

# THE DALLAS POST

## EDITORIALS

### Merry Christmas

"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'"

These words from the gospel of Luke, verses 3, 10-3, 11, summarize the beginning of one of the greatest stories in human history. This Sunday Christians around the world will celebrate that birth once again, many by exchanging gifts with family and friends in a gathering of trust and hope.

While many people feel that the true spirit of Christmas has been overwhelmed by commercialism, we think the holiday is stronger than that. It would be hard for us to believe that a nearly 2,000 year old tradition could be trampled by some discount store ads.

We hope that in the rush and distraction of shopping and decorating, all who celebrate this special time will find room for reflection on the real meaning of the season. Whether or not one believes the Christmas story literally, it can give us all hope for a better life here on earth and beyond. Merry Christmas.

### Area's water problems need broad approach

If we needed a reminder that reliable, high-quality water supplies are not something to be taken for granted in the Back Mountain, it came last week with outages and boil advisories reported in two separate areas.

Last summer the excuse of a severe drought was available to explain the many shortages - no such situation exists now.

We don't know whether there is a fundamental problem with the aquifers that supply the region or if the companies responsible for delivering the water are not taking all the measures they should to insure consistent supply. In either case, a good argument can be made for more citizen and governmental input on the issue.

We think it's time for both a regional approach and more scrutiny of the suppliers and the supplies.

A regional outlook is needed because each new well and each act of contamination may affect the water supplies of residents both near to and far from the point of action. Aquifers don't restrict their flow to municipal boundaries, so our concerns shouldn't end there either.

The reasons for more scrutiny of the water companies and supplies are obvious. In only the past several months new wells have not come on line as promised, unreported outages have occurred and at least one new company has been formed. This is not only news of recent vintage. Readers of our "Only Yesterday" column know that water problems have been a part of life in the Back Mountain for 50 years or more.

It would be nice to think that the state Department of Environmental Resources, which is charged with seeing that our water is safe and plentiful, could be trusted to fulfill its mission. But the fact is that DER is insufficiently staffed to do its job; that's especially true in an area like ours that contains 30 water companies of various sizes.

It seems to us a better answer is a dose of citizen outrage and involvement. We urge anyone with complaints about their water to voice them - to their supplier, to the DER, and to the Back Mountain Regional Water Commission. That body, established just this year, considers one of its primary functions to be hearing and investigating complaints about inadequate or unsafe water supplies. We can help it to be effective by making sure that it is informed of problems.

Beyond individual actions, we would like to see our municipal governments begin to put some pressure on suppliers and builders in their communities to upgrade and protect water sources. It seems to us that is the kind of important action that local governments could do better than the state or federal levels have. And if these topics were discussed at township and borough meetings, citizens would have easier access to a forum to make their concerns known.



#### Friendly Greeting

You've probably already seen them, if not, these signs placed by the Dallas Borough are in the center of town and on the intersection of Rts. 309 and 415. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

### Opinion

#### Areawide plan could be great benefit to Back Mountain

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

The preparation and implementation of an area-wide comprehensive land use plan for the Back Mountain could protect the beauty and natural resources of the area, and help to direct appropriate development.

The plan should be prepared by a professional planning consultant, working in conjunction with the local planning commissions and governing bodies of the Back Mountain municipalities, along with the school boards and administrative officials of the two school districts. Through a cooperative council of governments, the plan could be paid for with contributions from each local government and school district, along with the possible availability of state planning assistance funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.

Information can be secured through original survey work along with data in the files of the Luzerne County Planning Commission, and

the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as well as the Luzerne County Conservation District, and a variety of other public and private sector organizations. The area-wide plan would contain not only data and research which could be updated periodically, but an analysis of conditions which affect and impact growth and development. Based upon this analysis, a series of recommendations would be made concerning various characteristics of the physical and human resources within the Back Mountain. Projections and forecasts would be made of population within the area which would create demand for community facilities such as schools and other infrastructure needs and community services.

The foundation is a comprehensive land use plan, which would project the types of land uses best suited for conditions both present and future in the Back Mountain. The land use plan would suggest areas suitable for residential, commercial, industrial, recreation and

open space, agricultural, and other types of land classifications.

An analysis would be done of the economy, public and private transportation, financial, community facilities, and a wide-range of other conditions which impact the future of the area.

The preparation of an area-wide plan is no panacea. But it represents an opportunity which needs to be promoted as quickly as possible, with the proper legal documents established, maintained, updated, and most importantly enforced, and with professional assistance.

Anyone who would like more information about the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code can write or call the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

### Library news

#### Michael Hoover's pin collection on display

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

Our display case in the foyer of the library will be featuring a collection of fancy pins borrowed from Michael Hoover of Trucksville. His grandfather started him on this collection when he gave him his first one. He then began collecting them himself when on trips and friends and relatives began giving him some. He now has a large amount of these pins; having loaned us 90 of them for the display with more still at home. Michael has been collecting pins for over three years. His favorite pin is one of Michael Jackson; one of the pins is a handmade cat; and his special Little League pin with his picture on it. There is a Hershey kiss, printed with "How about a kiss?"; The Statue of Liberty, 1886-1986; I'm beat - with a bear rug; I rode the Hiawatha (a river boat); and I Love Little League pin. One unique one is "Conserve energy - do everything as slowly as possible". One that is appropriate for the season, a Christmas tree with

"love is the gift". Michael is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Westmoreland School in the Dallas District. A special pin to him is, "I love Westmoreland School" with a picture of Garfield on it. These pins are very interesting and enjoyable to read and will be at the library until March 10.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library held its Christmas Dinner Dance at The Barn at Newberry last week and the entire evening was a real Christmas dream. The Barn was decorated in the festive greens, colored lights and red ribbons. The food was delicious; the tuxedos and dress suits along with red, green, white and black dresses worn by the ladies made everything just delightful. The antiques and new goods arranged for the auction by John Shaskas and Ernie Ashbridge made a lovely Christmas display. The table centerpieces and decorations were done so well by Hill and the music provided by the Starfires was delightful. All in all, a lovely way to

begin the Christmas season and create interest in Library Auction 1989.

