

THE DALLAS POST Salutes SOUTHFORK FLORIST

By PAMELA AARON
Staff Correspondent

"South of the Fork in the Road" where 309 meets the Tunkhannock Highway, is a shop filled with "wings, rings and beautiful things", flowers and antiques and baskets and all sorts of lovely Objects D'Art to delight the senses.

Southfork Florist's proprietor, Ron Rees and his chief designer, Richard Kozlowski, have managed to create no less than an aesthetic's paradise in their shop on the Dallas Highway.

The Pennsylvania Dutch background decor provides a perfect foil for the myriads of sparkling silk flowers that seem to be ever growing of pots and baskets and porcelain vases. A large, wooden, handmade plough, a chicken carrier and potato separator are all worked into the scheme as flowers keepers, in most cases.

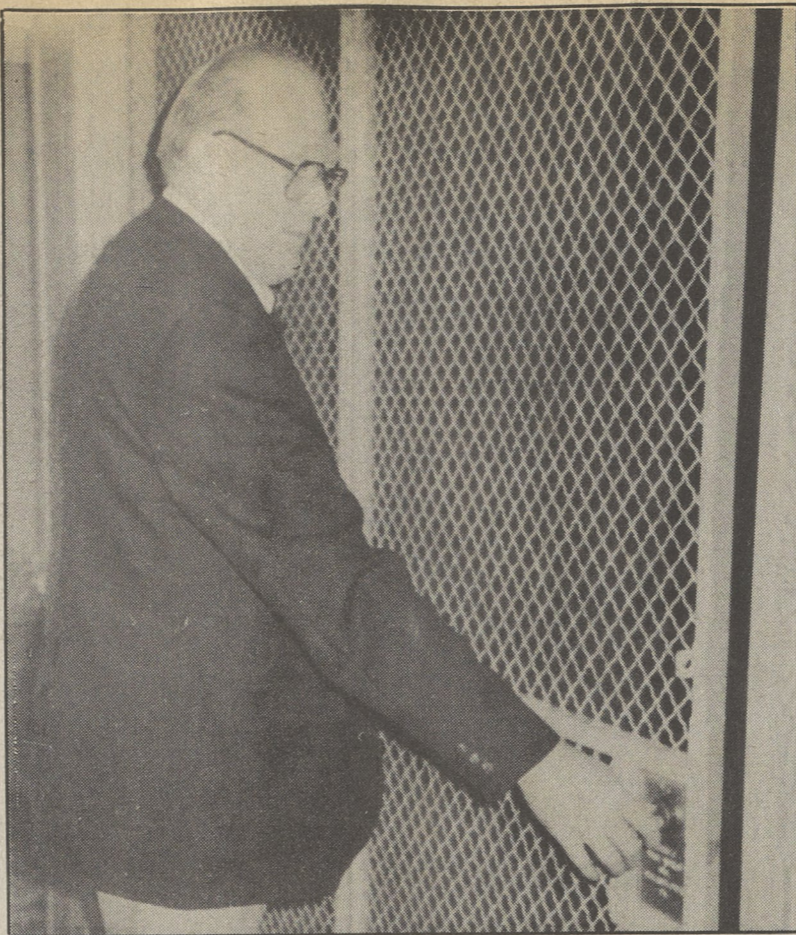
On one wall, ordinary wooden trellis comes alive with yellow daylilies and grey pussywillows which are bordered by rose carnations and lavender and apricot anemones. Behind the trellis, sits an antique ox cart, filled to the brim with wild flowers in every color of the rainbow.

Giant pink iris and hibiscus mingle easily with red roses and poppies while a pedestal table of lead crystal beams prisms to an all pink table that sports fuchsia roses, azalea pink mums and a child size paper mache rabbit.

Holland Bulb Iris' are sprinkled about the time period pieces of amethyst, cobalt and carnival glass that play up the porcelain antique pieces to perfection. Southfork is, indeed, one of the loveliest stores to visit in the area.

