

Have a Happy Easter

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DALLAS POST

Reusable Container Act

Musto hears pros, cons

By JUDIE MATHERS
Staff Writer

Both proponents and opponents of the controversial bottle bill for Pennsylvania recently had their turns to present arguments to Senator Ray Musto, D-Pittston, at meetings held recently at the Sheraton-Crossgates in Wilkes-Barre.

The proposed Senate Bill 191, known as the "Reusable Container Act," establishes requirements on the disposal of beverage containers to alleviate litter. The bill would require a refund value of not less than five cents to be placed on every beverage container sold in the Commonwealth, except those sold for consumption on an interstate passenger carrier.

Under the bill, retailers would have the responsibility of accepting empty containers of the kind they sell and would pay the refund on those containers to the consumer. The retailer, in turn, would receive payment of the refund, plus two cents for handling, on each empty container from the beverage distributor or beverage manufacturer. The Department of Agriculture would be required to establish a program for redemption centers for such containers and to establish respective regulations.

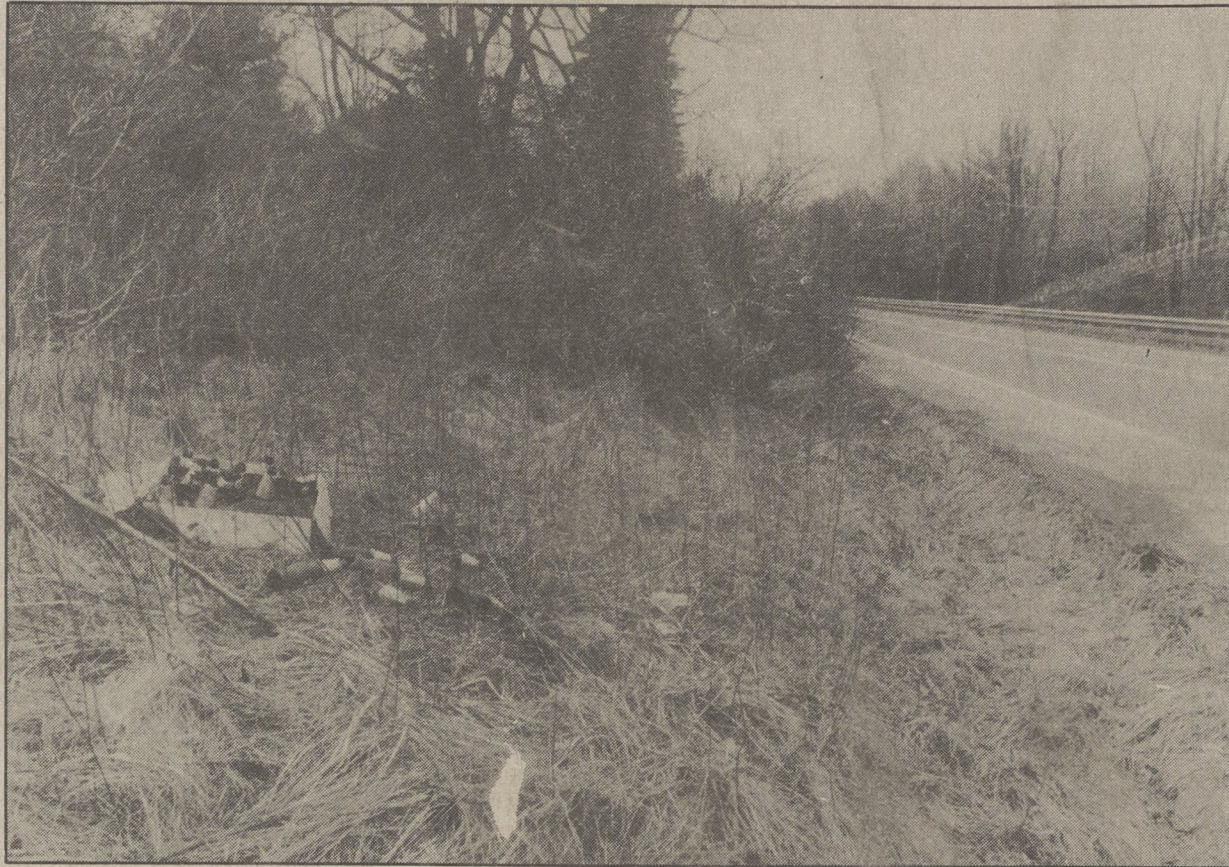
As a whole, the beverage industry is opposed to the proposed bill, claiming deposit legislation would cost Pennsylvania consumers \$150 million per year in handling fees the industry would have to pay.

