

# ...the community's news for 100 years

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

In a year when there were no radios, television or automobiles, A.A. Holbrook resigned his position with the Wilkes-Barre Times to publish the first Back Mountain newspaper, The Dallas Post.

It was early in 1889 when Holbrook opened his publishing business in a small one-room building in Dallas, and as a publisher-editor, printed and hand delivered his two page broadsheet newspaper.

There is very little published by local historians about the newspaper, but it is known that Holbrook continued to publish The Dallas Post until 1895 when W.H. Capwell, editor of the Tribune in Nanticoke and Plymouth, succeeded Holbrook. Capwell printed The Dallas Post in a small building at the corner of Huntsville Road and Norton Avenue in Dallas. In 1900, he added an additional room underneath the building by constructing a high stone foundation.

In the early 1900's, Harry Anderson of Dallas became publisher and editor of The Dallas Post and for a period of time, The Post was located in the building on Main Street now occupied by Dallas Centre Hardware. It was then moved to a site on Lehman Avenue where it continued in operation until September, 1975, when it moved back to the previous location in Dallas.

There were several changes in management in the early 1920's, the better known individuals being Robert Fine and Harry Anderson. In January, 1930, the paper changed ownership with officers of The Dallas Post listed as L.A. McHenry, president; G. Harold Wagner, secretary; and Howard Risley, treasurer and managing editor. During that same month, the day of publication was changed from Saturday to Friday. In the latter part of 1930, Howard Risley and his wife, Myra, assumed sole

ownership of The Dallas Post. Risley gathered a knowledgeable and hardworking staff to assist him in the operation of the paper. Among them was Howell Reese, who later left to accept a position abroad. A small newspaper with a circulation of approximately 500 subscribers at the time he purchased it, The Dallas Post increased both in size and in circulation under Risley.

Until Risley assumed ownership, the newspaper had contained little local news. Risley described himself as a true "Country Editor" and before long had developed The Dallas Post into a weekly publication full of local news, human interest features and weekly editorials on local issues of the times.

He and his staff played an important role in the success of The Dallas Post, which Risley described as "More Than A Newspaper - A Community Institution." Under his direction, the paper played an active, important role in the progress and development of the Back Mountain area. Through the newspaper, Risley took the lead in such community issues as drunken driving, juvenile delinquency, Back Mountain police mergers, consolidation of schools and, through his editorials, spoke out on political issues. In 1953, he published a 64-page special edition of The Dallas Post, paying tribute to the local region.

It was Howard Risley who convinced the well-known Mrs. T.M.B. Hicks to join the staff of The Dallas Post. "Hix", as she became known to the residents of the Back Mountain, was an outstanding journalist and in 1963 she was awarded the coveted Pennsylvania Newspaper Women's Association's "Golden Quill" journalist award, for her editorial on the assassination of the late president John F. Kennedy.

Risley spearheaded the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction and each year at auction time donated the use of his barn and The Dallas Post facilities on

Lehman Avenue for the auction.

During World War II, The Dallas Post printed numerous stories about servicemen and sent 1,000 free copies to individuals in the service in all parts of the world. The Post also published an accumulative casualty list of those in the service from all areas of the Back Mountain. Again, during the Korean conflict, The Post was sent free to those overseas.

Howard and Myra Risley published The Dallas Post until Howard Risley's sudden death on Dec. 26, 1962. His wife, Myra, continued as publisher and editor, assisted by such persons as "Hix", Doris Mallin, Leighton Scott, Mrs. Fred Anderson and Robert Bachman. In 1967, under her direction a special edition of The Dallas Post containing historical information, and news stories and photos of the progress in the Back Mountain was published.

Prior to his death, Risley remodeled the building on Lehman Avenue, adding a large production room on the rear of the building, purchasing new equipment and installing a large press in the lower level where the paper was printed, folded, bundled and sent to the Post Office for mailing to subscribers.

In late 1967 or early 1968, Myra Risley completed the sale of the paper to Henry Null IV of Clarks Summit, who also owned the Abington Journal. Null named the publishing company Northeastern Publications and hired J.R. Freeman as managing editor of The Dallas Post. Null continued to publish The Dallas Post and the Abington Journal until January, 1971, when he sold both papers to the former Governor of Pennsylvania, William W. Scranton, and his family. The former governor named his son, William W. Scranton III, as president of the publications. William Scranton III worked with the Northeastern Publications under Null's ownership for about a year prior to that time, then left to tour Europe.

When he returned and the Scranton family purchased the papers from Null, they also purchased the former Mountainview in Mountaintop and renamed the publication the Mountaintop Eagle. William Scranton III changed the name of the corporation to Greenstreet News and remained as president, publisher and editor-in-chief of the three newspapers until January, 1973, when he announced he was leaving the publishing business to travel abroad to study transcendental meditation.

Following Scranton's departure, The Dallas Post, the Abington Journal and the Mountaintop Eagle continued to publish, first under Edward Bush, president and general manager; J.R. Freeman, editor-in-chief; and Doris Mallin, secretary-treasurer and editor of The Dallas Post. Later, Jay Sasall was named president and Bruce McCarthy was hired by Sasall as general manager; J.R. Freeman was editor-in-chief and Doris R. Mallin, secretary and editor.