Fresh flower arrangements are always available. Mums, Iris, Freesia, Baby's Breath, Dianthus, Roses and Liatris are some of Ron's stocked favorites this time of year.

Silk from China...or nature's own.
Southfork is open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days a week for your convenience.



Dallas Post/Judie Mathers

Holding pen

A "Holding Pen," part of the addition on the Dallas Township Municipal Building, is now officially in use. The pen, according to Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers, shown here locking the facility, will be to hold persons for up to six hours while bail amounts and hearing dates are being completed.

Grossman on economics

Why all the bad news?

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN
Special to The Dallas Post

In a powerful and persuasive book, journalist and author Ben J. Wattenberg suggests that the major thrust of journalistic behavior today revolves around the spreading of bad news, much of which is based on perception and false assumptions, and not based on reality.

Thus, in his book, "The Good News Is The Bad News Is Wrong," Wattenberg presents page after page of data on issues such as quality of life, standard of living, values, politics, and a final section on media, all of which is designed to show truths rather than the bad news glittering generalities which he believes pervades our life today.

He argues that our environmental quality is substantially improved over what it was 20 years ago despite the massive headlines about the epidemic of hazardous waste.

Our national design to eliminate cancer is moving forward rapidly, pharmaceutical progress has been amazing despite the headlines with respect to cases where drugs have proven to be ineffective, our population growth is now what the forecasters suggested several decades ago; that is, we are growing at a moderate pace today, we are not running out of resources as articles seem to tell us, and so forth.

In effect, what Wattenberg is saying is that the doom and gloom soothsayer is not a culture we should depend upon, and in fact, presents a completely false picture of what reality and facts seem to point about the United States.

Wattenberg goes further by pointing out that good news becomes hidden news and bad news becomes visible and headline news. For example, he points out with respect to the population explosion, the following:

"If it was bad news that our population was exploding, big news that extra population polluted our environment and gobbled up our resources, then surely it must be good news when such a threat is removed or diminished.

Accordingly, we might have expected to hear the environmental community announce that fact with vigor. Nor would it be unfair to expect that such development would have been explained in our newspapers and on our television sets. It was not."

He goes further to say that "we are becoming the first universal nation in history."

Immigration has given us tremendous blessings, he concludes, and the continuing wave of internationalism which floats across America is an exciting and everchanging dynamic which makes the poetic song of free people become reality.

Wattenberg suggests that the media turns this positive force into a negative with headlines and stories about illegal entries into the country, difficulties with the boat people, problems with different cultures attempting to blend in with our existing way of life, and more. In saying this, he does not ignore the problems, but points out that the so-called bad news is of lower order than the good news which a mixed culture can bring to the nation.

Much like the examples cited in Wattenberg's book, Northeastern Pennsylvania very often pervades a bad news syndrome. This can, and has been counter-productive to the efforts which have consistently attempted to improve the economic base of the region. While bad news needs to be discussed and debated, good news needs to be equally discussed and debated.

The problem is that many people in Northeastern Pennsylvania constantly thrive on downing the region or their neighborhood while resisting opportunities to pervade good news and the reality of what changes have taken place after much hard work on the part of many fine people.

What is required is a balance, not a one-sided good news-bad news pendulum. The powerful influences of the media can be utilized for positive and constructive reform, as well as transmitting information of a day-to-day nature of importance to people. On the other hand, the pendulum, if swung continuously toward the bad news scale, becomes a negative force which feeds and destroys rather than nourishes and uplifts.

Thus, much of what is said on a national scale by Wattenberg is directly applicable to Northeastern Pennsylvania. The region's good news is that much of the bad news is not based on foundation or fact.

While our problems are real, and our unemployment figures are too high, and our image is bad, the problems are reducible, the unemployment rate is not as bad as it was, and our quality of life and attitudes are not as bad as people think they are.

Unfortunately, perception is often a more persuasive fact than truth or evidence. The circle of so-called truth becomes embedded in the minds of people as the word goes forth about an event which becomes big, bad news for a few days with generalizations made that the particular event, or even series of events is a regional, state or national truism.

