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With water situation

We're better off back here

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

If you talk to officials from both the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company and the Dallas Water Company, they will tell you they are committed to providing the best possible service for their customers.

Sometimes, however, there is a credibility gap between what is promised and what is actually delivered. The best way then to determine the quality of a product is to go directly to the people who use it.

If you talk with individuals who receive their water supply from PG&W, most will not speak favorably of their water and will use words like "lousy" and "rotten" to describe it. Last week's tentative decision by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to deny PG&W a 38-per cent, \$11 million rate increase would seem to bear those statements out. The increase would have raised the annual cost from \$172 to \$236.

On the other hand, if you talk to people who happen to receive water from the Back Mountain company,

you will get ratings ranging from "fair" to "excellent" depending on their location.

But attempting to compare the two wouldn't exactly be fair since both utilize different systems to provide water. PG&W taps their supply from reservoirs while the Dallas Water Company uses a total of 17 wells to serve its customers.

"Our operation is different from PG&W's because we don't use a filtration system," Joe Salla, General Manager of the Dallas Water Company, explained. "When the rain falls and seeps down through the ground and into the wells, the ground acts as a natural filter and eliminates a lot of impurities."

"We still find levels of iron and manganese in the water, but we do a number of tests and procedures to make it as clean as possible."

Salla says water lines in the Dallas area are flushed twice a year while those in Shavertown are flushed every month or two. In addition, Salla says they follow requirements by the Department of Environment Resource (DER)

of Environment Resource (DER) (See WATER, page 2)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Walkathon participants

Shown here are the employees of Offset Paperback, Dallas, who will be participating in the March of Dimes Walkathon this year. From left, Wayne Taylor, president, Offset Paperback

Co.; George Cave, Thomas Jurish, Robert Hayward, Gary Pesavento, Wilbur Murdock, Ruth Murdock, and Bob Murdock, team leader.

Day set to honor elected officials

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

National days of recognition are annually set aside for those individuals who shoulder a great deal of responsibility. Mother's Day and Father's Day are two dates that immediately come to mind, but not many people give much thought to our elected local officials who service the needs of an entire community.

Their contributions have not gone unnoticed, however, and in appreciation of their service, Tuesday, April 15, has been designated as Local Government Day.

Pennsylvania is made up of 969 boroughs, encompassing more than 40,000 men and women who devote their time and energy to servicing

the needs of the people whom they represent. Often times their decisions are met with some degree of opposition, but, nonetheless, they are committed to providing the best possible service.

"We get our share of complaints," Dallas Borough Mayor Paul LaBar said. "But, we handle them the best way possible. All things can be handled. We know the wants and needs of the people and things usually run pretty well."

Although a borough mayor is not the central force in the government, he is usually the spokesman for the borough, taking responsibility for enforcement of ordinances and regulations and removing any nuisances that may arise.

He is not a member of council, either, even though he can cast the

(See DAY, page 2)

For March of Dimes

Offset team enters WalkAmerica

The National March of Dimes WalkAmerica, will be taking on a new look in the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre area this year. On April 27, hundreds of area residents will take part in what will be locally known as the Brucelli Advertising/March of Dimes WalkAmerica.

A carnival atmosphere will prevail with colorful balloons, attractive checkpoints, decorated victory wagons and bright t-shirts sporting local businesses and corporate logos. It promises to be one of the largest and most exciting walks the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton area has never experienced. Part of the reason for the change is the generous underwriting of incentives and printing costs by the Brucelli Advertising Firm. WalkAmerica involves some

1,100 corporations and 1 1/2 million people nationwide. In the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, some 60 corporations and businesses will be represented with over 1,100 walkers registered to date, and new teams signing up every week as part of the TeamWalk Challenge.

Offset Paperback of Dallas, a returning team from 1985, is going all out in their support of WalkAmerica 1986. Bob Murdock, team leader for Offset along with teammates George Cave, Gary Pesavento, Thomas Jurish, Robert Hayward, Wilbur Murdock and Ruth Murdock, has set a personal goal of \$1,000 in sponsorship pledges and is well on the way to achieving that goal. Offset is also supplying a "Victory Wagon". One of the many that will be available

on Walk Day to assist walkers along the 20km route that starts at Public Square, winds through Kingston, Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne and ends at Kirby Park.

Corporate teams from Retail, Sales, Industry, Health & Medical Services, Communications, Government, Banking & Finance, and other areas will be vying for top position in their respective divisions. But the real winners are our children. Money raised through this event will help to insure every unborn and newborn the best possible chance to survive and thrive.

To register as an individual walker or to find out how to start a corporate team contact the March of Dimes office at 342-7894 or 824-1345 (24 hrs.).

