



# Commentary



## Editor's notes

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

OH, HOW NICE IT IS to be back to work after a week's vacation. In case you didn't notice, I was off and skiing last week.

Because it's so difficult to find a slope without nine million people on it during the weekends, I try to make it a practice to take a week off during the winter months so I can get in all the skiing my body will tolerate.

And, believe me, that's exactly what I did - just ask any muscle in my body.

It was cold, it was snowy, it was wonderful. But, like any other vacation, it was too short and it's over-time to get down to business now.

A GREAT BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETING goes out to our own Ed Campbell who celebrated a birthday on January 25.

Ed, our infamous photographer, hit the magic age of 21 last month. And now that you're legal, Ed, I can start preaching to you not about staying out of the bars, but about the perils of drinking and driving.

Poor Ed - seems like I'm always finding an excuse to lecture him.

Anyway, Eddie - all lecturing aside. Hope your birthday was a happy one!

WELCOME TO THE BACK MOUNTAIN to Marianne Tucker Puhalla who recently joined the public relations staff at the Wilkes-Barre Campus of Penn State.

"Tucker," as those of us who knew her in her younger, wilder days, was formerly associated with WBRE-TV/ Channel 28. Something tells me she's going to fit right in with the jolly, hard-working duo of Phyllis Belk and Renee Mintz at the Lehman PR office.

Nice to hear from you, Tucker. Maybe I'll buy you lunch some day - as a token of my appreciation for all those times you taught me how to lose graciously on the racquetball court.

Anyway, welcome - and the best of luck to you in your new position.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Sheehan of Huntsville Road who celebrated their special day this past Monday, February 17.

Rumor has it that Sandy and Lynn were treated to dinner by their children, Megan and Lynn Jr., in honor of the occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Mathers, daughter of Hap and Judy Mathers who now reside in Littleton, Pa.

Amy, who transferred to her new school district from the Dallas School District when her Dad accepted a job away from the Back Mountain, was recently selected as a Rotary Exchange Student.

Amy will be travelling to Sweden in July to spend her junior year in that country. Certainly quite an honor for a young lady who has been a student in the school district less than a year.

I'm sure Amy's Dad is tickled pink at his daughter's accomplishments. And, I know her stepmother is thrilled - she told me that herself!

Congratulations, Amy - it sure is the chance of a lifetime for you.

MUCH THANKS to Sue Hand of Sue Hand's Imagery in Dallas for her kind words on one of my recent columns.

Sue, whose letter appears in our "Letters" column on this page, was kind enough to jot down some kind words after reading my column on the space shuttle tragedy.

Can't tell you how nice it was to receive that card. When I returned from vacation, it was several hours before I was able to sift through all the papers on my desk to even find the top of the desk. Fortunately, though, Sue's note was one of the first pieces of mail I opened and,

believe me, with that kind of encouragement, it sure made it a lot easier to get through the rest of the day.

Again, thanks Sue - your kindness is much appreciated.

LOVE, SEX AND THE IRS certainly don't seem to be three things that go together well but opening night at the Genetti Dinner Theater in Hazleton proved a combination of the three can be quite hysterical.

Bill Genetti, owner of the dinner theater and the Genetti Complex in Hazleton, introduced his new producers, Richard Akins and David Czarnecki of Quakertown, Pa. to members of the press last Friday amidst an evening of laughter and thrills.

If you get the chance, don't miss "Love, Sex and the IRS" - you won't believe what you're seeing!

IT WAS NICE TO SEE Stephanie Grubert, former editor of the Mountaintop Eagle and now publisher of that newspaper, last week.

The Eagle, which was a former sister publication of The Dallas Post, is now owned by Stephanie and, according to her, doing rather well on its own.

Stephanie sure puts her heart and sole into the Mountaintop Eagle, and from the looks of things, the people who live in Mountaintop, are taking notice of and appreciating her efforts.

More power to you, Steph - and our wishes for the best of luck in your publishing venture.

A RIDE TO EAGLES MERE at this time of year sure provides some beautiful country scenery.

And, one of the most unique attractions I've ever seen is right there at Eagles Mere - a toboggan slide. Every year, since 1904, members of the volunteer fire company, cut out blocks of ice and make a toboggan chute - a chute that carries a toboggan downhill at approximately 40-50 miles per hour and shoots it right onto the lake at Eagles Mere.

