

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Officials should attend meeting on growth

Now that more than 100 Back Mountain citizens have shown a sincere interest in the pattern of development here, it's time for the political officials to join the party and attend this week's meeting to discuss growth issues.

As several speakers pointed out at the last meeting, good planning is accomplished through a partnership of private and public participation. While private individuals turned out in force for the first session, local public officials were largely conspicuous by their absence. Perhaps they wanted to see if there was real interest in this subject on the part of the public before committing their time. With that question answered, it's time for these elected representatives of the people to get involved in developing more orderly procedures for the Back Mountain's growth.

"There's no us and them out there," said state senator Charles Lemmond at the meeting two weeks ago, referring to the cooperative relationship that must be formed between the public and its officials. That is true. However, if those officials appear either uninterested or unresponsive, citizens have the right and responsibility to make their voices heard even louder than they already have done. We hope that our government leaders will not cause that to happen; that they will attend this week's meeting and take to heart their constituents' concerns.

Are more classrooms really necessary?

It's difficult to understand why Dallas High School should need the addition of ten new classrooms when its enrollment is substantially lower than it was a few years ago. While we can appreciate the inconvenience of sending special education students out of the area, it would seem that problem could be solved in a much less disruptive and expensive way than by building classrooms.

One argument for more rooms is that it will cause classes to be smaller. While few would deny that small class sizes are better than large ones, the world Dallas High students will graduate to is likely to place them in classes much larger than anything seen here. Many freshman college classes are double the size of those at the high school, with some lecture halls containing several hundred students. Those students who don't go on to college will enter the world of work, where individual attention is unlikely. Small class sizes make far more sense for elementary grade levels than for high school.

We think the School Board and interested citizens need more information before committing the District to a large (the real cost isn't yet known) spending project like this.

Centermoreland barbecue was community in action

Last weekend's 33rd annual barbecue and auction at the Centermoreland Methodist Church was a fine example of what small communities can accomplish when everyone lends a hand. The food was excellent, especially so considering that more than 1,500 meals were served, and the hospitality couldn't be beaten. There were bargains galore at the ladies' auxiliary tent and during the auction.

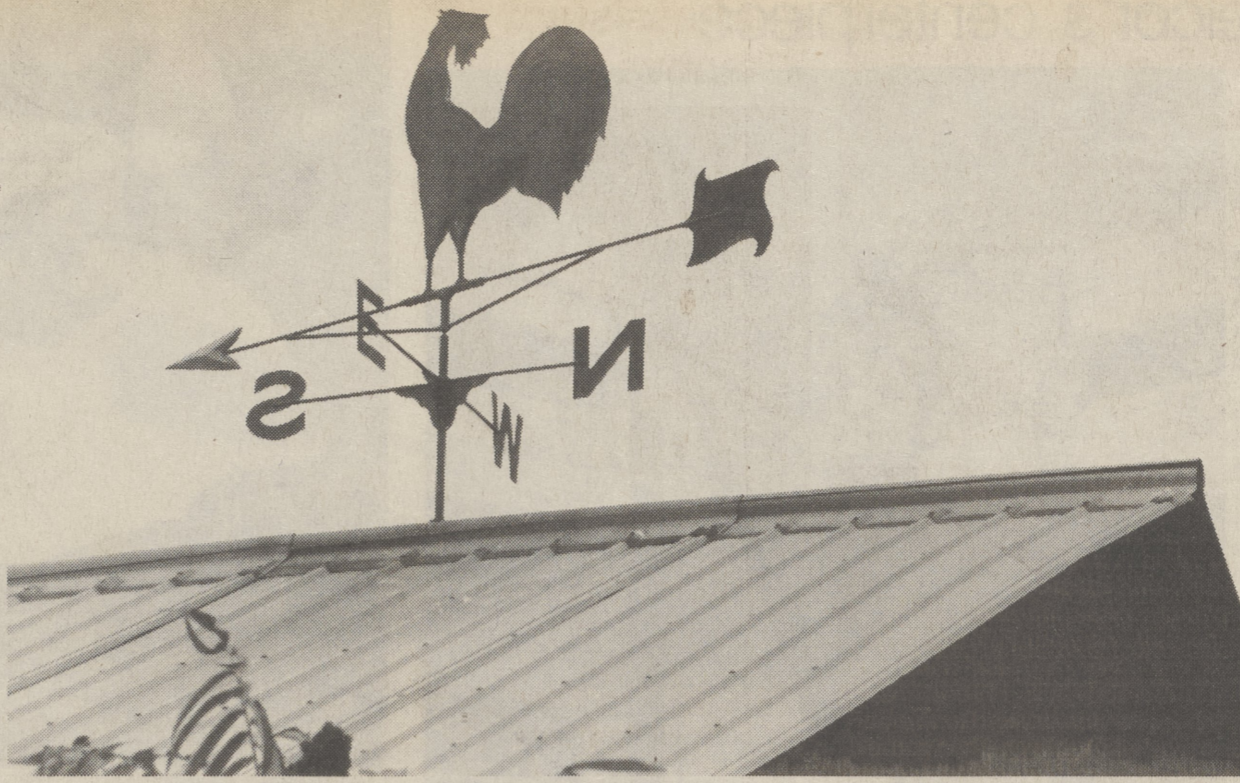
And we assume the congregation has been on the straight and narrow - otherwise how would you explain that there was no storm in Centermoreland Friday night, while the Back Mountain was inundated with rain. It was a great event. All those involved in its planning and production should be justifiably proud.

