

Commentary

Editor's notes

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

THIS CHRISTMAS STORY actually brought tears to my eyes - I don't think, no matter how hard you look, you'll find a person with as much Christmas spirit as this woman.

It seems a Back Mountain family, a family without a lot of worldly possessions, has a seven-week-old pet kitten that the children really adore. The kitten, however, is a most unfortunate animal as it has not enjoyed very good health since birth. The problem the canine has, however, can be corrected - but only by a rather expensive surgical operation.



MARTIN

The mother and father were faced with two choices during a trip (with the kitten) to a local veterinarians' office the other day - either have the operation done or have the animal put to sleep. As cruel as that may sound, there were no other choices for these two people.

As the two adults shed a few tears while trying to decide how they would scrape up enough money for this operation, the vets' staff was also in tears. In an attempt to put off the decision a little while, the vet offered to board the cat for a few days until the family could come to grips with the whole idea.

So, the kitten stayed behind and the mother and father returned home to discuss the predicament with their children. Just as the good animal doctor and the members of his staff had dried their eyes, the phone in the office rang - it was the mother.

She had discussed the kitten's case with the family and the final decision was that the mother is going to give up all the Christmas presents her children have planned to give her. The children are going to return all the presents they bought the mother and the family is going to use that money to foot the bill for the kitten's operation.

That, my dear friends, is the epitome of selfishness - that is the true Christmas spirit! May God bless this most beautiful woman, her children and the adorable little kitten who has been given a second chance because this family understands the true meaning of Christmas.

IT HAS BECOME A RITUAL in our office of late to enjoy a dozen of Mister Donut doughnuts every Friday. And, since the Mister Donut shop is conveniently located between my house and our office, I have been elected to stop there every Friday morning.

This has been going on for several months now and, although I try to vary the kinds of doughnuts we eat, there are still some favorites our staff members request week after week.

I really don't mind stopping for doughnuts - at least it gives the crew something to look forward to every week. The thing that kills me, though, is that week after week as I stand there making my doughnut selections, I can never remember how many doughnuts I've chosen. And, invariably, I have to ask the poor girl behind the counter, "How many more?"

This past week, after becoming so

aware of the fact that I have difficulty counting to 12 every week, I finally asked the young lady how many people come in for a dozen doughnuts without stopping before reaching the dozen and asking, "How many more?"

This sweet girl assured me that nearly every person who comes in for a dozen doughnuts does that. I guess I'm not the only one. I ask you, though, to think about it the next time you stop for a dozen doughnuts. See if you have to stop and ask the counterperson, "How many more?"

WE CERTAINLY HAD A GOOD TIME putting together the imaginary Christmas gift list for Back Mountain residents that appears in today's paper. All the gifts are given in good taste with no harm or malice whatsoever intended. I only hope those people we have picked on can take them in stride. It's just one way The Dallas Post can wish members of our community a Merry Christmas.

SPEAKING OF HAVING A GOOD TIME. I hope every one of our readers appreciate the photo of The Dallas Post staff that appears in our Holiday Greeting ad today. What we went through to have that photo taken was nearly unbelievable.

Our photographer, Ed Campbell, you'll notice is not in that photo. And those of you who assume he's not in the photo because he took the photo are only partially right. You see, something came up for Ed the day we had the photo scheduled and he could not get to our office at the time we had designated for the photo.