Seems a lot of people know about this toboggan chute, too, since last Saturday, you couldn't even get near the place and the line was more than a half hour long. One of the firemen, who donates his time to this slide every weekend, told me they serve approximately 3,000 people on a weekend - and the chute is only open Friday night and until 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Quite a unique way for a volunteer organization to raise money - and the townspeople claim the firemen don't solicit any monies other than what they make on their toboggan chute.

The chute only runs through the middle of February and this weekend will probably be its last of the year. But, if you get a chance - it's a great way to spend an afternoon with the kids. And, the scenery on the way up the mountain is absolutely breathtaking!

EVER HEAR OF A DOG with a pulled muscle? Well, my animal managed to do just that.

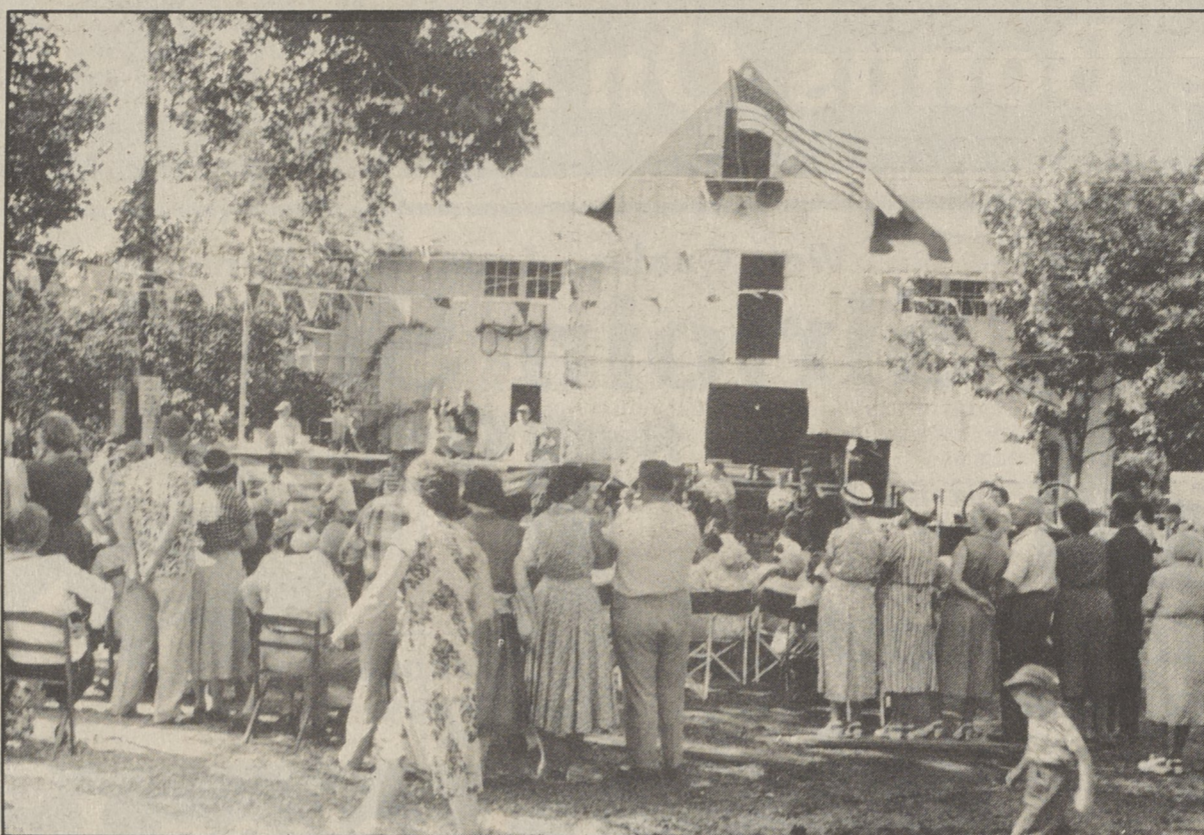
While horsing around in the house last weekend, she decided to completely skip the bottom two steps on her way downstairs. In doing so, she skidded across the linoleum and crash-landed into a wall. Needless to say, it was a rather painful experience for the poor thing.

After watching her carry her leg around for a day and a half, I decided to take her to the vets. So, I carried her into the office to spare her any additional pain and the vet checked her over thoroughly.

After his examination, the vet claimed there was nothing broken, but the dog was suffering from pulled muscles. Relieved that we weren't going to have to deal with casts, I put the dog on the floor and she hobbled out to the reception desk in the lobby of the vet's office.