Taxes It's that time now!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is meant to be taken lightly. It is a humorous way of looking at the upcoming April 15 deadline for the filing of individual tax returns. Any resemblance to any Back Mountain taxpayers is purely coincidental.)

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

An evening with friends this past Sunday brought to mind "It's Later Than You Think!" April 15 is less than a week away. Have you done your tax return?

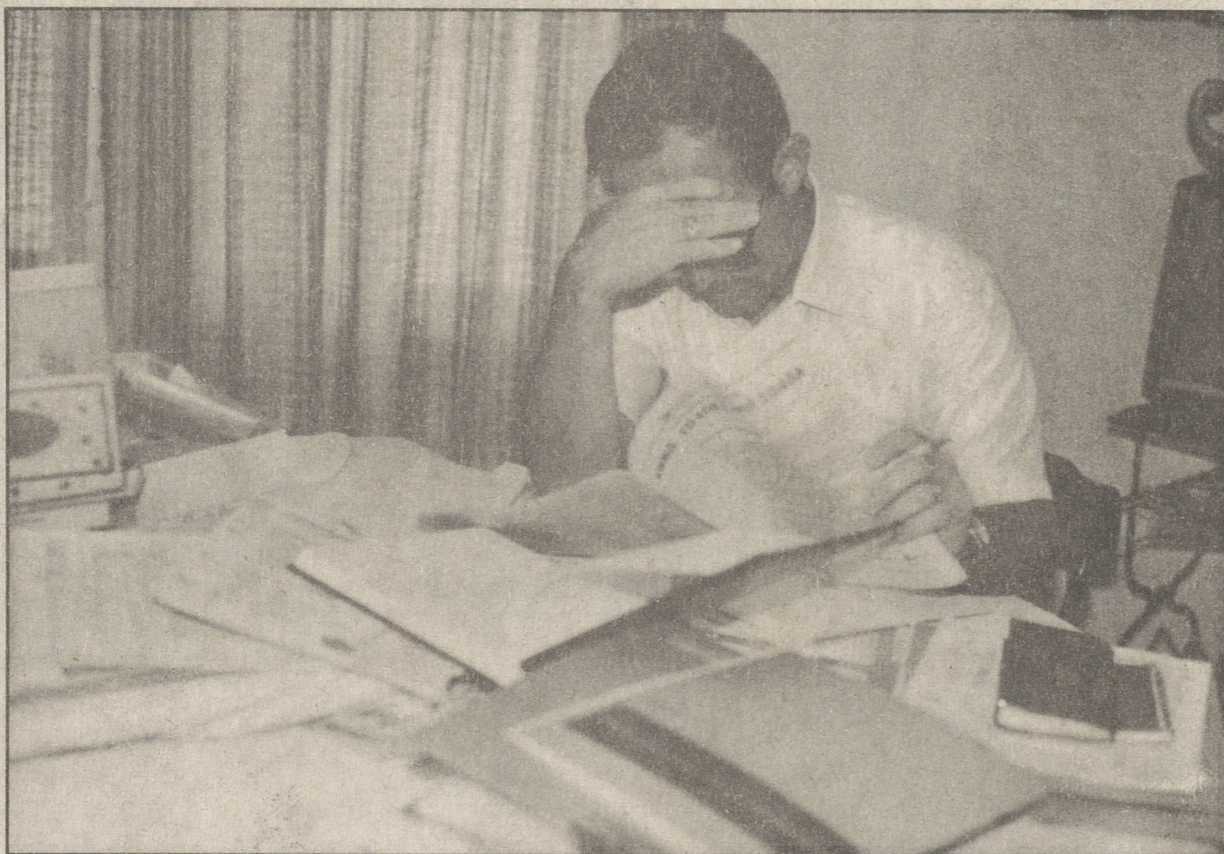
Those friends of ours hadn't, but Sunday morning Joe (an alias, of course) decided "Today's the Day." Joe was going to do his tax return. Since he and his wife, Jane, (also an alias) both worked, he was filing a joint return.

We were innocent of the fact that Joe was working on his tax return so when our phone rang Sunday afternoon, we had no idea what the evening (actually, hours) would bring.

The phone conversation went something like this: "Hi, this is Joe, how about stopping over for some of Jane's new cake recipe and a drink? And while you're here, maybe you could help me with a few questions on our tax return?"

That's where we should have picked up a clue — as usual our friend was in a quandry. But Good Samaritans that we are, my husband and I went over. We hadn't planned to stay very long. Just a drink or two and some ice cream cake. The underestimate of the year.