Leonard Falcone, of Trucksville, vice-president of Falcone Beverage Company in Pittston, feels the added costs would cut down on sales which, he claims, are already low across the state. Falcone doesn't think the proposed bill would solve the litter problem, either.

"I hate the litter just as much as everyone else," Falcone said. "It's disgusting! But beer and soda bottles and cans are only 20 percent of the problem and the industry is working on that. Anheuser-Busch has had a recycling program with all their wholesalers for the past four years and it's working. Right now, 30 to 35 percent of aluminum cans are being recycled, and we expect that to grow to 90 to 95 percent over the next three or four years."

"These things take time," Falcone continued, "but all you have to do to see that recycling is working is not to see that now most of the beverage containers you see beside the roads are bottles. That's because the cans are being picked up by individuals and organizations to earn

(See MUSTO, page 10)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Littering our highways

This scene, visible from Upper Demunds Road, is just what supporters of the Bottle Bill are trying to eliminate - bottles and cans strewn along our highways, littering up otherwise beautiful scenery.

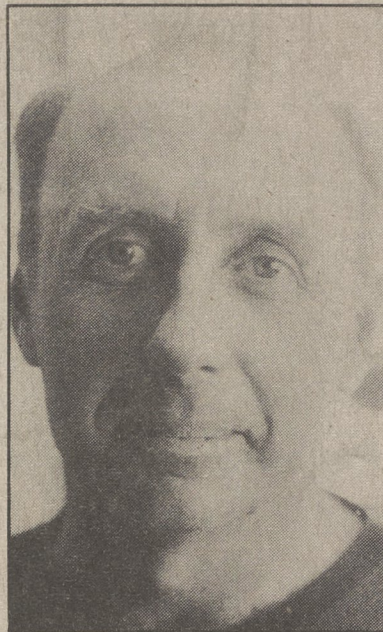
Area residents offer their views

In order to assess the Back Mountain's views on the controversial "Bottle Bill," The Dallas Post conducted its own "on the street" survey. The survey, however, was not actually "on the street" so to speak, but rather was conducted on the premises of two local beverage distributors. Customers who were purchasing their weekend refreshments were approached late Friday afternoon and questioned regarding their feelings about the proposed legislation. Their opinions follow:

NANCY OLIVER: "I'm all for it! There wouldn't be as much litter, and it would probably work out to be cheaper in the long run."

BOB MALEY: "I'm against it. I don't think a nickle will stop anybody from throwing anything away. I'd rather see them impose the \$500.00 fine for littering."

DAVE ASTON: "I'm in favor of the bottle bill. I wouldn't mind returning the bottles, because I know deposit legislation works. I've worked in Oregon and Con-



DAVE ASTON

necticut and I've seen it work there. It would be worth the aggravation to most of us, and if people did throw away the bottles and cans anyway, someone

else would pick them up for the money."

DAVID PAYNE: "I'm all for it. It makes sense to me. If I'm paying five cents for a can or bottle, I'm sure not going to throw it away!"

