

# THE DALLAS POST

BRIGHTON BINDERY CO  
BOX 336

BRIGHTON, IA

52540

Vol. 96, No. 18

Wednesday, May 15, 1985

25 Cents

## New building damaged

# Vandals strike new library



### Shelves destroyed

The wreckage shown here is what's left of shelving units that were stored behind the new Back Mountain Memorial Library to be sold at auction. Vandals, however, have changed the plans of the library staff by completely demolishing the shelves.

Dallas Post/Judie Mathers



### Graffiti mars building

Bill Frederick, head librarian of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, is shown here in the rear of the new library. The walls of the new library, formerly the Dallas Elementary School on Huntsville Road, have been defaced by vandals in recent months.

Dallas Post/Judie Mathers

By JUDIE MATHERS  
Staff Writer

When the Back Mountain Memorial Library opened the door to its new home just a few months ago, the community rejoiced and was proud. The long-term efforts of the many residents who had joined together and worked for a common goal had paid off.

But, now the beautiful facility (which is still not even completed) has become the target of vandalism. Over the past month and a half, what may amount to thousands of dollars of damage has been done to the former elementary school building and the library property stored next to it.

"It's so disheartening," says Ernest Ashbridge, Jr., President of the Library Board. "We've all worked so hard to get the new library. It isn't even finished yet, but now we're having to spend the precious dollars we need for completion on repairs and clean-up. Even the most ardent supporters are losing heart!"

According to Bill Frederick, head librarian, problems began about 1½ months ago when someone smashed in a basement door.

"Nothing was taken and there was no further damage," Frederick said, "so we bricked up that

entrance."

That was just the start of things to come, however. Since then, several units of shelving that were stored against the rear of the building have been reduced to useless rubble.

"We didn't have room for the shelves in the new building but they were functional and attractive units," stated Frederick. "We stored them behind the building with plans to sell many of them at our next auction and use the rest for auction displays. Not only have we lost the money we planned on getting from selling the shelves," he continued, "but we have to waste many man-hours out there daily cleaning up the mess."

"It appears that kids have broken them up and used the boards to make forts and stuff," said Ed Lyons, Jr., who is in charge of library maintenance. "When this first started, there were a few boards scattered around, but it's gotten progressively worse."

At this point, the damage to the library has gone well beyond the ruined shelving. A white ticket booth on wheels that has traditionally been part of the library auction is completely ruined. All that remains of the familiar sight is two large wheels and an axle.

The paved area on the far side and rear of the building is covered with broken fragments of glass

bottles that the vandals began smashing last month. Now the damage has spread to include graffiti that is beginning to cover the blind side and rear of the building.

"There isn't much sense in cleaning up the mess every day just to find it there again in the morning," remarked Frederick. "We want it stopped. We're not only concerned about the damage and loss to the library; we're concerned over the safety of the kids, too. We had wanted to let neighborhood children continue to use the playground area that's here, but we've been forced into a position where we're going to have to post 'no trespassing' signs and enforce them. It's just a shame."

"Reports of the vandalism have been made to Borough police," said Ed Lyons, Jr., "and they've been very helpful. They've increased patrols of the area and made several recommendations which include installing dusk to dawn lighting. Of course, that's another considerable expense that the library just doesn't need right now. It would seem that if the community pitched in, reported any trespassers and if parents would cooperate in keeping an eye on their children, we might not need to take this kind of action."

## The Dallas Post slates Crime Watch meeting

The Dallas Post, in a continuing effort to respond to the needs and concerns of the Back Mountain community, is sponsoring a Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting tomorrow evening, May 16, at 7 p.m. at the Dallas Senior High School Auditorium.

We urge any residents who have an interest in the security and well-being of themselves and their neighbors to take advantage of this opportunity to find out what is involved in a neighborhood crime watch and how to get a crime watch organized.

Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie and Elmer Bradshaw, chairman of the Luzerne County Crime Watch Association, will present a brief program and will be available to answer any questions. They will also gladly lend their assistance to any persons wishing to organize a crime watch in their neighborhood.

Local police departments of the boroughs and townships in the Back Mountain area have endorsed this program and will provide their full cooperation.