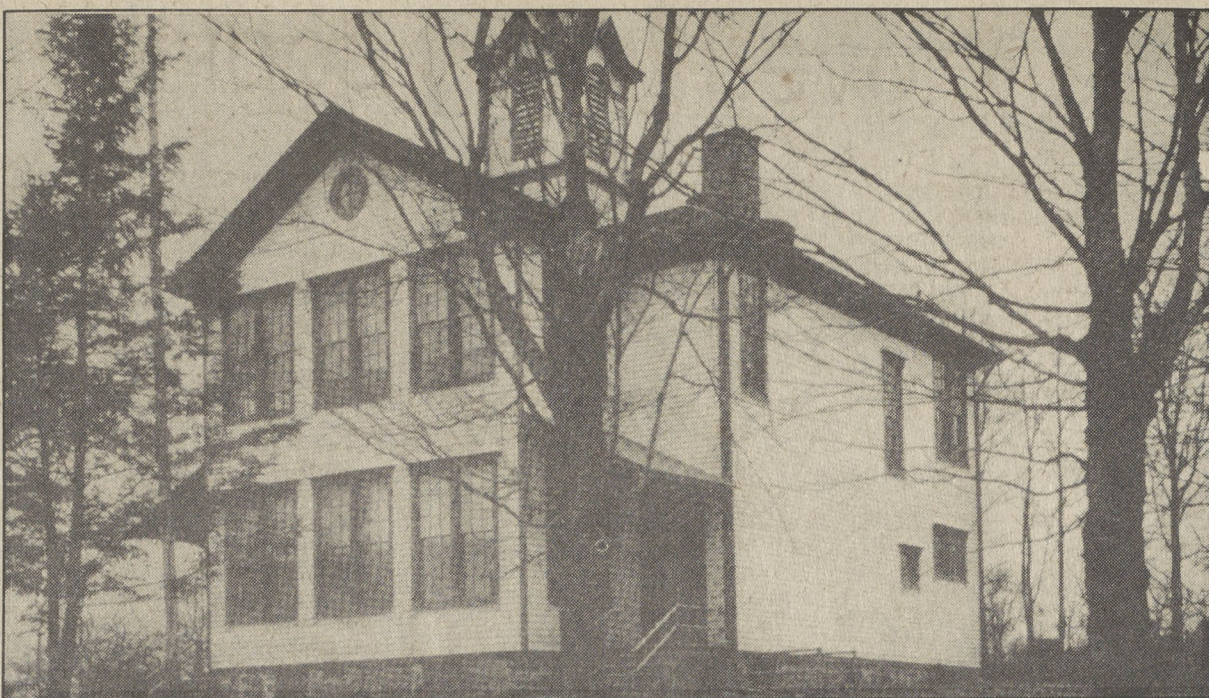
So, now we have an office full of people all ready for a photo and no photographer. Fortunately, our West Side correspondent Joe Gula had his camera with him and our supervisor, Charlie Trettel, graciously accepted the job as fill-in photographer.

But, alas, a phone call to my house late that evening spelled doom as Ed, who developed the film, informed me that Charlie makes a better general manager than he does a photographer and the film was too dark to use. So, we did it again - the next day. This time, Ed was there to take the picture. Unfortunately, some people who were available for the photo the first time were not available the second time - and to them, we offer our greatest apologies.

THE BACK MOUNTAIN LIBRARY's favorite person, Florence Crump, stopped in to see us the other day. She has some friends and relatives who live out of town who would like to see the color photograph we had in our paper recently in celebration of Mrs. Crump's 90th birthday so she stopped in to pick up a few copies of the paper.

That woman is remarkable! She came in her own car (on a rainy day, at that) and told us all about the weekend she had just spent in New York - every minute detail she could remember. She's incredible. And to think she's 90 years old.

The Back Mountain Library - and the Back Mountain community - can certainly be proud of her. She is one fine woman!



REMEMBERING

Dallas High School

Shown here is the old Dallas High School which no longer stands. The building was formerly located on Huntsville next to the old Dallas Borough School which currently houses the new Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Only yesterday

Fire company, school major accomplishments

50 YEARS AGO - DEC. 28, 1934
The year 1934 saw many accomplishments in the Bk. Mountaint. Two noteworthy projects were the construction of the new Daniel C. Roberts Fire Company building at Harveys Lake and the erection of an addition to the Dallas Township school building.

Fifty families received toys collected by area Boy Scouts for the Christmas season. James Kozemchak was troop scoutmaster.

Deaths - William Baird, Kunkle.
You could get - Chuck pot roast 12½ lb.; round steak 25c lb.; cod 15c lb.; 3 big cans sauerkraut 23c; Waldorf paper 3 rolls 13c; Crisco 3 lb. can 53c; Lifebuoy soap 3 cakes 19c; raisins 2 pkg. 15c; 3 cans Campbell's tomato soup 20c.

40 YEARS AGO - DEC. 29, 1944
Senator Andrew J. Sordani was elected a Pennsylvania director of the American Automobile Association at its annual meeting held in Chicago.