Joe said since you do your own return every year, how about helping with a few questions. I told him that we didn't do ours this year, we



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Sifting through files

The deadline for filing individual income tax forms is just six days away as April 15 is right around the corner. This individual, like many others who wait until the last minute to fill out their returns, is buried at his desk with IRS forms and receipts he has incurred throughout the year.

took it to a CPA. Joe's answer was that his was simple.

Unable to refuse a friend, we went with him into his diningroom. That was a mistake! The table resembled a disaster area. Several shoe boxes were on the table, a large blue notebook containing IRS instruction booklets for just about every type form you might fill out. Prescription receipts, check stubs, deposit slips, mileage forms, stock certificates, and dozens of other papers were scattered over the table.

That wasn't all — on the floor beside his chair, Joe had two large cartons of papers. "What are those?" I asked.

"Oh, those — some are grocery tapes — I thought I'd add up sales tax and all my interest charges on credit accounts plus heat, gas, light,

water and phone receipts. Don't worry, I have a check list you can use," replied my friend.

Check list — his check list was an extra form where he had scribbled notes on the back. Well, I thought to myself, I got myself into this so I'm obligated to assist him.

That was my second mistake. Joe is self-employed, but his wife, Jane, is not. Jane had her W-2 form so that was a start.

Joe was another story! He had a notebook listing the money he took in for the year — well, not all of it was in, some of his customers hadn't paid him, they were overdue.

Two hours and 10 cups of coffee later, we finally had his income figured out — well, sort of figured out. We had to use Joe's estimates and, more accurately, some notes

that Jane had kept. We had no lack of forms — frankly, I didn't realize the IRS published so many. Joe had 1040's, 1040-A, schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, 1040 EZ, SE, 1040 ES, 2106, 2210, 2441, 4562, 4797 (he thought he'd include his track losses and money spent on lottery tickets that didn't win), 533, a self employment tax and dozens of others.

How did I get around all these? I made a decision — throw them in a large box and let Joe sort them in his leisure time. This was after an hour trying to decide.

Without going into a blow-by-blow account, we finally settled on Form 1040, figured what we thought was Joe's income less expenses. Since he had an eight-room home and worked out of one room we took 1/2 (See TAXES, page 2)

Who's in charge of what here?

Aside from several minor structural changes, the only real difference between a borough and township is the size of population.

But then again, they are not always exactly alike, either. For instance, Dallas and Kingston both have townships, only Kingston is listed as a Home Rule type of government, whereas Dallas is considered a second class township.

Both have a board of supervisors, but Kingston is more reliant on the township's business manager to run the day-to-day operations, while Dallas is dependent on its board members to oversee daily functions. But aside from those differences, and the fact that they are both responsible for maintaining the upkeep of rural roads, their purposes are the same.

"We have five supervisors on our board," Kingston Township business manager Fred Potzer explained. "And they are the primary governing body. They are the ones responsible for passing legislation and making policy. They hear problems and pass laws, but they don't handle the day-to-day business. They depend on the township manager to do that."

"It doesn't mean we work separately from each other, but there are a lot of problems that can be taken care of before they reach the board. For example, if someone calls up and complains about a pothole that has to be fixed, then we tell the road department to fix it and that's it," Potzer continued.

"Then every week or ever other week, depending on how much has been going on, I keep them abreast of what we've been doing, bills that have been paid and so forth."

Another advantage of Home Rule, Potzer says, is that there is more flexibility. "I have been here almost a year and these supervisors have been really great to me," he stated. "They are not demanding and they don't interfere."

"It isn't that I have to answer to several different bosses. If there is a major problem, then I meet with the supervisors and we'll discuss it and vote on whatever measures we decide to take at the next public meeting."

There, too, is a big difference in format. Unlike other public meetings where comments from the people are taken before business matters are discussed, at Kingston Township, they are taken afterwards.

At Dallas Township, three individuals, Phil Walter, Frank Wagner and Glen Howell, make up the governing body where they either oversee certain operations or are directly involved with them.

Howell and Walter, who have been on the board for over 20 years each, handle the secretary-treasurer, roadmaster positions respectively, while Wagner, a 12-year member, oversees the police department.

"We are very lucky to have such an efficient chief and department," Wagner stated. "If we do have a problem that concerns them we usually let them handle it. They are outstanding."

Unlike Kingston Township where one person governs the daily activity, at Dallas Township, all three are responsible for daily operations, although they rely on input from other divisions to keep matters running smoothly.

"We have other departments like the zoning and planning boards that help take care of business," Wagner said. "For example, the planning board has three members on it. They do meet with us and inform us of what they are doing. But, we usually follow their recommendations. If we have suggestions we discuss them and make whatever decisions we feel are in the best interest of the township."

— JOHN HOINSKI