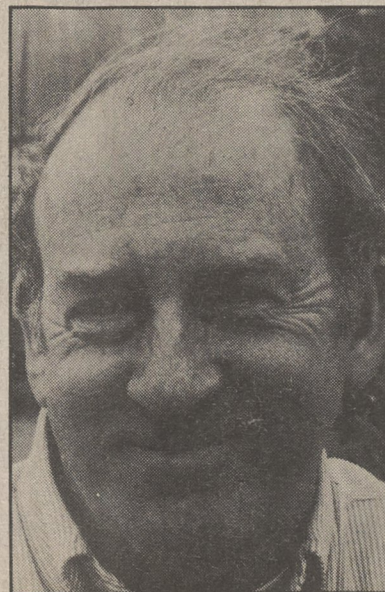
BETTY WHALEN: "I'm definitely in favor of the bottle bill! I just returned two cases. Returnables can be reused, and that's better than just throwing the bottles away for garbage."

JACK CONSIDINE: "I'm in favor of it. I was in New York just the other day and it was beautiful because they have the bottle bill there."



GEORGE POEPPERLING

GEORGE POEPPERLING: "I buy returnables now, so I'm in favor of deposits. I can't understand why people would be against it. Just take a ride through the countryside and look around!"



JOE BORTON: "I'm in favor of it. It would certainly seem like it would save on litter. I buy throw aways now but I wouldn't be opposed to returning bottles."

Water companies move to new home

Both customers and employees of the Dallas, Shavertown, Harveys Lake and Noxen Water Companies are expected to benefit from the company's move to its new facility on Route 309 in Dallas.

According to Joe Salla, general manager of the water companies, "This new facility, plus other construction currently underway, will slim-line operations and make our services more efficient. With the new garage to house our equipment, we expect less vandalism, which will cut down on costs to the consumer."

"The new storage tank now under construction behind Rose Village and the mains which are being replaced will help us maintain more consistent service by providing a back-up in case of trouble," Salla added. "The water companies aren't growing or extending - they are being rehabilitated."

Salla explained the monies for the rehabilitation have been loan to the companies through the Commonwealth's Water Facilities Loan Board.

"Back in 1980, when consumers across the state voted on the Water Bond

Photos, page 10

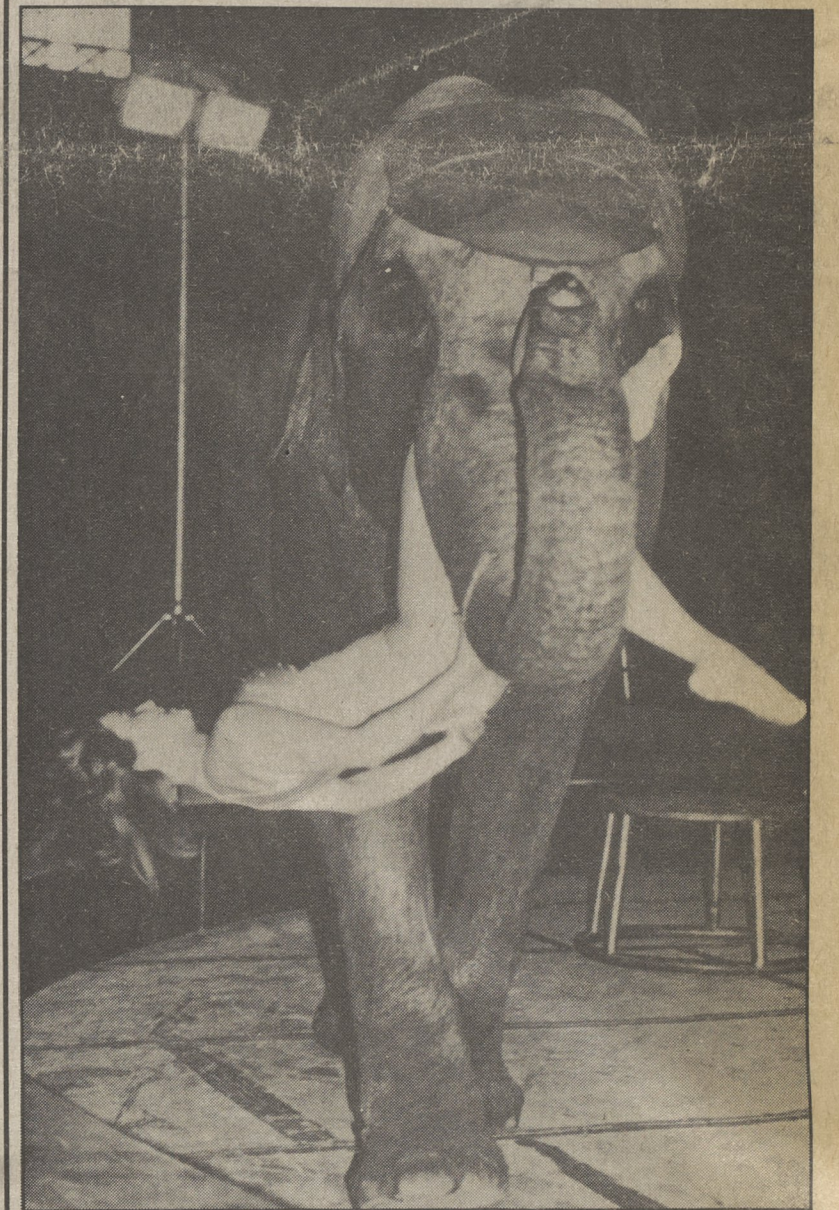
Issue, \$300,000,000 were made available for loans to water companies," Salla said. "Dallas and Shavertown were among the first to apply for the \$500,000 maximum per company and, because of our promptness, received the money at the low interest rate of 8.2 percent."

