

Commentary

Editor's notes

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

IT LOOKS LIKE WINTER has finally arrived in the Back Mountain - with temperatures plummeting below zero and snowstorms halting traffic on the Dallas Highway for several hours, I'd say we must wait no longer for Ole' Man Winter - he really is here.

But, isn't that the fun of living in Northeastern Pennsylvania - having the opportunity to experience such a beautiful change in seasons? Can't complain, though - the cold weather and an occasional snowstorm are great for the skiing industry. And, being a person who dumps tons and tons of money into the local ski resorts every winter, I must say the cold weather and the snowy roads are a welcome sight. The fun of skiing even makes me forget about all the frozen pipes I have had to deal with this week.



buddy, Howard Samuels, is filling in for him. Thanks, Howard, for chipping in at what can be a pretty "frigid" job in this weather and a great big GET WELL WISH to Spencer from his friends at The Post.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE Bill Spurlin back to normal these days. Bill suffered kind of a "freak" accident a few weeks back when a fluorescent bulb exploded in his hands while he was attempting to change it.

Bill wound up with one of his hands and his head pretty heavily bandaged. From the sounds of the accident, though, it looks like he got away easy and could have been more seriously hurt. But, it is nice to see you smiling agin, Bill.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME since I saw Barbara Hoover from Trucksville, but, lo and behold, she stopped in at the office just the other day.

Seems Barbara felt it was time for the Tiger group of Cub Scout Pack 155 of Trucksville United Methodist Church to get some publicity so, during a visit by Officer Gary Beisel at a pack meeting the other night, Barb whipped out her camera and took a picture of some of the Cubs with Officer Beisel.

Now, Barbara's intentions were good, except her photo-taking experience is a bit limited. You see, Barbara's son, Adam, is a member of the Tiger group and he was there when Officer Beisel came to visit. So, of course Mom put Adam in the photo and then proceeded to take the photo with another little Cub Scout standing directly in front of Adam. Poor Adam is barely visible in the photo.

Oh, well, Adam, maybe next time your mother will remember to call The Dallas Post when something special is going on with your Cub Scout Pack so that we can send our photographer to take the photo - guaranteed, we'll be able to see your face then.

THAT STORY REMINDS me of June Supey of Trucksville and her photo-taking expeditions. June's son, Eric, is a member of the football and track teams at Dallas and June is forever flashing pictures of Eric and his friends in action.

The only problem here is she usually gets their legs, or their hands, or sometimes all you see is the back parts of their heels as they're crossing the finish line. Definitely not the kind of photos you'd paste in a photo album.

Sorry, June, but you really do make a better nurse than you do a photographer.

I'D LIKE TO EXTEND a great big hello to Sheila McKeown of Dallas. Sheila is a nurse at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in Kingston and a little bird told me the other day she's a faithful reader of this column. Thanks, Sheila, it's those kind of comments that make it all worthwhile.

NO, I DON'T want to talk about the Super Bowl. I'M UPSET!



REMEMBERING

Center of Dallas

If you look straight ahead to the center of this photo, maybe, just maybe, you'll recognize the building. Yes, sir - that's Fino's Drug Store as it appeared years ago. Things look just a tad different these days, don't they?

Only yesterday

Two streetcars crash; several people injured

50 YEARS AGO - JAN. 25, 1935

Two motormen were injured and a number of passengers were severely shaken when two Dallas street cars came together in a terrific head on collision between Birch Grove and Hillside.

Professor Joseph Miller, head of the Guidance Department of Wilkes-Barre City Schools gave an interesting address before a large group at the Dallas Borough PTA meeting.

Married - Joseph Jerome Laux to Mary Magdalen Breza.

You could get - Pork loin 19c lb.; leg of lamb 23c lb.; smoked hams 19c lb.; flour 24½ lb. bag 89c; walnut meats 49c lb.; Ritz crackers 2 pkg. 37c; 2 lb. fig bars 19c; 8 O'Clock coffee 19c lb.; cake flour 25c pkg.

40 YEARS AGO - JAN. 26, 1945

A Memorial Library dedicated to the men and women in armed services was assured as contribution amounting to more than \$4,000 poured into the Back Mountain Memorial Library Association. The funds were to be used to purchase and renovate the John L. Ryman property on Main Street as a temporary library home.

Heavy snow hit the area causing school closings and slippery roads.

Married - Romaine Covert to Chief Petty Officer John Chandler.

Birthdays - Mrs. Hannah Nash, 85 years old.

Deaths - Pvt. Joseph Polachek, East Dallas.

You could get - Sausage 42c lb.; pollock 23c lb.; oranges 33c doz.; carrots 2 bunches 17c; tomatoes 25c pkg.; evaporated milk 4 tall cans 35c; lg. pkg. Oxydol 23c; 2 lb. ASCO coffee 47c; Lava Soap 3 bars 17c; 3 lb. Crisco 68c.

30 YEARS AGO - JAN. 28, 1955

Mrs. James Tribelcox, chairman of the Mother's March for Polio, announced that volunteers had netted \$2,327.24 from their march.

OPINION

In 'America Inside Out'

Schoenbrun may have had this area in mind

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN
Special to The Dallas Post

In his recent book titled "America Inside Out", David Schoenbrun, well-known writer and journalist, has given historians a view of where and for what America stands today.

In crystal clear language, he provides each citizen with precise reasons as to how we have brought about our current economic problems. He chides the United States for losing sight of reality following World War II. We were the only game in town (the world). We carved out a "generosity that was blind to reality as we set forth the rebuilding of the workshops of Germany, Japan and many other countries. It was the right thing to do...what was foolish, shortsighted, and excessively prideful was our failure to renew our own obsolescent industrial plant."

