

# Commentary

## Editor's notes

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

THE WELCOME MAT was rolled out this week for Judie Mathers, our new full-time reporter.

Judie, who was most recently employed as a reporter/copy editor for the Suburban News, is a native of the Back Mountain and currently resides in Shavertown with her husband, Hap.



DOTY MARTIN

A graduate of Dallas High School and Syracuse University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Special Education, Judie was, at one time, a school correspondent for The Dallas Post during her junior and senior years at Dallas.

At The Post, Judie will be responsible for police and court reports and will also handle general assignment work as well as feature stories.

We're thrilled to have her working with us and feel quite confident you will enjoy reading her work.

A GREAT BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY goes out to Megan Sheehan, daughter of Lynn and Sandy Sheehan of Dallas.

Megan observed her 11th birthday this past Monday and celebrated with a pajama party at her parents' home on Huntsville Road last Friday evening.

Megan's mom is employed as production manager of The Dallas Post. Rumor has it that she (Sandy) had just as much fun having the party as did Megan and all her friends.

DAFFODIL DAYS, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, have arrived and residents of the Back Mountain are encouraged to support this worthwhile program as much as possible.

Back Mountain's own Veronica Farinola and her children have been extremely instrumental in distributing the daffodils to area businesses and have played a very important role in the success of this particular project.

The American Cancer Society is probably one of the most worthwhile non-profit health organizations around. Support of their fund-raising programs is imperative to the success of their work.

SEEMS THAT SPRING FEVER is here. Unfortunately, however, there seem to be more people than not who feel trapped within the confines of their own homes.

I have had several discussions with area residents this past week who feel they just can't seem to get away from the responsibilities they've taken on at home and find themselves with nowhere to go when they need some time alone.

Why, I was involved in a conversation the other day where people even complained of not being able to lock themselves in the bathroom for a few moments' peace.

Seems every time these people decide to take a long shower or whatever, it's the family dog who interrupts their time alone by sitting outside the door whimpering or even scratching to be let in the room.

I actually heard one woman confess to going to the grocery store

and the drug stores one evening - not for the purpose of doing any shopping, but rather to get away from the family.

As lonely as the singles' life can become at times, I can't imagine experiencing the feeling of being trapped inside one's own home at any given time.

IN LIGHT OF THESE RECENT CONVERSATIONS, some of those people who have been experiencing this feeling of "entrapment" have decided to form a club, allowing themselves the opportunity to get together - at least one night a week - and do nothing or say nothing.

The only problem there seems to be in the formation of such a club is that there is still nowhere to go. These women - who are trying to get away from husbands, kids and family pets - can't visit each others' homes because they'll run into the same problems wherever they go.

Any of you out there who can relate to the feelings of these people and who may think they have a solution to this predicament, please call me at the office.

I feel sure those people who have related their personal experiences to me would be thrilled to hear of others in the same boat. One thing's for sure, they would certainly appreciate some answers to their plight.

SPEAKING OF ANSWERS, "Dear Aunt Patty" will debut in The Dallas Post next week.

Remember, "Dear Aunt Patty" is an advice column designed to answer our readers' questions on just about anything and everything they choose to ask. This column is strictly a local column and is not nationally syndicated.

Aunt Patty's mailbox has been flooded with letters from area residents during the past week, so if you are planning to write, you'd better do it soon. The sooner you get your letter in, the sooner Aunt Patty will answer it.

AN APOLOGY - or two - to Jeff Austin, award-winning wrestler from Lake-Lehman High School.

Jeff recently finished fifth in the 98 pound weight class during last weekend's Pennsylvania State Wrestling finals at the Hershey Arena.

The Dallas Post published a picture of Jeff last week and also published, alongside it, a photo of Jeff's teammate, Norman Clancy, who finished in sixth place in the 132 pound weight class at the State finals.

Only problem is, we accidentally reversed the names and had the boys' names under the wrong pictures.

Oh, well, I guess that proves we really are human. Anyway, a hearty congratulations goes out to both boys for their grappling achievements.

WE HAD A LOT OF COMMENTS on last week's front page color photograph of the little boy on the merry-go-round.

The photo was reproduced by our production department and published in our newspaper as an entrant in a worldwide contest sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Company.