The companies officially began operations Monday from their new home on the Tunkhannock Highway, approximately 300 yards south of Center Hill Road.

Constructed by the Trade Eastern, Inc. of Kingston, the new building has three offices, one combination office and conference room, a waitingroom, a work area and a filing room.

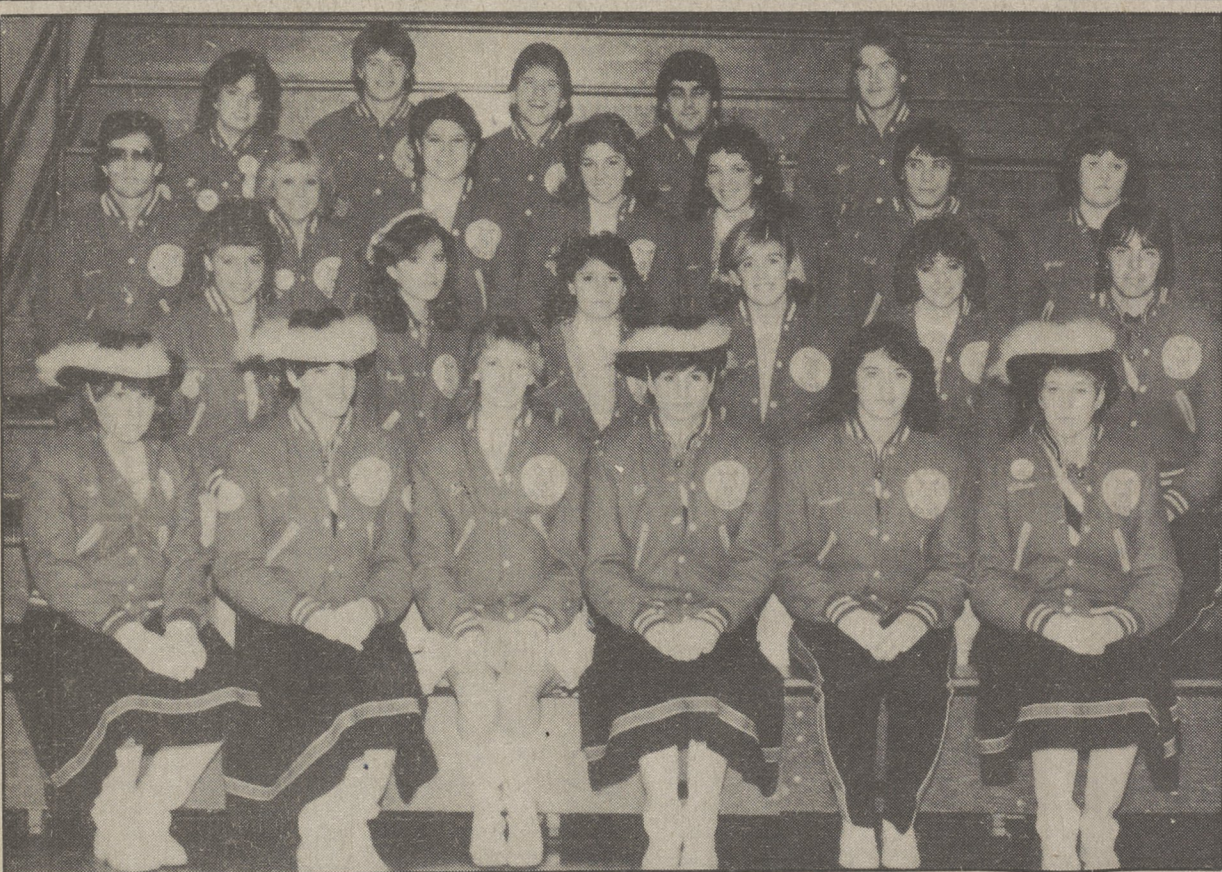
While the phone number will remain the same (675-1186), the mailing address for the companies has been changed to P.O. Box J, Dallas, Pa. 18612.