The papers continued in publication until December, 1974, when employees were notified that, effective Dec. 24, Greenstreet News had suspended publication. Immediately thereafter, William W. Scranton announced his decision to close the newspapers due to internal problems, and place them on the market.

They were advertised for sale through Editor & Publisher magazine, and in January, 1975, Ray Carlsen, an Ohio newspaper publisher, and a former public relations director for Proctor & Gamble, purchased the Greenstreet newspapers and renamed the publications Pennaprint, Inc.

Carlsen, owner of five newspapers in Ohio, was familiar with the local area, having been among the first management personnel at Proctor & Gamble's Charmin plant at Meshoppen and he wanted to return to this area. He and his wife, Blaze, and their three children made their residence at Har-

veys Lake and became active members of the Back Mountain community.

While owner of the three papers, The Dallas Post, Abington Journal and Mountaintop Eagle, Carlsen began publication of a new paper, the Press-Tribune, in the White Haven area. He also purchased the Carbondale Miner and Mid-Valley Gazette, weekly papers in the Carbondale area of Lackawanna County.

Carlsen published his first editions of The Dallas Post, Abington Journal and Mountaintop Eagle on January 30, 1975, in the building on Lehman Avenue. In September, 1975, he moved the home of The Post to 44 Main St., Dallas, in the building now occupied by Dallas Centre Hardware.

During that time, Carlsen rehired a number of the employees who had formerly been employed by Greenstreet News, among them Eleanor Rende, Olga Kostrobala, Virginia Hoover, Beatrice LaBar, Barbara Evans and Charlot Denmon. Two of these employees remain with The Dallas Post at the present time.

In 1979, Carlsen formed a partnership with Paul Eyerly, owner of the Bloomsburg Press and Berwick Enterprise-now known as the Press-Enterprise-and printing of the newspapers was transferred from a company in Towanda to the Press-Enterprise in Bloomsburg. In September, 1980, Carlsen accepted a position as executive director of the Virginia Press Association with offices in Richmond and sold his interest in Pennaprint to Press-Enterprise, Inc.

In early 1981, under the management of Rick Shannon, Pennaprint Inc. moved its headquarters to the present Jean Shop building on Gerald Avenue, Dallas, owned by Michael Kozick. In 1985, under the management of Charles Trettel, The Post moved to its present location in the Route 309-415 Plaza, Memorial Highway, Dallas. Shortly after the Press-Enterprise assumed ownership of

Pennaprint, Inc., the Carbondale Miner and the Mid-Valley Gazette were sold to the owner of the Carbondale News and later, the publication of the Press-Tribune was discontinued. In 1986, the Mountaintop Eagle was sold to its former editor, Stephanie Grubert of Mountaintop.

Until late March, 1987, The Dallas Post was managed by J. Stephen Buckley of Press-Enterprise as publisher, Doty Martin, executive editor, and David F. Conner, general manager. From that date The Dallas Post continued to be published by Press-Enterprise, Pennaprint, Inc.

Under Ms. Martin The Dallas Post continued to dedicate its efforts to the slogan coined by the late Howard Risley - "More Than A Newspaper-A Community Institution" placing priority on news features and issues relative to the Back Mountain Community.

In November of 1987, Ms. Martin left The Dallas Post to launch her own newspaper, the West Side Weekly.

Most recently, in May, 1988, The Dallas Post and Abington Journal were purchased by Ronald and Charlotte Bartizek of Kingston. Ronald Bartizek had been advertising director of The Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre for five years, and Charlotte had been an account executive with radio stations.

Prior to assuming his position at The Times Leader, Ronald Bartizek had been assistant publisher of The Lakeville Journal, Inc., a publisher of weekly newspapers and commercial printing company in Connecticut. Both he and Charlotte had several years experience at daily and weekly newspapers in New England.

The Bartizeks have begun to turn The Post back toward being the community institution that it once was, and plan to have it share in the Back Mountain's future.

## Jablowski in 'Outstanding Young Men of America' list

John J. Jablowski, Jr., Congressional Assistant to Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA) has been named to the listing of "Outstanding Young Men of America" for the 1988-89 period.

"This is a great honor for John, and indicates that his records of academic excellence and public service is recognized as among the finest in the nation," Congressman Kanjorski said. "I think we can all be proud that he is making a contribution to our area through his volunteer work as well as in the fine job he does each day in our office for the people for the 11th Congressional District."

Since 1962, the Outstanding Young Americans program has named young men and women to receive national recognition of service to their professions and community. The "Outstanding Young Men of America" program recognizes the achievements of young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-seven.

Jablowski is a graduate of St. Leo's School of Ashley, Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre and the Pennsylvania State University, with a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Political Science and a minor in Pennsylvania Studies. In addition to his work with Congressman Kanjorski, he is enrolled in the Master's Degree program at the University of Scranton.

