permitted

landfills fill up, there is something on the order of 3.5 years remaining in current capacity for the disposal of wastes in our region.

Jobs are at stake in finding a solution to this massive problem; both jobs already here in the region and jobs which may come to the region if we had adequate disposal space and adequate disposal management. It is a problem which affects every citizen, although most citizens do not recognize the nature of the issue. Putting waste at a household curb is just the beginning of the process by which waste disposal takes place. The pickup of such waste, its transportation and its ultimate disposal are parts of the same process. The same is true of industrial residual wastes which are non-hazardous, and which require proper disposal. While landfills seem to be the short range solution, there are other ways to dispose of such wastes which need to be investigated such as incineration, recycling to reduce waste volume, and waste to energy projects. Incineration and waste to energy projects take considerable quantities of money, sometimes they are not completely dependable, and require long lengths of time from planning to action. Therefore, both a short range and long range program needs to be instituted. In the case of landfill operations, strong efforts are underway through the Industry Waste Advisory Committee of EDCNP and the cooperation of the

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to seek alternative solutions in the form of new landfill sites as well as the more longer range opportunities through new technology. However, one vital element could preclude a solution. Unless the public begins to understand the nature of the problem and contribute to its solution, there will not be an adequate resolution and the region will suffer economically.

Jobs are at stake as some industries transport waste long distances which require considerable amounts of money for disposal.

What is needed is a series of solutions within the region which provide disposal opportunities for our own wastes that are generated by our own industries as well as our household waste. The problem will be compounded in 1985 with the release of new regulations proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to control non-hazardous industrial residual wastes. These stricter regulations will make it more difficult to find sites and to provide an answer to a current problem. Therefore, time is of the essence and decisions are needed quickly to remedy the space shortage and to carry out the planning, development, administration and management of one or more sites to handle these types of waste streams.

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