The Pines, Dallas, Pa.

### Parrish Heights

This photo shows an area located at the top of Huntsville Road in Dallas currently known as "Parrish Heights." When the photo was taken, the area was obviously referred to as "The Pines."

### Only yesterday

## Senior class prepares for the 'Arrival of Kitty'

50 YEARS AGO - MARCH 29, 1935  
Senior class of Laketon High School prepared for their play "Arrival of Kitty." The three-act comedy was directed by Miss Margaret M. Dunn. Ruth DeLong, Clyde Mayer, Dean Kocher, Helen Koslofsky and Helen Sorchik had lead roles.

Lehman High School's championship basketball team garnered the majority of honors in the 1935 basketball season. In addition to the record of no defeats, Chester Sutton of Lehman was league high scorer with a total of 106 points.

You could get - Leg of veal 21c lb.; pork chops 21c lb.; smoked hams 23c lb.; winesap apples 6 lb. 25c; iceberg lettuce 2 hds. 19c; tomatoes 2 lb. 29c; fresh eggs 25c doz.; cheese 19c lb.; 2 pkg. raisins 15c; apple jelly 10c jar.

40 YEARS AGO - MARCH 30, 1945  
Two Teen-Age Centers, one in Trucksville, the other in Shavertown, held formal openings. The Centers had been adapted to the recreational activities for young people in the community ages 13 to 19.

Dr. Robert Bodycomb, Dallas dentist, and L.L. Richardson, Dodge and Plymouth dealer for Dallas area, announced their candidacy for school directors.

Dallas Borough Girls' basketball team captured their first championship in seven years. Miss Florence Park was team coach.

Married - Doris Rodd to Corp. Edward Holcomb; Ruth Shirley Ellis to Seaman IC Graydon Mayer.

Deaths - Pfc. Lester Culver, in action in Germany. You could get - Leg of lamb 39c lb.; cod fillets 35c lb.; eggs 47c doz.; celery lg. bunch 23c; beets 2 lg. bunches 13c; carrots 2 lg. bunches 13c; bananas 10c lb.; raisins 10c pkg.; Spice and Span 21c pkg.; 8 oz. Kraft mayonnaise 18c.

30 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1, 1955  
Eighty seven percent of parents of students in Dallas Borough-Kingston Township schools signed consent slips to have their children receive polio vaccine.

A new cinemascope screen, the largest for its sized theatre in northeastern Pennsylvania, was built by Raymond Hedden for Sandy Beach Outdoor Theatre.

Engaged - Mildred Ann Kingston to William H. Burnaford, Jr.; Nancy Dymond to Calvin Crane; Carolyn L. Shaffer to Donald W. Purvin; Shirley Ann Welsh to John Mahle; Margaret Layaou to Ronald Goodwin; Florence Keiper to Robert Shilanski.

Married - Gertrude Frantz to William Weaver Jr. Deaths - Mattie Allen, Sweet Valley; May Jackson, Beaumont; Charles Parrish, Carverton.

You could get - Bacon 49c lb.; hams 59c lb.; coffee 79c lb.; Easter bonnets \$1.98; Breyer's ice cream 99c 1/2 gal.; orchid corsage \$3; turkey 49c lb.; oleo 5 lb. \$1.

20 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1, 1965  
Milton Perrego retired after 54 years of carrying mail out of the Dallas Post Office. When he began as a substitute, Perrego had to supply his own horse and buggy and had to be ready at a moment's notice to deliver the mail.

Top educators of Luzerne County Schools west of the Susquehanna River met to prepare for the West Side In-Service Training Conference. Burton Hankey, Superintendent of Kingston School District was chosen chairman while Dr. Robert Mellman, Dallas School Superintendent was named co-chairman.

Married - Margie Bynon to Harry Sullivan. Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. G.S. Williams, Parish St., Dallas, 28 years; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nolfe, Sr., Demunds Road, 42 years; Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Smith, Country Club Road, 20 years.

Deaths - Morris King, Orange; Ralph Whipp, Shavertown; John J. Jeter, Dallas.