The Dallas Post

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Weather vane

You don't need a weather vane to tell which way the wind blows - Bob Dylan. (Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Please pardon our remodeling

You'll notice some different type styles and layout in this week's issue of The Dallas Post. That's because we are in the process of installing new typesetting equipment. This is necessary because under local ownership, The Post must provide finished pages to its printer. Previously The Post was produced entirely at the facilities of the Press-Enterprise in Bloomsburg, its former owner.

While the transition will be confusing at times, in the end we will be able to give readers a more attractive and timely newspaper. Once fully installed, The Post will have full control of its layout and design.

Technology buffs will want to know that our system is based on the Apple Macintosh computer and the Apple LaserWriter printer. It will allow us to produce completed advertisements as well as news copy. Anyone who would like to view the system is welcome to stop by our office in the 309-415 Plaza in Dallas. Please call ahead and we'll be happy to give you a demonstration.

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - Aug. 19, 1938

Lake dumpers haul garbage as punishment

Construction work on the new sludge pit for the Noxen Tannery has been going full blast for the last two weeks.

Harveys Lake Chief of Police Ira C. Stevenson makes careless worker haul garbage as fine for dumping garbage in the lake.

Old Timers will meet the Arrows in an exhibition game Sunday following the Donkey Ball game.

A young Ashley boy was the first drowning victim in Harveys Lake this season when he swam out beyond the step-off near Warden Place and became hysterical at having gone beyond his depth.

You could buy - Red Salmon 21c tall can; Ken-L-Ration dog food 3 cans 25c; sweet corn 12c doz.; oranges 25c doz.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 20, 1948

Mount Olivet Cemetery is dedicated

Motor boat races, canoe and kayak races will be held at Lake Silkworth Sunday.

First National Bank observes its 42nd anniversary, Friday. St. Frances X. Cabrini Church

and Mount Olivet Cemetery were dedicated by the Bishop last Sunday.

Bloomington vegetable growers expect big yield of tomatoes.

A new American Legion Home will be erected shortly at Center Hill Road by the Daddow-Isaacs Post.

Shavertown Theatre showing "Blue Skies" in technicolor with Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Joan Caulfield.

You could buy - Rib roast 65c lb.; red plums 2 lbs. 29c; Hi Ho crackers 30c lb. pkg.; ice cream \$1 1/2 gal.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 22, 1958

New Acme Market set to open in September

Monroe Township becomes part of Tunkhannock School jointure. Back Mountain Library Board pays tribute to North Berti.

Acme's new market is scheduled to open during mid-September at Back Mountain Shopping Center.

Autopsy shows that Clifford Wilkes did not drown but met death by some other means in Alaska.

Little League gets new field on Church Road near Dallas Township School.

You could buy - Pork loin roast 58c lb.; white grapes 2 lbs. 29c; peanut butter 2 lg. jars 69c; tuna fish 32c 6 1/2 oz. can.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 22, 1968

Vandals smash 46 school windows

Burning refuse and debris after dark which has annoyed many Kingston Township residents may be solved shortly after officials study the new state ordinance.

Back Mountain police forces were on the alert this weekend for trouble overflowing into our vicinity with the threatened vengeance return of a New York motorcycle gang the "Vulcans" to Luzerne.

Politics is said to be back of the rumored Lake pollution.

Vandals smashed 46 window at the two Dallas Borough school buildings on Huntsville Rd.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Men's Club will sponsor a Country Style Chicken Barbecue on the grounds of Tony Broody, Aug. 27.

Area sends John Pickett on his way to Olympic trials.

You could buy - Cornish hens 49c lb.; egg plants 2 lbs. 29c; Swiss cheese 47c 8-oz. pkg.; coffee 79c lb. can.

10 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1978

Richard Morgan wins national rifle meet

Lehman turns down DER plan to do a study of the township for sewage facilities.

Richard Morgan of Dallas wins national rifle title.

Dallas Borough viewed a crack-down on drinkers when council directed the chief of police and mayor to study and adapt for local needs a Palmyra, N.Y. ordinance prohibiting the carrying of open alcohol containers in public places.

Dallas Schools open Aug. 9, Lake-Lehman to begin Sept. 5.