Accountability and accuracy are two important ingredients for any organization or individual. A doom and gloom strategy, especially one which carries with it distortions and unsubstantiated conclusions does a tremendous dis-service to any positive effort to make constructive and

positive changes.

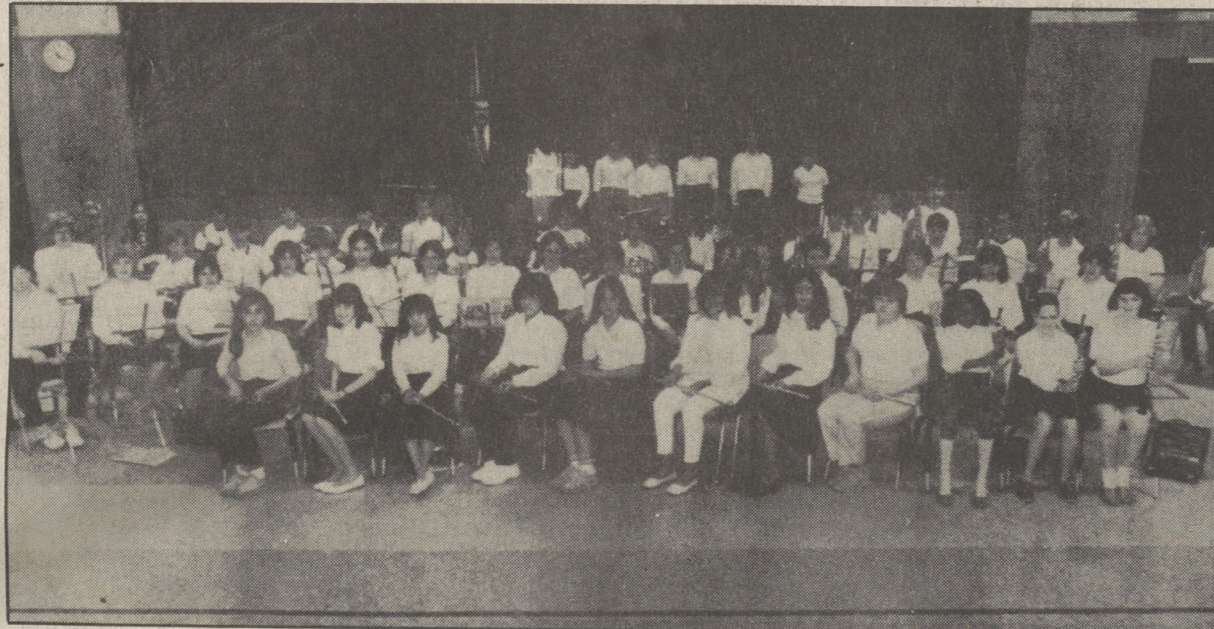
While Wattenberg's thesis can be challenged, at least in part, since no single book can carry all of the evidence necessary to support a completely rosy picture of the United States, his premise does make much sense.

Carrying his premise to a scale of Northeastern Pennsylvania suggests that the region requires a redoubling of effort to market its assets in a very real and positive sense. Many of the assets have been bypassed in the onrush to concentrate on solving problems.

Both problems and assets must be entered into concurrently and actions taken to achieve a realistic assessment and production of values which will enhance the Pocono Northeast quality of life.

The goal of Northeastern Pennsylvania should be to make the good news so important that it removes the bad news from the headlines and the minds of the region's citizens and becomes the driving force for community improvement in coming years.

(Howard Grossman is the executive director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Concert set

The Dallas Intermediate School Band will present a concert on Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the Intermediate School. Sixty-five students will participate in the full band, as well as fifth and sixth grade units. The band is under the direction of Reese E. Pelton. The public is invited to attend the concert.

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Obituaries

HARRY TROY

Harry M. Troy, 81, of 30 Saginaw St., Dallas, died May 3 at his home following a lengthy illness.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Norma Cohen, Cranford, N.J.; son, Richard, Union N.J.; four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 5 from the Rosenberg Funeral Chapel, Wilkes-Barre., with Rabbi Usher Freed of the United Orthodox Synagogue officiating. Interment, Holche Yosher Cemetery, Lee Park.