As soon as I finished writing out a check for \$16 to pay for this examination, the dog ran to the door to get out of that horrible place. Yep, you guess it - ran to the door on all fours.

Worse than a kid, you say? You bet!



## REMEMBERING

### Library Auction

It was 33 years ago that the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was held on Lehman Avenue, Dallas, in front of Howard Risley's barn. Above is a scene from the auction held July 11, 1952. No doubt some of our readers are able to identify some of the bidders in the audience. If so, call or come in with their identifications. We are told that is Howard Risley on the auction block. Name some of the others in the crowd.

## Only yesterday

# Drifts and high snow make driving difficult

50 YEARS AGO - FEB. 21, 1936

Although State highways had been cleared of snow, many back roads throughout the state were still almost impassable because of drifts and snow accumulation.

A tractor which broke through 14 inch ice about 50 yards from the bridge near Shawanese, Harveys Lake was fished out of the lake by George Casterline, Lake ice harvester.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. John R. Crispell, Shavertown, 52 years.

You could get - Stewing chickens 27c lb.; chuck roast 19c lb.; boneless rump roast 29c lb.; large dill pickles 3-10c; sauerkraut 3 lb. 10c; cocoa 8c lb.; Graham Crackers 2 lb. pkg. 19c; halibut steak 23c lb.

40 YEARS AGO - FEB. 22, 1946  
Dallas Borough Parent-Teacher Association endorsed a proposal for the installation of a traffic light at the five-point intersection on Main Street in Dallas. Burgess George Williams outlined the proposal for traffic control.

Alexander (Sandy) McCulloch made an application to the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission for the right to operate the Back Mountain Cab Company, a taxi service for the area.

Married - Althea Smith and John Smith; Betty Crispell to Lt. Verne B. McDougal; Thelma Dietz to Robert Belles.

You could get - Turkeys 51c lb.; lamb chops 57c lb.; pork sausage 39c lb.; oysters 69c pt.; Crisco 3 lb. 68c; Lifebuoy soap 3 bars 20c; doughnuts 15c doz.; broccoli 19c bunch; 3 lb. sweet potatoes 19c.

30 YEARS AGO - FEB. 24, 1956  
Lake-Noxen High School planned a Country Fair. General chairman of the affair was Mrs. John Zorazi, PTA; Mrs. Raymond Garinger, Alumni and Pauline Davis, faculty.

Major Jack H. Magee, Terrace Drive, Shavertown was named training and operations officer of the newly formed 2009th POW Camp Headquarters, a local U.S. Reserve Unit.

Engaged - Regina Ann Sullivan and Raymond Eckhart; Carol Jean Whitesell and Airman 2-c Ronald Grabowski.

Married - Lewis Raebuck and Nettie Goodwin.

Deaths - Harry Rood, Bloomingdale; Beulah Spencer, Country Club Road; Elizabeth Andrews, Shavertown.

## OPINION

### Uncle Sam giveth, taketh away

By EDWIN FEULNER  
Special to The Dallas Post

We are just entering the new year and already Uncle Sam is taking a bigger bite out of our paychecks.

Though Congress and the White House spent the Christmas season making Santa Claus-like noises about tax reform, "ho, ho, ho" the joke's on us. Because just like clockwork, on January 1 Social Security tax rates shot up again.

Now for every thousand dollars you earn, up to a maximum of \$42,000, Uncle Sam will collect \$143-\$71.50 directly from your paycheck, and a like amount from the pocket of your employer (money that could be used to fatten your salary, increase your benefits, or to update plant and equipment, if it wasn't going to Washington).

On top of this, of course, are state and federal income taxes - which ironically are based on your gross income, not on the \$857 that is left of that \$1,000 after Social Security taxes are paid.

Just two years ago, the Social Security system was proclaimed "saved." The only thing that appears to have been saved, however, are some political careers. Despite the ever-escalating payroll taxes, the Social Security system is

still headed for deep financial trouble. The Baby Boom Generation has started to grey. While there are plenty of Baby-Boomers around to finance the system today, when they retire 20 to 25 years from now, there won't be enough workers around to make good on the promises Congress has made. One former chief actuary of the Social Security Administration estimates that payroll taxes might theoretically have to climb to 40 percent under the present pay-as-you go funding system to honor the obligations to the current working generation. And you and I both know that isn't going

to happen.

The alternatives are also clear: either some meaningful changes will be made in the system as we know it, or Social Security will go belly-up.