You could get - Veal roast 43c lb.; turkeys 33c lb.; sausage 49c lb.; haddock fillet 49c lb.; halibut 65c lb.; oranges 2 doz. 89c; asparagus 2 lb. 39c; Swiss cheese 65c lb.; fresh eggs 2 doz. 79c; Pillsbury cake mixes 3 pkg. 89c.

10 YEARS AGO - APRIL 3, 1975  
Two area residents announced their candidacy for District 3-9 magistrate for the May primary. Earl S. Gregory, Carverton Road and Joseph Allen, Pioneer Ave., Shavertown crossed filed at the Election Bureau of the Luzerne County Courthouse.

Windows were smashed, doors jimmied, and student files destroyed when burglars broke into Dallas Junior and Senior High School buildings over Easter vacation. Only \$40 was stolen from the senior high candy machine.

Engaged - Nancy Rodda to John L. Topolewski; Nancy Ann Roberts to Thomas E. Petrilla.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Muchler, Dallas, 50 years. Deaths - Celia Vivian Emmanuel, Applewood Manor, Dallas; Theresa Fisher, Cliffside Ave., Trucksville; Ignatz Petrowski, Davenport St., Dallas; Benjamin A. Gale, Dallas.

You could get - Semi-boneless chuck 89c lb.; ground chuck 99c lb.; special loaf \$1.49 lb.; beef liver 59c lb.; 84 oz. pkg. Tide \$1.79; Jello 2-6 oz. pkg. 79c; 22 oz. bottle Joy detergent 59c; bananas 2 lb. 35c.

## LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Library Correspondent

Here we go! On our way to the most beautiful season of the year, Spring! Wednesday, March 20 at 11:14 a.m., spring officially began and those of us at Franklin's coffee counters were fortunate to drink a coffee toast to spring at precisely 11:14 a.m.

A new beginning, that's what spring gives to each of us and to the wonderful world we live in. One really neat coffee drinker named Stanley will be leaving our area to make his home permanently in New Jersey and we will miss him. We say good luck to him and it's been nice knowing you.

The Book Club met for the first time this year in the reference room on Monday and there were 22 members and guests present. A very enjoyable meeting and social hour was held.

We have recently had the new library sign installed on Huntsville Road with the new logo and it is a bright way to direct patrons to our new library building.

As our new books are added to the collection, they are accessioned with a book number. Each year, we begin with number 1, such as 85-01. Our first book accessioned this year was "Prince of Peace" by James Carroll.

For every generation there is a novel, which, in its passion, its commitment, its understanding, has the power to recall a time that still troubles or inspires us, that touches us so deeply we cannot let it go.

And no time in this century - not even the years of our two world wars - has so rent our lives between devotion and defiance, between bravery and sorrow, as that era of protest and sacrifice, the tragedy of Vietnam. This novel, "Prince of Peace" is the story of a man's struggle to serve his God, his values at risk and the intertwining of his destiny with the life of his best friend and the woman they both love. This is a story of that generation. The title of the book is important to me as it is the name of a very special church in the Back Mountain area.

The winner of our 'Guess the Date' contest was Matthew Magee of RD 2, Harveys Lake, who is 4 years old and attends Nursery school. There were 150 entrants in the contest and the date of March 6 was the closest to the actual opening of March 4. Matthes' mother felt March would be the month and asked Matthew to choose a number. He chose 6 and won the contest.

We received a very nice letter from the Meadows Apartments Social Club secretary, Ruth Foley, thanking us for our book van service to the apartments each month, which included a donation to our current capital campaign. We are grateful for this donation.

Dianne Watchulonis came in the other day and volunteered an hour of her time. She filed borrowers cards for us, which was much appreciated. We are grateful for our volunteers and welcome any one who can give some time to help with the many tasks in the library.

## STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

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

CONFIRMED CASES of rabies in Pennsylvania's wildlife population have reached levels "unprecedented since the 1940's" and, if not brought under control, could pose a serious threat to humans. Rep. Terry L. Punt (R-Franklin) introduced legislation this week to control the rabies outbreak which is rapidly escalating in the state. The number of confirmed cases have increased from 14 in 1980 to 384 in 1984. "Unless we take steps now to contain its spread, rabies could affect every county in the Commonwealth," Punt said. His bill would place the rabies control program under the auspices of the Secretary of Health and set up a massive public awareness program. It would also allow the Health Secretary to require immunization of pets in impacted areas and authorize fines for hte owners of unvaccinated pets.