— JUDIE MATHERS



It's circus time

Pictured above is one of the "Hawthorn Elephants" that will be performing at the 36th Annual Shrine Circus presented Monday, April 8 through Sunday, April 14 at the 09th Artillery Armory, Kingston. Along with other top circus attractions, the Hawthorn Elephants will be appearing at 1:45 and 7:45 p.m., Monday through Friday; at 9:45 a.m., 1:45 and 7:45 p.m., Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are now available at the Circus Ticket Office, Irem Temple, 52 N. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre; Boscov's, Wilkes-Barre; Simon's Fabricland, Gateway Shopping Center, Kingston; J.C. Penney's at Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre and at the Armory Box Office, Kingston. The circus is presented by the Uniformed Units of Irem Temple.



Jackets presented

The Dallas Band Booster organization recently presented jackets to their graduating senior band members. A yearly tradition, the blue jackets are worn with pride by members of the band. The presentation is made possible through the various fund raising activities by the Band Boosters during the year. Chairman of this year's jacket project was Mrs. Kathy Pacewicz. Shown wearing their new jackets are from left, first row, Cathy Rollman, Tracy Davis, Lisa Kern, Lisa Niznik, Seanica DeJager, Cathy Leonard. Second row, Judy Fitch, Nancy Washkowsky, Lorene Beniquez, Lynn Todd, Robyn Hanson, Henry Westfield. Third row, Francis Baines, Ruth Gavazzi, Beth Lutsic, Missy Davies, Laura Kazura, Richard Dombrovich, Jackie Helman. Fourth row, Carrie Hughes, Ray Eppley, Dave Garber, Brian Campbell, Jim Niski.

"Aunt Patty" debuts today

"Dear Aunt Patty," the only local advice column, debuts today in The Dallas Post.

Aunt Patty, a Back Mountain resident who offers advice on all kinds of problems, answers letters in today's premier edition of "Dear Aunt Patty," on page 7.

"Dear Aunt Patty" will become a weekly feature of The Dallas Post as its author continues to respond to our readers' letters. Send your letter to Dear Aunt Patty, c/o The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, Pa., 18612.

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