Washington, unfortunately, has a special knack of avoiding the obvious until the political heat is unbearable. And since most Americans are pretty much convinced Social Security is secure for the foreseeable future, Congress will stay as far away from the taboo subject as it can.

## LETTERS

### She agrees with editor

DEAR EDITOR:

Just a note to tell you (Doty Martin) how moved I was by your tribute to the shuttle astronauts and teacher.

That column was a work of art. It moved me to tears and put into words things I felt but didn't know how to say.

Thank you for your column. I

have saved it among the news clippings.

I have not read any memorial that was any better than yours, even from the highest paid and best-known journalists.

I commend you.

SUE HAND  
DALLAS

## LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Library Correspondent

A tribute and a thank you to the late Howard W. Risley! Having finally caught up with my year-end paper work, I am now trying to sort through some of the stored items which we packed away for the move to our new building.

Among these items was a beautiful framed plaque, a special tribute to Mr. Risley; hand painted and exquisitely printed by W. Everett Evans of Wilkes-Barre in 1956. The plaque states, "The Back Mountain Memorial Library speaking for the community at large by this certificate expresses its heartfelt appreciation for services rendered by Howard W. Risley; who, having no sons of his own, determined the living and the dead should have a living, breathing and ever-growing memorial to their services in World War II and in Korea. Who, more than any other one man in the Back Mountain, has steadfastly fostered this ideal and furthered this goal. Who, above all others, has taken the community to his inmost heart, making its problems his problems, its struggles his struggles, and its advancement his life."

This certificate was presented to Mr. Risley during the 10th annual library auction on July 7, 1956. He was one very strong moving force in the development of the Back Mountain Memorial Library and those of us involved with the library are very grateful for his dedication. The library auction was held at the Risley barn for many years and I am sure he would be very proud if he could see the library in its new building and witness the progress being made on the new library auction facilities. This certificate is now hanging in a prominent position in the corridor of the new library.

Total circulation at the library during 1985 was 80,968, which included 46,116 adult titles and 34,852 juvenile books. The Book Club circulated 3,438 books; new borrowers were 1,389 and the book stock inventory totaled 53,753. Reference questions for the year were 8,687, volunteer hours totaled 2,485 and there are 10,444 active borrowers.

The annual meeting of the library board of directors was held on Thursday, January 30th. The officers elected for 1986 are: President: Ernest Ashbridge; vice president, Barbara Lemmond; treasurer, Glenn W. Eyet; and secretary, Pauline Kutz. William Price was elected as a new member of the board and Dr. John Shaskas was introduced as the 1986 Auction chairman. The board meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Have you seen that catchy billboard on Route 309? "Chat With Alice on Your Way to Dallas" from Cellular One car phones. It gives you something to think about!

## STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

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

AUTO INSURANCE rates for young men and women in Pennsylvania are based in large part on gender. Statistically, young men drive more and are involved in more accidents than young women. Males therefore have traditionally paid more for auto insurance than young women. In 1984, however, the state Supreme Court declared gender-based insurance discriminatory and ordered the implementation of so-called unisex insurance, where young men and women pay the same premium rates. This week the General Assembly took issue with the court and passed legislation which would allow insurance rates based on gender. During spirited debate on the House floor, Rep. Jeffrey E. Piccola (R-Dauphin) warned that some 600,000 young women drivers would face rate increases if unisex insurance was permitted. Finally, by a 147-51 margin, the House approved the bill allowing gender-based insurance. The measure has been sent to the governor for his signature.

CANDIDATES RUNNING for statewide judicial seats would be prohibited from cross-filing in party primary races if legislation approved by the General Assembly is signed by the governor. The law affects candidates for the Supreme Court, Commonwealth Court and Superior Court. Cross-filing would still be permitted under the bill in primaries for the offices of school director, district justice and municipal judge. Cross-filing is the practice of seeking more than one party nomination for the same position. Legislators voted to ban cross-filing when it was hinted that a federal judge was prepared to strike down the practice in the case of state judicial races.

PUBLIC UTILITIES would be required to open their lands and waters for public recreation under a bill introduced by Rep. Clarence Dietz (R-Bedford). Dietz said that the lands and lakes should be open for recreational purposes if it is consistent with public health and safety. He said the state Fish and Game Commission would be consulted for input into the use of lands owned by public utilities.

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J. STEPHEN BUCKLEY  
Publisher

DAVID F. CONNER  
General Manager

DOTY MARTIN  
Executive Editor