

Commentary

Guest editorial

By RALPH W. ABELE

Pennsylvania is the only state in which fish and wildlife agencies are separate. They are both independent administrative agencies, not under the governor's jurisdiction, and were created that way. In 1962 and 1972 (as well as a few other times many years ago), efforts were mounted, usually by a few members of the General Assembly, to look at the feasibility of merging the two agencies. Formal studies have been conducted by the Wildlife Management Institute for the Joint State Government Commission, and because the present system is working well and no significant savings could be realized, such efforts at merger have faded away.

Bigness does not imply efficiency, and that tenet has been proven again and again, not only in government but in business. The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has gone on record, not only in its bylaws but several times over the years, the most recent of which was on September 21, 1986, as opposing any efforts to combine these two agencies.

In March of 1972, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission reiterated its long-standing conviction that specialized service is best performed by specialists.

"Whereas, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission was formed by an Act of the Legislature on March 30, 1866, for the specific purposes of halting the pollution of rivers, lakes and streams of the Commonwealth and for the protection, propagation and management of the fisheries resources; and,

Whereas, for more than 100 years the Pennsylvania Fish Commission has employed a highly trained staff of biologists, fish culturists, engineers, law enforcement officers and administrators, to carry out its mandated programs and objectives; and,

Whereas, the science of fisheries management, propagation and protection is a highly specialized field which cannot be duplicated by any other group or organization; and,

Whereas, the administration of boating laws, rules and regulations, along with the design and construction of facilities, navigational aids, and other programs to regulate, insure the safety of, and provide for the needs of citizen boaters requires a high degree of specialized knowledge; and,

Whereas, the differences between the protection and management of fish and waters and the other natural resources of the Commonwealth are so great that it would be impossible to educate, train and develop management skills in any single group which could effectively carry out a general natural resources, or fish and wildlife management, conservation programs; and,

Whereas, an independent study made by the Wildlife Management Institute, a highly qualified private organization composed of impartial natural resource professionals, for the Joint State Government Commission in 1962 clearly showed there would be no significant savings and no improvement in services provided to the sportsmen and general public by merging the Fish Commission with any other agency of state

government; and,

Whereas, the program and services provided by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to the public of this Commonwealth are nationally recognized and have attracted an increasing number of nonresidents to visit our state because of the quality of fishing and boating opportunities to be found within our borders;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the members of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, in formal session assembled, on this 30th day of March 1972, hereby express their unanimous conviction that this Commission, its staff and employees should remain, according to law, an independent agency of state government; and that no useful purpose or improvement in service could be served by merging the Pennsylvania Fish Commission with the Pennsylvania Game Commission or with any other agency of government..."

This policy statement was reaffirmed at the 172nd Commission meeting, October 20, 1986.

There is a singularity of purpose throughout our entire operation that is seldom seen elsewhere. Despite great internal diversification throughout each bureau, division and section, the product of service to Pennsylvania and its visitors has made the Pennsylvania Fish Commission a model operation, admired, respected and envied throughout the entire United States and Canada.

(Ralph W. Abele is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.)



Dallas Post/Jane Rynn

Investiture held

Lehman Brownie Troop 641 held an investiture ceremony Wednesday to welcome new Brownies and re-dedicate second and third year Brownies. From left, first row, Karen Cole, new member; Kelly Spencer, Ceri Yankoski, Karen Bowersox, new member; Megan Scott, new member; Missy Reakes, new member; Kristi Snyder, Tanya Kosakowski. Second row, Katie Groboski Huber, new member; Geana Powell. Third row, Stacey Vacone, new member; Beth Turner, Lori Kubacki, April Masters, Bobbi Stogoski. Leaders are Judy Gunn and Louann Alters, Lehman.

Grossman on economics

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Special to The Dallas Post

Dr. Laurence J. Peter, author of "The Peter Principle" has written a sequel titled "The Peter Pyramid."

In his theory of organization, Dr. Peter suggests that most organizations historically have a hierarchy of players who symbolize the Egyptian pyramid. He notes, however, that "the operational pyramid by which we try to get things done in our everyday lives is a base-up pyramid resting on its point."

The inverted pyramid is demonstrated through an examination of how significant structural changes occur and complexities are added, starting with a single apple which becomes part of a lengthy manufacturing, production, marketing, promotion, and sales process.

As complexities grow, the age old theory that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link; the larger the chain the more weak links" prevails. In other words, as society sharply increases its way of conducting business and more people and thoughts get into the administrative chain, the more likely there is that something that will go wrong with the process and the inverted pyramid gets out of control.

Pointing to the need today to use pesticides to spray on apples, Peter claims that this leads to a further search for phosphates thus increasing pollution and environmental problems. He believes that the inverted pyramid is capable of infinite expansion. It not only creates complexities, it creates tremendous waste in human resources and money.