County farmers heard F.J. Kielholz, nationally known agricultural editor of the Country Gentleman at the annual meeting of the Luzerne County Agricultural Extension Association at Hotel Sterling.

Engaged - Kathleen Gobel to Lt. Thomas Cawley, Jr.

Deaths - Thomas Czuleger, former Dallas resident; Donald Misson, Dallas, in action in France.

You could get - Stewing chickens 37c lb.; skinless franks 37c lb.; sausage 37c lb.; oysters 79c pt.; seeded raisins 16c lb.; mince meat 19c lb.; 2 lb. jar citrus marmalade 15c; carrots 2 lb. bunches 19c; rutabagas 3c lb.

30 YEARS AGO - DEC. 30, 1954
Granville Sowden, Back Mountain Lumber & Coal

Company purchased Dallas Hardware Store.

John Churry, Norton Avenue was named head of the 1955 Finance Drive of the Back Mountain Town and Country YMCA. R.E. Neal of Goss Manor was named co-chairman.

Engaged - Celeste Machell to Joseph Dymond.
Married - Herbert Brobst and Marilyn McCabe.
You could get - Pork loin roast 29c lb.; shrimp 69c lb.; smoked picnic hams 35c lb.; mushrooms 49c lb.; broccoli lg. bunch 25c; seedless grapefruit 29c for 4; Ritz crackers 1 lb. pkg. 35c; 2-6 oz. cans tuna fish 39c.

20 YEARS AGO - DEC. 29, 1964
Men of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company, Dallas, put out the blaze in the high-test pump at Harry Wesley's Gulf Station Memorial Highway after it was struck by a skidding car. Quick action by the fire company removed the very ill danger of explosion.

Otto V. Sarmonis, Lake Road, Noxen was named Neighborhood Commissioner for Scout units in Wyoming County.

Married - Brenda Marion Clause to Joseph P. Baganski Jr.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Carkeek, Hunlock Creek, 64 years; Mr. and Mrs. George W. Belles, Dallas, 57 years; Mr. and Mrs. William Naugle Sr., Pikes Creek, 42 years.

Deaths - John Gibbons, Hunlock Creek; Mrs. Morgan Richards, Huntsville; Maria Hislop, Dallas.

You could get - Pork loins 25c lb.; bacon 49c lb.; sauerkraut 2 lb. 27c; bananas 9c lb.; tomatoes 19c pkg.; onions 3 bunches 19c; 5 lb. sugar 55c; sharp cheese lb. pkg. 59c; cream cheese 8 oz. pkg. 25c.

LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

Due to the tremendous strain on the 1984 budget of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, the book purchasing moratorium had to be put into effect. The adult department of the library has been able to add some new titles through Book Club purchases and memorial books; however, the children's department is completely dependent upon donation of books or money to purchase new books.

Marilyn Rudolph, children's librarian, would be happy to accept any donations. There is also an ongoing children's book sale in the hallway of the new building which would be added to the new book purchasing fund.

A Memory Book given to the library is a special way to remember a loved one. It honors the person and benefits the library. The book can be purchased as a tribute to the loved one's special interest, hobby or dream and becomes a lasting remembrance to the departed person. A gift bookplate is placed in the volume and every time the book is used, someone is reminded of the person and your thoroughness. We have posted a list of current memory book purchases in the main lobby of the library.

A card is mailed to the bereaved member of the family stating that a memorial book has been donated to the library by the person giving it and in memory of the deceased person. This becomes a meaningful remembrance.

As of December 1, 1984, 200 people have joined the Book Club. The amount of money donated through this program to date is \$1,785 for 1984. The money is used to purchase current best sellers for the Book Club shelf in the library. A book selection committee meets once a month to choose the books to buy from current book reviews. The books are for Book Club members only for the first year after purchase. The Book Club has a social meeting on the third Monday of each month. This is one more way to financially help your library and get to read the current new titles. Think about becoming a Book Club member.

A reminder that the library is collecting Campbell Soup Company labels. We have received many labels so far and are still collecting them in the containers available at both libraries.

We have had a lot of fun and interest in our "Guess the Date" contest. We have received about 45 entries so far and are anxiously awaiting for more. Many people have foolishly said, "will it be within the next decade?"