THE RANKING REPUBLICAN on the House Liquor Control Committee called for an investigation of the state Liquor Control Board and its relationship with a Philadelphia-based trucking firm with alleged ties to organized crimes. Rep. Joseph C. Manmiller (R-Dauphin) introduced a House resolution which would permit the committee to begin a probe into an \$11 million contract between the LCB and Xpress Truck Lines Inc. In a recent report, the state Crime Commission alleged that the firm had ties with organized crime figures and had been convicted on mail fraud charges. Manmiller's resolution also asks for an investigation of the LCB's recent clashes with the Thornburgh administration. "I think it's about time we sit down and take a look at it," Manmiller said.

## LETTERS

### PUC commissioner's term looked upon as one of pain

DEAR EDITOR:

After 9 1/2 years of continuous service as a PUC Commissioner, my term, at last, will end March 31, 1985. Unless a successor can be nominated by the Governor, examined by the Senate Committee and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the total State Senate, within days of my departure, the seat will remain vacant for weeks, months and possibly more than a year. That, however, will not be my problem.

The 9 1/2 years have been painful for me - if not for others as well. I learned quickly that ratepayers could be, and were being abused, exploited and, I believe, ripped off by a system that is concerned only with how better the utilities can be treated.

I have voted against rate increases almost consistently - not because I wanted to be "the dissenter", but because I firmly believed that voting "yes" in those instances would have constituted a violation of my oath of office and of the law which governs regulation of investor-owned utilities.

I have filed many dissents. Recently, in a case patently at odds with the law, I wrote an "Amicus Curiae" brief in support of those parties who had appealed a Commission decision to the Commonwealth Court. This was the first time a Commissioner had ever done

so.

Why did I dissent so frequently? Not because I sought publicity and not because I coveted higher office. I did so because I believed that following the law and precedent faithfully was in the best interest of the public and that I was obliged to defend the law.

My leaving the Commission (not by choice - but by law) seems to have become a well-guarded secret in the media, with press, radio and TV ignoring it, as if it were a non-event.

Perhaps it is not newsworthy - perhaps the ratepayers do not want to be informed. It matters little at this point.

### Objects to rate increase

DEAR EDITOR:

The Public Utility Commissioners are about to give P.P. & L. another large increase. This is the very last chance to tell P.U.C. Chairwoman Linda Taliaferro (717-787-4301) that P.P. & L. doesn't even deserve a five percent increase because of all the excess capacity and the cost overruns at its stupid nuclear plant.

Will people call the P.U.C. Commissioners and demand their rights? Probably not. Why? Because the P.U.C. has absolutely no credibility. It might as well be a

If you (the readers) had been of help to me during the years as I tried to be of help to you, I am grateful to you.

If it mattered not one bit to you how much more the ratepayers had to pay for utility service, that alone could be the reason why the rates have risen so wildly.

In any event, I'll pack my things and start for home. Being a Commissioner has been a lonely experience - a lonesome journey. My best wishes to my successor and to all ratepayers.

MICHAEL JOHNSON  
COMMISSIONER  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC  
UTILITY COMMISSION

division of P.P. & L. or merge with Bell Telephone.

Should people call their local senators and representatives (717-787-2121) and ask them to stop therate increase? Why bother? No one in the legislature has the ability or the guts to take on the P.U.C. and make sure that P.P. & L. gets what it deserves:

NOTHING.  
EUGENE P. STILP  
P.P. & L. RATEPAYERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
HARRISBURG, PA.

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Advertising, Circulation and Editorial Office

61 Gerald Ave.  
Dallas, PA 18612

Mailing Address  
Box 366  
Dallas, PA 18612

J. Stephen Buckley ..... Publisher  
Doty Martin ..... Editor  
Betty Bean ..... Advertising Representative  
Mike Danowski ..... Advertising Representative  
Charlot Denmon ..... Advertising Representative  
Joe Gula ..... Advertising Representative  
Marvin Lewis ..... Advertising Representative  
Jean Brutko ..... Circulation Director  
Peggy Poynton ..... Office Manager

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