He notes that throughout his pyramid studies, a constant principle seems to be at work. "Procedures that start out simple and effective, end up big and efficient. Programs that

start out small and beautiful end up in a big tangled, ugly mess. Plans that start out clear and comprehensible, end up involuted and obscure. Projects that start out on a human scale, end up as impersonal, cumbersome, inept bureaucracies. His conclusion, therefore, is the definition of the Peter Pyramid: "Systems start small and grow to occupy all our time and space."

Peter then takes on government as a chief example of the Peter Pyramid. He notes, however, that certain avenues of exploration require complexity, such as scientific discoveries involving single cells and the solar system. Thus, he believes there are some good traits connected with Peter Pyramid, although much of his analysis negates the good traits and concentrates on the negative aspects of the Peter Pyramid.

In describing the spread of government and bureaucracy, Peter notes that "capitalistic societies, based on the concept of free enterprise and individual liberty, cannot exist for long in a pure form because uncontrolled free enterprise leads to

monopolies that eliminate competition and ultimately cause the destruction of free enterprise.

Therefore, governments subscribing to a democratic philosophy find themselves making rules and regulations that limit free enterprise and individualism, and creating bureaucracies to enforce the rules and regulations."

The bottom line for his remedy to pyramid problems is the use of common sense. He notes, however, that common sense has not been stressed "in modern times...no government has discovered yet how to simplify the Peter Pyramids of bureaucracy."

He urges that United States should be "the first to adopt the high resolve to move forward to

a system that is more economical, easier to operate, less prone to defects, and more effective."

The impact on Northeastern Pennsylvania is clear. To resolve the differences which exist between communities and organizations, common sense must prevail and the wide proliferation and scattering of energies must be unified to avoid the plague of the Peter Pyramid.

There must be actions undertaken to clarify or resolve long standing problems of economic growth, chronic unemployment, and many of the other issues which have risen to new heights in the second half of the twentieth century. Controlled free enterprise is a system which already exists in many parts of the nation with leverage being applied as a result of public-private sector partnerships which have encouraged economic development through the use of positive governmental incentives to cause private decision making. An opportunity exists in the size metropolitan area which Northeastern Pennsylvania is to accomplish much of what Peter suggests needs to be accomplished.

Northeastern Pennsylvania can move forward to effectively combat long standing issues by taking on new responsibilities from a positive viewpoint rather than a negative perspective.

How this is achieved in the remainder of the 1980's will set a tone for the rest of the twentieth century as the region begins to slowly, but surely move toward twentieth century life.

(Howard Grossman, a Back Mountain resident, is the Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeast Pennsylvania. His column appears periodically in The Dallas Post.)

Something to think about

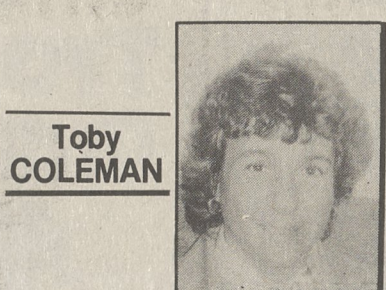
I would like to introduce you to Mary Smith.

Mary is being discriminated against by our government. She is 55 years old and a widow. For 15 years she has been gainfully employed by the same firm. She is good at her job, has many friends and is an honest hard-working, law-abiding citizen of her community.

Mary's home is paid for and neat as a pin. She votes in every election, goes to church regularly and does more than her share of community service work.

She is not a drunk or a dope addict or a street walker or even a litter bug. She always buckles up for safety and closes the matchbook before striking. A fine upstanding citizen, you say?

Then, why is she being discriminated against? Because she is single. She pays an extraordinarily high income tax because she only has herself as a deduction. She is ineligible for any public assistance of any kind because she is above the poverty line, but just barely. Instead of the government rewarding her for her good citizenship and excellent work



Toby COLEMAN

record, they overtax her.

Let us now meet John Jones. John has been on the welfare rolls for the last 17 years, with the exception of the 2 years he spent in the Army. He is 40 years old, drinks heavily and abuses his wife and 5 children.

He has never held a job for more than 6 months (long enough to collect), has never voted and has been involved in 2 major car accidents while driving under the influence.

Under our present welfare system this "upstanding citizen" is rewarded by his government with money, free medical care for himself and his family, free eye exams and glasses, food stamps, a heating allowance, a free college education for his children and a rent subsidy, not to mention the largess of his particular religious

persuasion on holidays.

There are free social services available to him, and all of this without ever doing a "lick" of work.

The sad part of it is that Mary Smith and John Jones are not the exception, but the rule. It seems to me that the whole concept of who shall be helped and who not in America must be rethought and the fair, humane and just corrections made.