OPINION

Former owner's letter reflects ideals of today's staff members

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter, which was found recently in our circulation files, was sent from Howard W. Risley, former owner of The Dallas Post, to then-subscribers of the newspaper. The letter was dated October 1, 1931.

Today, more than 50 years later, the staff at The Dallas Post finds it amazing that Mr. Risley's ideas are so similar to the ideas of today's Dallas Post. Mr. Risley's letter to his subscribers is reprinted in its entirety - because we feel his words reflect the true feelings of today's Dallas Post.)

DEAR SUBSCRIBER:
During the past year, you have had an opportunity at first hand to observe the ideals back of The Dallas Post.

You have learned that The Post is vitally interested in the affairs of the communities it serves and stands for civic progress and governmental economy.

The Post is not a metropolitan newspaper nor does it aim to be one. It does strive to be the best suburban community newspaper to be found anywhere.

Business conditions, lack of community interest and many other circumstances have hampered us in achieving the goal we have set. To a staff of five young men all under thirty years of age, this has sometimes been disheartening.

Through every discouragement, The Post has held to the highest ideals of journalism. Its first ambition is to serve its readers honestly and fearlessly, unawed by influence and unbribed by gain.

As a citizen, you should be vitally interested in the welfare of your local newspaper. It is in large measure, your newspaper, but more than this it is a community institution. Whether it will become a better newspaper depends largely on the interest you take in your community and your home institutions. PROPERLY SUPPORTED and ENCOURAGED The Post can

be a real asset in the life of the communities it serves.

CRITICISMS and SUGGESTIONS are always welcomed and appre-

ciated. You are the final judge of what your community newspaper should be and only through your suggestions and criticisms can we

learn of the things you want in a local newspaper.

RESPECTFULLY,
HOWARD W. RISLEY

LETTERS

Family thankful for prayers

DEAR EDITOR:

These are but a few lines to express our heartfelt thanks for the concern that has been shown to us stemming from the medical report of Michael, our six-year-old son. You will never know how your kind prayers, telephone calls, cards, and gifts buoyed us up during those confusing and anxious weeks, both in and out of the hospital. So many of the churches were praying - not only our Methodist churches in and around Wyoming Valley, but churches of every denomination, and so many of our Catholic friends contacted us and voiced their support. In a word: we were overwhelmed!

Some one, and I don't know to this day who it was, stopped me at the church door and said, "Reverend, remember, when we share our joy, that joy is multiplied and when we share our grief, that grief is divided." In the light of that statement, therefore, we thank you for sharing our sorrow and helping us feel undergirded by God's love and understanding. You have helped us through an almost devastating ordeal.

We would especially like to thank our church family, the Lehman UMC, the Idetown UMC, and the Jackson UMC. To you we will be eternally indebted. We have never

felt so loved, so "surrounded." Thank you also for your continued prayers for Michael.

IN CHRIST,
REV. & MRS. MICHAEL SHAMBORA

Scout thanks community

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas, I would like to thank those residents who donated to our Food Drive for the Back Mountain Food Bank.

It was a huge success and we would like to wish every a Happy Holiday.

DANIEL HOLDREDGE
BOY SCOUT TROOP 281

Lottery ticket holders should claim prizes

As the New Year approaches, so does the expiration date for an unclaimed Lotto jackpot ticket from Dec. 30, 1983. Only 13 days remain for the winning ticket holder to file a claim, said Lynn R. Nelson, Lottery Executive Director.

The Dec. 30, 1983, drawing produced a jackpot with a total annuity value of \$4,863,054.00. Five tickets were sold with all six of the winning numbers, four of which have been claimed and verified. Each ticket is worth \$972,610.80, less 20 percent for federal withholding

tax. The winning Lotto numbers from Dec. 30, 1983, were 09, 15, 19, 22, 25 and 26.

Since December 30 of this year falls on a Sunday, the winning ticket holder has until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, 1984, to file a claim at any Area Lottery Office or Lottery headquarters.

These winning tickets may be tucked away in a wallet or a bureau drawer, their value unknown to their owners. Players are advised to re-check their old Lotto tickets.

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