He believes that we became convinced that we were the natural leaders of the world industrial base, that we forgot that some of the greatest machines had been invented by Europeans; that Europeans had conceived atomic energy; we had engineered it.

He notes that Europeans and the Japanese would soon begin to surpass us. They were not better producers. Our leaders failed to reinvest in new plants. The bottom line was profits and neglected investment, wage increases and social benefits instead of competitive pricing. Nobody beat us. We beat ourselves.

He goes on to say, however, that we can catch up and surpass other nations once we understand this and take corrective actions.

How does this fit the Northeastern Pennsylvania mold? In some respects we may be our own worst enemies. We need to recognize the good things that are in the region and to develop new ways to catch up with our competitors around the State and nation.

As new technology is developed, leadership needs to be exerted throughout the region and be cognizant that

Northeastern Pennsylvania has more to offer its people than most other places. Although improvements have been made in recent years, we have fallen short of a unity of purpose. The long sought economic stability for the region has not sharpened itself to the point of total competitiveness. The vigorous actions driving other regions have caused our region to be slower in growth. Our personal talent and resources are comparable to other areas, but our ability to use initiative within the framework of the region's problems and potential solutions is questionable.

The Schoenbrun theory has applicability to Northeastern Pennsylvania in other ways. Obsolescence equates with physical capital needs and the region's community facilities which dictate how and at what pace the region intends to grow in the future.

We need to be sure of the steps we take to develop new techniques for growth and development if we are to compete with other regions and capture a significant share of economic growth which the region needs.

How we do this and at what time schedule will determine how effective we will be in meeting the challenges of the 1980's and 1990's. The steps that are necessary include leadership unification throughout the region, focusing on issues of importance. A united nations assembly of leaders is a tool which the region can creatively utilize to enhance our portrait of positive economic changes.

Northeastern Pennsylvania has the same or better abilities which other regions have. The region needs commitment and dedication to enable us to prepare, plan, develop and carry out the changes which this new era demands.

Much like the time following World War II, we have a new horizon upon us which creates opportunities and new priorities as well as new ways to conduct business development. Our quality of life over the next decades depends upon the actions taken today. Northeastern Pennsylvania's assets and competitive edge must be magnified and marketed by each of our 907,000 residents as we retool for a 21st century lifestyle.

LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is moving!!!
And soon, we hope. Hopefully, by the middle of February we will really be into the actual physical move.

Since 1945, the Back Mountain Memorial Library has been an integral part of the cultural lives of the people it serves.

Once upon a time there was a group of Back Mountaineers who raised some money, bought a building, stocked it with books and founded our library.

Since 1945, the library has made do with the original building, adding and altering structures to fit the expanding role. It has been well known since the 1960's, however, that new more suitable quarters had to be found or built to truly support the Back Mountain's needs.

With the purchase last year of the former Dallas Borough School building, the library has finally found a facility that can provide for the traditional role of a library along with expansion and a wide variety of community uses.

The building is in the process of being altered and refurbished at an estimated cost of \$450,000.00 and, when completed, the library will be in a centrally located, recycled facility which would cost at least three times that to build new.

The library is currently conducting a capital fund raising campaign in various phases among library friends and all other public spirited citizens of the Back Mountain area. Our goal is to get every community member involved in this campaign to whatever extent possible so we can all share in the new home of our library.

The first social event in the new library will be an open house scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 3, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. This activity is for the general public and we hope many members of the community will drop in to see where we are in the progress of renovation at this time.

Joanne Runner, a member of the steering committee of the capital campaign, informed me there will be light refreshments available, informed board and committee members to answer questions, some entertainment and surprises. Come and join us for an interesting afternoon in our new library building on Huntsville Road!

The announcement of the winner in our "Guess the Date" contest is drawing closer and I am pleased to say we had 138 entries in the contest. Needless to say, some of them have already been eliminated with the passing of time.

The Library Book Club members had a lovely Christmas luncheon with an entertaining program and a happy birthday celebration for Mrs. Crump, the Book Club president.

The Book Club dues for 1985 are now payable. Stop at the library and join the Book Club!

STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

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

INAUGURAL CEREMONIES for three of Pennsylvania's top elected officials were held in Harrisburg this week. Attorney General LeRoy S. Zimmerman and Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer each took the oath of office for a second four-year term. Don Bailey was sworn in as the state's new auditor general. Presiding at the ceremonies was state Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix Jr. Gov. Dick Thornburgh and leaders of both parties attended the event.

DO HAPPY HOURS in Pennsylvania taverns and restaurants create a dangerous and possibly intolerable situation on Pennsylvania highways? That was the pivotal question at the first Liquor Control Board public hearing on the controversial alcohol-promotion practice. Supporters of happy hours oppose a proposed ban on the practice claiming that the promotions are legitimate sales tools and that the problem of alcohol abuse lies with the drinker and irresponsible proprietors who serve inebriated customers. Opponents counter that happy hours and similar promotions encourage abuse of alcohol leading to drunk drivers. While LCB members took no position on the issue, board member Mario Mele commented "How can you regulate the habits of people? There has to be a sense of self-restraint." The LCB will hold three more hearings on the subject this month.

ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION against handicapped individuals who use "service dogs" in the performance of their everyday activities is the aim of legislation introduced by Rep. Roy W. Cornell. The Montgomery County Republican said the four-bill package would amend existing laws to ensure that such handicapped persons are not discriminated against in the areas of housing and employment, or in access to various public facilities.

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