LCCC plans college night program and have sent letters to colleges all over the United States inviting them to participate and also to students in 29 high schools in Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties.

Slo-pitch softball tournament finals will be played Saturday at Noxen.

You could buy - Stewing beef \$1.59 lb.; frozen green beans 10-oz. pkgs. 89c; Calif. lettuce 3 hds. \$1; cranberry sauce 3 16-oz. cans 95c.

Only Yesterday is compiled by Charlot N. Denmon

Good planning is at the heart of great communities

BY HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Plan, Plan, Plan. The father of modern city planning in the United States, Daniel Burnham, once proclaimed "make no little plans". What he meant by this was the need for a vision or a dream, a goal, something which sparks the imagination, and provides the impetus of greatness.

Such is the need which exists today in the Back Mountain of Luzerne County. The recent community meetings sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus is indicative of the level of interest and concern which has arisen as a result of rapid growth in the Back Mountain. As the residential showcase of Luzerne County, the Back Mountain represents not only a lifestyle which has proven to be one desired by newcomers to Northeastern Pennsylvania, but one desirous of protections for those who have lived in this part of the County, all or most of their lives. In the absence of a well thought out, carefully crafted plan, and one in which words are followed by deeds, only chaos and sprawl will be the result. This has

been shown by the disruption which has occurred in recent months, over the most precious of resources, the quality and quantity of water. It is not the only indicator of the need for long-range, consistent, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning, but it represents the threshold case for strong and effective land use management.

Called by different names, the substance of activity should be the establishment of a planning process and product by which the Back Mountain can control its own destiny, rather than having destiny controlled by external decision-making.

In point of fact, the call for planning or what may be termed, development management strategies, to guide and direct and shape and chisel a 21st Century portrait is not new. It has been suggested and urged for many years, by such groups as the Luzerne County Planning Commission, the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and others who have encouraged the long-term view. No area-wide plan exists for the Back Mountain. In 1975, the Luzerne County Plan-

ning Commission prepared a county-wide plan which includes the division of the county into community planning areas including the Back Mountain. In that year, the EDCNP published a series of documents titled "Toward the Year 2000", which represented the establishment for the first time in the history of the region, a long-term land use policy strategy.

Across the United States, there are numerous examples of development management strategies, which have been enacted to control and shape, but not prevent development. The goal in the Back Mountain should be the creation of development strategies, along with the series of action tactics designed to shape and mold new growth in such a way as to be beneficial and meet the standards of planning, zoning and subdivision control, which are the tools by which planning becomes action.

Some of these examples include Boulder, Colorado; Petaluma, California; Montgomery and Bucks Counties, Pennsylvania; Lake Tahoe, and the Adirondack Mountains, as well as other places which have taken initiatives toward co-

operation and modern planning techniques.

Burnham's clarion call for a higher state of vision must be translated into the practical terms of Pennsylvania law, as well as the rationale of what is doable, not just what would be nice to do in the Back Mountain. What is doable has been proposed in the way of a planning development process. Through the establishment of a Back Mountain Task Force on the Future.

Now a call to arms has been further advanced as a result of the leadership taken by the Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus.

The momentum must continue and the attention of all citizens and officials in the Back Mountain must be riveted to the ways by which all local governments in the Back Mountain can join together to form a cooperative arrangement, under which the future can be brighter than the past, and the past can be the forerunner of the future.

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

The Post asks: How do you feel about returning to school?



<p>John Beachman</p> <p>John Beacham, 10 Student Dallas</p> <p>"I wish the summer months were as long as the winter months. I like gym and art, I hate getting up early in the morning and going to bed early at night. I also don't like carrying my books back and forth."</p>	<p>JoEllen Drapiewski</p> <p>JoEllen Drapiewski, 17 Student Dallas</p> <p>"I'm looking forward to going back and seeing my friends, but not necessarily to going back to school. I'm a cheerleader so I miss football and basketball games."</p>	<p>Nicky Morton</p> <p>Nicky Morton, 8 Student Harveys Lake</p> <p>"I hate it, I hate school. The only part I like is lunch, recess, science and gym."</p>	<p>Angie Morton</p> <p>Angie Morton, 11 Student Harveys Lake</p> <p>"I miss spelling class, recess and lunch. I miss my teachers and friends I don't get to see all summer. I don't miss science, math or doing homework."</p>	<p>Stacy Fitch</p> <p>Stacy Fitch, 17 Student Dallas</p> <p>"I'm kinda excited because it's my senior year and I'm looking forward to graduation and going to college where I'll be studying pre-med."</p>	<p>Kelly Kavanaugh</p> <p>Kelly Kavanaugh, 17 Student Dallas</p> <p>"The summer hasn't lasted long enough, but I'm looking forward to my senior year, it's gonna be a lot of fun, and I'm looking forward to a good college life where I'll be studying business."</p>
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