OLGA TORTORELLA

Mrs. Olga Tortorella, 69, Harveys Lake, died May 4 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph; son, William, Plantation, Fla.; daughter, Mrs. Jean Pawleski, Scranton; brother, Stephen Townsend, Long Island, N.Y.; one grandson.

Funeral services were held May 7 from the Disque Funeral Home, Dallas, with a Mass of Christian Burial in Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake, with the Rev. George A. Jeffrey as celebrant. Interment, Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Dallas.

GERTRUDE PERREGO

Mrs. Gertrude Perrego, 84, of 21/2 Strand St., Lee Park, Hanover Township, a native of Shavertown, died April 26 at the Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Surviving are sons, Ralph, Truckville; Elmer, Lee Park; David, Chase; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services were held from the Richard H. Disque Funeral Home, Dallas, with the Rev. James A. Wert, pastor of the Shavertown United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment, Evergreen Cemetery, Shavertown.

C. BURTON MAJOR

C. Burton Major, 84, of Meeker Road, Lehman, died April 25 in the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital shortly after admission.

Surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held April 27 in the Lehman Center Cemetery with the Rev. Michael Shambora, pastor of the Lehman United Methodist Church, officiating.

MICHAEL GAGATEK

Michael Gagatek, of 132 E. Center St., Shavertown, died April 30 at home.

Surviving are his children, Edward, Swoyersville; Mrs. Margaret Doty, Wyoming; Mrs. Marlene Danouski, Shavertown; Thomas, Wilkes-Barre; sister, Mrs. Helen Urkewich, Buffalo, N.Y.; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 3 from the Kopiccki Funeral Home, Kingston, with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. John the Baptist Church, Larksville.

CHARLES MITCHELL

Charles (Bud) Mitchell, 62, of RD 1, Dallas, died May 6 at home.

Surviving are his wife, the former Eunice Smith; daughter, Mrs. Gloria Chmiola, Harrisburg; sons, Ronald, Middletown; Gary, Kunkle; David, at home; six grandchildren; sister, Mrs. Carol G. Hilbert, Kunkle; brothers, Robert and Roger, both of Kunkle; Richard, North Carolina.

Funeral services will be held May 9 at 11 a.m. from the Nulton Funeral Home, Beaumont, with the Rev. Pegg A. Richards, pastor of the Kunkle United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will be in Chapel Lawn Memorial Prk, Dallas. Friends may call today 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Kingston Twp. offers Clean-Up Program

Kingston Township will be offering residents of the Township a Spring Clean Up Program to begin on May 6 and continue until May 18. The Clean Up Program will be different than in past years due to the time needed to conduct the clean up door to door and the costs of disposal of the clean up items.

This year the program will offer any Township resident the opportunity to bring permitted clean up items to the Township Maintenance Building located on East Center Street, Shavertown. Clean up items will be deposited in large dumpster type containers. The gates to the

Maintenance Building will be opened Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be no permitted depositing of clean up items on Sunday, May 12. Only Kingston Township residents will be permitted to participate in this program, proof of residency will be required.

Items not permitted will be: washers, dryers, refrigerators, television sets, hot water heaters, boilers, furnaces, stoves, or large appliances. No tree stumps, concrete or rock or household garbage.

Please clip this notice for your reference at a later date.

Services set

Memorial services will be held at Centermoreland Methodist Church on May 12, at 2 p.m. for Daniel Schoonover of Orlando, Florida.

Danny was the son of George and Ola Mae Schoonover of Centermoreland.

He was a member of Centermoreland Methodist Church, born Oct. 21, 1957 died April 27 in Orlando, Fla. after a nine month illness.

Surviving in addition to his parents are his brother, George of Havenford, West Wales; sister, Becky, of Orlando, Florida; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Ernest Montross, maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Nellie Shook of Centermoreland and several other relatives in Centermoreland area.

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