A lovely book has been presented to the library in memory of Florence H. Koehl, a long-time member of the library and its book club; by Frances A. Linskill and the Library Book Club. It is The Kate Greenaway Treasury, which is an anthology of the illustrations and writings of Kate Greenaway published in 1967. This book is a biography of Kate Greenaway and an evaluation of her art, which makes this book a definitive study of the most beloved children's book illustrator of all time. A fitting memorial to a wonderful person, Florence H. Koehl.

The staff of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, Bill, Nancy, Marilyn, Charlotte, Jane, Patti, Will and Pat wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas filled with love, hope and peace!

### Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - Dec. 23, 1938

#### Relief cheaters take \$308,000

Latest clues spur search for slayer in Martin murder.

Luzerne County relief chiselers charged with accepting \$308,000.

Mrs. Frank G. Darte, first woman to serve as trustee of Wyoming Seminary.

Dallas School Board approves plans to sink well for the Borough school.

Patrons can help letter carriers by clearing snow.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 24, 1948

#### Fernbrook mill is best in the nation

Fernbrook plant of Bloomsburg Mills finest of its kind in United States.

Natona Mills has Christmas party, distributes bonuses to every employee.

Dallas Girl Scouts decorate community Christmas tree.

Wed - Lore Ilse Neff and Eugene L. Traver; Mary Lou Race and Douglas Robins.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 24, 1958

#### Mrs. Huston elected to head book club

Natona Mills has Christmas Party at Irem Temple Country Club.

George Dombek is head coach for the first wrestling program at Westmoreland.

Mrs. J.B. Huston, Sr., is elected president of the Back Mountain Memorial Book Club.

Members of the estate of late Atty. Arthur Turner may share in Christmas windfall totaling \$254,600.

Wed - Mrs. Sarah Meeker and Arthur Cook.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 23, 1968

#### Anthony Marchakitus receives Gulick award

King's College students invade College Misericordia with 16 of them captured by Dallas Township police. None were identified as local youth but from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Lake-Lehman High School Principal Anthony Marchakitus was

presented with Andy Gulick Memorial Sportsmanship Award at the annual banquet of the Football Officials Association of N.E. Pennsylvania.

David Dobson helped United State Marine Reserves collect Toys for Tots and the drive went over the top.

Bogdon's equestrian center construction bogged down by mud.

10 Years Ago - Dec. 27, 1978

#### Mayor Davies to veto occupational tax

Dallas Borough Mayor James Davies will veto the borough's proposed \$10 occupational tax.

Back Mountain municipalities will get \$14,000 in fines from those collected by State Police.

Anti-nuclear group seeks help from the Consumer Advocate Office to intervene in the hearings to be held on the PP&L nuclear plant to be built at Berwick.

Dallas Borough's budget for next year calls for \$7000 less than last year and maintains the property tax unchanged at nine mills.

Dallas Elementary students aid SPCA by presenting a collection of food for the dogs and cats to Mrs. Laura Gross.

Knights down Wyalusing 78-65, Meyers edges Mounts 77-76.

#### The Dallas Post

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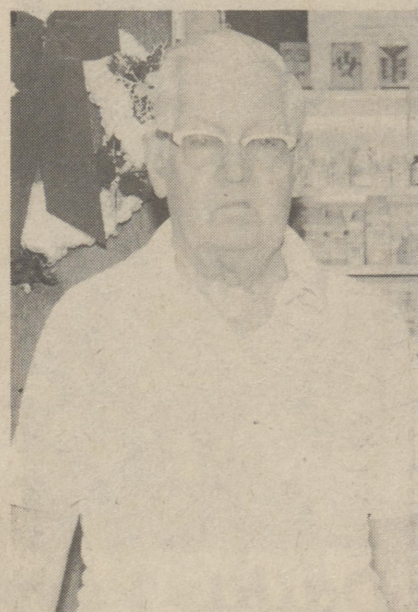
## The Post asks: "Where will your family celebrate Christmas?"



**Kathryn Strosnider**  
Secretary  
Dallas  
"We're going to Delaware to have Christmas with our twin grandsons."



**Bill Baker**  
Retired  
Dallas  
"My wife and I will celebrate at home with the family."



**Robert Wilson**  
Pharmacist  
Dallas  
"I'm going out to dinner with my family."



**Mary Weir**  
Office worker  
Dallas  
"Our entire family will be at our home for the holiday."



**Gerald Stinson**  
Athletic Director  
Dallas High School  
"I will celebrate Christmas at home with my grandchildren."



**Nancy Miller**  
Secretary  
Dallas  
"We go to my mother-in-law's for lunch then to my mother's for dinner and her birthday."