### Cleaning up

Pat O'Malley, 168 Cedar Ave., Shavertown, takes advantage of Kingston Township's Clean-Up Program to rid his property of unsightly trash.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

## Claims trucks cause damage

# Committee voices objections

By JUDIE MATHERS  
Staff Writer

The recently formed Citizen's Committee of Kingston Township Area, at the regular meeting of the Township supervisors last Wednesday, again voiced objections to operations they claim are being conducted by John Brdaric, owned of Brdaric Excavating Company. This time the complaints were aimed at Brdaric's dump trucks and the alleged destruction resulting to township and state roads from the heavy equipment.

The committee, formed in opposition to Brdaric's dumping activities, is comprised of about 40 families in the Township who fear their drinking water may eventually be contaminated through the dumping.

"Most of us have wells," says Jim Keller, vice president of the group. "We get our water through the ground and we see things in the news every day about how dumping can eventually ruin the water. We

want to protect ours. We don't want to deprive any individual of his livelihood, but we want to protect one of our valuable resources."

At the supervisor's meeting, the group requested that weight limits be put on Dug Rd., Atherholt Rd., and Bunker Hill Road.

Bill Ringenbach, president of CCKTA, presented the supervisors with a chunk of macadam that he claims flew up out of the road and struck him on the leg.

"The trucks are creating some dangerous situations" Ringenbach said. "The Township has already spent \$2,000 for an initial survey of those roads. Let's put it to use and post the roads with weight limit limitations."

According to Mark Kunkle, manager of Kingston Township, it isn't that simple. He explained to The Dallas Post that the weight limits suggested in the initial survey are just one engineer's opinion. They wouldn't necessarily stand up in court.

"The CCKTA suggested, then,

that we move to phase 2," Kunkle continued. "That is extremely costly, because it involves a scientific survey of core samples taken at various intervals from the roads. PennDOT is in the process of conducting a weight restriction study on Bunker Hill road, which is a state road now at the request of the Township. But it still won't solve the problem because if the facts bare out that those roads can't accommodate this kind of weight and we prevent Brdaric from using them, we have to provide alternate routes. You can't block a man's access to his property."

According to Kunkle, there may be an alternative worth considering. It is known as road-bonding.

A relatively new concept, road-bonding is a process whereby roads are brought up to a certain standard. Once that standard is reached, companies that use the roads with equipment that exceed a recommended weight limit put up an insurance bond. If the roads deteriorate too quickly, the insurance must pay for the damage.

## Clean-up program continues

Kingston Township Spring Clean-up is now almost over, and most residents seem to like the way it was conducted this year. Instead of residents laying out their trash beside the road and having the township pick it up, several large dumpsters were placed at the township maintenance building. Residents who had trash could take it to the dumpsters for disposal.

According to the township supervisors, the clean-up was conducted in this manner for several reasons.

"First of all," said township manager Mark Kunkle, "last year when people laid their trash along the road, scavengers made a terrible mess going through it. One man's garbage is another man's treasure, I guess. It took a lot of man-hours to clean it up.

"Secondly, last year we sorted the trash, burning what we could then taking the tin and aluminum to be recycled," Kunkle added. "This year D.E.R. said we couldn't do the burning and that we couldn't store debris without a permit. That forced the township to look for some other alternatives."

Some criticism was voiced to the supervisors from the Citizen's Committee of Kingston Township area, but rather than being aimed at what is being done, the objection was geared to what they feel is not being done.

Jim Keller, vice-president of the group explained, "We appreciate the effort the township is making to help keep our neighborhoods clean, but we're looking for additional help

from somewhere. The clean-up program does not allow people to rid themselves of large appliances and we have a problem with that.

"Many people dispose of this kind of garbage over banks along our roadsides," he added. "It creates a terrible eyesore. The township has helped in the past when we have gotten together to conduct our own clean-up by lending us their trucks, but the removal of these large appliances is dangerous and we would like to have their help with that too. Since they won't allow this type of refuse to be put in the dumpsters, it may encourage even more people to use the roadside for a dump."

— JUDIE MATHERS

## Inside The Post

Calendar .....	19,20
Classified .....	21,22,23
Commentary .....	6
Cookbook .....	7
Crossword .....	4
Dear Aunt Patty ....	9
District Court .....	4
Obituaries .....	2
People .....	8,9,10,11
Police Blotter .....	3
School .....	17,18
Sports .....	13,14,15,16