A recipient of the Mabel A. Alexander Scholarship in the Liberal Arts College of Penn State, Jablowski has served at two-term President of the Penn State College Democrats and as Co-Director of the Student Government's Political Affairs Department. While at Penn State/Wilkes-Barre campus, he received the highest student award, the Eric A. and Josephine Walker Award which recognizes students who demonstrate the qualities of "Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Citizenship."

Prior to joining Congressman Kanjorski's staff, Jablowski served as the Legislative Assistant and District Director to Rep. David Wright (D-63), Chairman of the Majority Policy Committee in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Jablowski serves as Management Vice-President of the Back Mountain Jaycees, is an active member of the Hanover Township



EXTENDING CONGRATS- Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (right) congratulates his assistant, John Jablowski (left) for the special recognition.

Volunteer Fire Company and the Luzerne County Young Democrats. He is the son of John J. and Florence A. Jablowski of Hanover Township.

"John's parents, friends, neigh-

bors and co-workers are all very happy that his hard work and dedication to others has been recognized. We are very proud of his accomplishments," Congressman Kanjorski said.

## Girl Scout Troop 636 holds rededication ceremony

Girl Scout Troop 636 of the Back Mountain held their rededication and investiture ceremony in December. The troop members put on a show for their parents and served cookies and coffee.

The new members welcomed are:

Melissa Elliott, Tracy Jones, Melissa Petrikonis, Brianne Rhodes, April Decker, Maureen Burgerhoff, and Melissa Prokopchak. Badges earned are: Tending Toddlers-Jennifer Parish; Looking Your Best-Cary Mazzoni; Julie Hass, Jada Kozick, and Sara

Rhodes. Computer Fun, communications. Arts and the Sign of the rainbow were earned by Sara Rhodes and Horse Lover-Tracy Jones.

Patrol leaders installed are Wendi Powell, Jada Kozick, and

Julie Haas.

Since September the girls have enjoyed a visit to a riding stable and a trip to the Wyoming Valley Historical Society in Wilkes-Barre. They have also collected paper products for the needy and have enjoyed a successful candy sale.



## Back Mountain Kiwanis work at soup kitchen

Members of the Back Mountain Kiwanis Club recently acted as "Sponsors of the Day" at St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre. Shown in photo are, from left, Clem Norman, 2nd Vice-President, presenting check for \$100 to Joseph Evonsky, chef; and Ron Mosca, President. The members who served the noon meal were: John Tasco, Past President; John Rogers, Secretary; Bob Cartier, Past President and Rita Welebob, 1st Vice-President; Fedor Welebob, Builders' Club member; Paul Menapace, member; and Clem Norman, 2nd Vice-President.

### Beverly Ide's Beauty Salon

Huntsville - Idetown Rd.

Announces

"New Business Hours for 1989"

Tuesday - Friday 8 to 5 • Saturday 8 to 12

Tues. & Thurs. Evenings By Appt.

Phone 639-5918

"Your Family Hair Care Center"

## SECOND SEMESTER REGISTRATION

WILKES-BARRE AREA  
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

### COURSE OFFERINGS

72-Hour Courses, \$95 Except Welding, \$100

Air Conditioning & Refrig. (Basic)	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Air Conditioning & Refrig. (Advanced)	M. & W. 7 to 10 P.M.
Auto Body Repair I & II	M. & W., T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Auto Mechanics	M. & W. 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.
Basic Programming on a Micro Processor	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Carpentry and Cabinet Making	T. & Th. 6 to 9 P.M.
Computer Service Technology	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Drafting/Computer Aided Drafting	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Electrical Occupations (Basic)	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Electronic Technology	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Introduction to Data Processing	M. & W. 7 to 10 P.M.
Machine Shop	M. & W. 7 to 10 P.M.
Masonry	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Residential Construction	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Small Engine Repair	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.
Welding	T. & Th. 7 to 10 P.M.

NOTE: Non-Residents Will Be Required To Pay An Additional \$10 Fee Added To Total Course Cost.

### REGISTER BY MAIL

Send your check or money order payable to W.B.-AVTS for entire course fee to W.B.-AVTS, P.O. Box 1699, No. End Station, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

CLASSES BEGIN ON JANUARY 17, 1989

### REGISTRATION

JANUARY 11 & 12, 1989  
8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M./7:00-10:00 P.M.

W.B.-AVTS  
Jumper Rd., Plains Township  
For Further Info Call 822-4131

NOTE: Classes will be filled on a first-come basis. Individuals residing in Wilkes-Barre AVTS supporting Districts will be given first preference. A minimum of 15 students is needed to run any program and courses will be dropped or added depending upon availability of instructors. For additional information: Call 822-4131. Adult Edu. Office Non-residence students will be assessed an additional \$10.00 fee.

The Wilkes-Barre Area Vocational Technical School extends equal opportunities to all individuals without discrimination because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin or handicap.  
Frank Bielenda, Title IX and 504 coordinator: 822-4131

## WOOLRICH SALE

50% OFF

- Ski Jackets
- Mt. Parkas
- Tioga
- Lady Woolrich

OPEN DAILY 'TIL 5 P.M.  
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 8 p.m.

## ADAM'S CLOTHES

Back Mountain Shopping Center  
Shavertown, PA

696-1130