All able-bodied welfare recipients must be made to "work for their bread" just like everyone else, and the single citizens more fairly treated by the government. We all know that the unfortunate poor who cannot care for themselves for one reason or another should be provided for. But those thousands who make it their "work" not to work must be kicked off the "free ride."

Our welfare system desperately needs revision and now. Aren't you tired of supporting the "free loaders?"

It's something to think about.

(Toby Coleman, a Back Mountain resident, is a columnist for The Dallas Post. Her column appears regularly.)

Library news

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received delivery of 24 library chairs, oak wood with English oak finish to be used in the main reading room of the library. These chairs were ordered through the local sales representative of Roberts & Meck, Inc. of Harrisburg and are Jasper chairs manufactured by Jasper Chair Company of Jasper, Indiana.

These chairs will be used in conjunction with the four new library tables in the reading room and complete still another segment of the on-going renovation process at the library. The library chairs have been donated by Thomas F. Heffernan, II and Nancy Heffernan Valtin in memory of their mother, Helen J. Heffernan.

I attended the annual meeting and awards dinner of the United

Rehabilitation Services, Inc. at the Shadowbrook in Tunkhannock with Mrs. Florence Crump.

This particular dinner was dedicated to the late Rev. Alva Tompkins, who's family grew up in the neighborhood with Mrs. Crump. Mrs. Crump has been close friends with this family all her life and I was happy to be able to attend the dedication dinner with her. The URS is a very worthwhile organization and does so much good in our community, as witnessed by a slide program presented by the administrator, Dr. Stanley Irzinski.

One of our very faithful borrowers returned an overdue book the other day saying she was sorry it was late but she had been sick and did not get the book returned on time. She teasingly tried a classic excuse and asked if she brought a note from her doctor could she be

exempt from paying the fine. She then paid the fine and said she was more than happy to help support the library in her own small way.

Heading the top of the Best Sellers list this week is the book, "It" by Stephen King. The poster of the month on our bulletin board features this best selling novel. This is the biggest and most ambitious book of the author's career; he gives us not only his most towering epic of horror but a surprising re-illumination of the corridor where we pass from the bright mysteries of childhood to those of maturity.

The story revolves around Derry, a small city in Maine, a place as hauntingly familiar as your own home town. Only in Derry, the haunting is real. Seven desperate children begin to search for a creature of unspeakable evil in the drains beneath Derry; the present begins to rhyme dreadfully with the past and when they reunite, the wheels of fate lock together and roll them toward the ultimate terror. An exciting suspense-filled story.

(Nancy Kozemchak is the assistant librarian at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Her column appears regularly in The Dallas Post.)

Letters

Fish commission officers adds trout

DEAR EDITOR:

Previously, I supplied your media with the subject information as to during the week of November 16, 1986 I would be stocking 4,000 brook trout in Harveys Lake for the winter trout fishing program.

Since that initial notice, I had learned that the Fish Commission had a carry over of rainbow trout at the Huntsdale

Hatchery. I am very glad to announce that I have been able to fit an extra stocking into my schedule and I have arranged to have 3,500 rainbows shipped to Harveys Lake during the same week of November 16, 1986.

With two truck loads of trout coming in one week together with the 18,000 rainbows which I put in Harveys Lake on September 5, 1986, local fishermen

should hve a ball ice fishing at Harveys this winter.

I would like to close by saying it has always been my pleasure to provide local sportsmen with bonus fish whenever I learn of the availability.

Good luck.

CLAUDE M. NEIFERT
WATERWAYS
CONSERVATION OFFICER
PA. FISH COMMISSION

CMC thanks Dallas Post for coverage

DEAR EDITOR:

The Great Balloon Race has been put to rest for another year, however, I do want to thank you and The Dallas Post for excellent coverage and cooperation in promoting the event throughout the community.

While "Mother Nature" was not as cooperative, we did have a successful launch and enthusiastic response from the community. It's for that reason that

we continue to make it an annual event.

From all of us at Custom Management, our thanks and appreciation to The Post for helping us publicize this spirited event.

HELEN GATTUSO
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS
CUSTOM MANAGEMENT
CORP.,
KINGSTON

Health Dept. supports Smokeout

The Pennsylvania Department of Health announced recently it will again support and promote the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout observance, Nov. 20.

According to Cathy Becker, director of the state Health Department's Health Risk Reduction Program, more than 100,000 Americans will die of lung cancer this year.

Local chapters of the American Cancer Society have posters, pamphlets, buttons and directions for participating in the Great American Smokeout and the information is free.

THE DALLAS POST

A Publication of Pennaprint, Inc.

J. STEPHEN BUCKLEY
Publisher

DAVID F. CONNER
General Manager

DOTTY MARTIN
Executive Editor

The Dallas Post welcomes letters to the editor and requests that letters be either typed or written legibly.

Letters must be signed and must include a telephone number to be used for verification.

Letters should be mailed to Editor, The Dallas Post, PO Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612.