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SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS

# THE DALLAS POST

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35 Cents

## Fire chiefs support CommCenter policy

In response to the recent controversy over service from the Back Mountain Communications Center, all nine chiefs of fire departments that belong to the center have released a statement in favor of the center's policy of serving only paying members.

The policy became an issue after an incident March 7 at Harveys Lake. In that case, Judy Davis of Harveys Lake was trapped in her car after it ran off the road and plunged into the lake. When the Harveys Lake fire department attempted to call for assistance on the radio, its calls were ignored because the department is not a member of the CommCenter. Non-

members must call the center only on the telephone, since the expense of new radio equipment was the reason paying memberships were instituted.

Jack Dodson, spokesperson for the group of fire chiefs, said Monday that the CommCenter is necessary if area firefighters are to provide the best possible service to residents. "When one person can answer the phone and dispatch eight fire companies, it's a big asset to the people we serve," Dodson said.

In addition to the nine fire companies that belong to the Back Mountain center, Dodson said three other area departments -

### COMPLETE TEXT OF THE CHIEFS' STATEMENT ON PAGE 3

Northmoreland, Noxen and Mount Zion - belong to the Wyoming County Communications Center. Only the Harveys Lake and Franklin Township fire companies belong to neither.

Dodson explained that the fire phone system formerly in use here had been adequate in its time, but he thinks it is now obsolete. He also said that when the 911 emergency system arrives, all departments will have to be centrally dispatched.

Harveys Lake fire chief John Martinson has said in the past that the expense of changing over to the CommCenter system was one factor in his department's decision not to join when it was formed two years ago. He also stated last week that he and his members are satisfied with their present fire phone system.

Dodson acknowledged Monday that there could be costs above the \$1,500 annual membership, such as replacement of paging equipment. But he said most equipment must be replaced every few years, anyway.

## Franklin Twp. chief: "There is no price on life"

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

According to Franklin Township fire chief Robert Appleby, the discussion about the Back Mountain Communication Center's policy of serving only paying members has missed the point.

"How do you put a price on a person's life?" Appleby asked rhetorically Monday night. "There is no price."

Appleby says he and other

non-member departments understand and have no quarrel with the center's policy as it relates to dispatching their own equipment. "We are not asking the Comm Center to dispatch our fire trucks or ambulances," he said. "We know we don't pay for that and we don't deserve service."

But Appleby says there is a difference between asking for dispatch of his own equipment

See LIFE, pg 3



## Howard Risley - man of conviction and compassion

Published The Dallas Post for 32 years



DALLAS POST HOME-The original Dallas Post home on Lehman Avenue was built by Howard Risley years before his death in 1962. The building was attractively designed by Risley for the comfort of

his employees and the readers who visited the business. Later a large room was added to the back for the transition to offset printing. (James Kozemchak, Sr. Photo)

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

In this, the 100th Anniversary Year of The Dallas Post, we can think of no finer individual to pay tribute to than the late Howard Risley, owner, publisher and editor of the newspaper for 32 years.

Risley has been referred to by many since his death in December, 1962, as the typical 'country newspaper' editor. Since we have been unable to find anyone who can give us a true definition of a typical country newspaper editor, we have taken it upon ourselves to portray our own image of Howard Risley, an image formed from the descriptions given by many of those persons who knew and worked with him over the years.

Howard Risley was a gentleman of compassion and consideration for his fellow man. He loved the Back Mountain and became actively involved in all projects that would make the area bigger and better. Some say he was a man born before his time, who believed in getting things done and getting them done right.

The generous cooperation of those who knew Howard Risley well has helped us in "getting to know him" now that he is no longer on this earth.

Pauline Shaver Roth, co-owner of Roth's Jewelry Store in Dallas never worked for The Dallas Post, but knew Risley as a resident of the Dallas area.

"He was a dedicated community-minded man," Pauline said. "He was among those who initiated the library auction; he gave them full use of his property and encouraged all of his employees to assist the volunteers."

When he first purchased the paper he published a genuine country issue with the gossipy local type news about people which readers in a small town enjoyed. He also gave a lot of publicity to school sports and was always willing to aid young people," Pauline concluded.

Robert Bachman of Dallas was employed by Howard Risley for many years. He remembers Risley as a community-minded man.

"Perhaps he is best remembered by many people for riding around in his red Ford Convertible with his pet monkey on his shoulder."

Robert Bachman  
Long-time Post employee

Risley was extremely intelligent and very well educated, and a man with a great interest in the printed word. He believed in causes, and when he believed his idea was right he had the courage of his convictions and used the paper to let his readers know his stand on an issue.

Risley and his wife, Myra, did many things to help families less fortunate than they were. Many an underprivileged family never knew where a box of food, a bag of clothes, or an envelope of money came from just when they might need it most.

"He was a trail blazer," Bachman said, "He ran a good newspaper, he had the courage of his convictions and wrote controversial editorials regardless of whether readers would like it or not."

Bachman said Risley hired only local people and was instrumental in completing a lot of community projects, one of which was helping to get the library auction off the ground. Through his influence, Risley succeeded in getting Bachman interested in working with the library auction.

See RISLEY, pg 10

## Last chance to register to vote in primaries April 17

### Polling places listed

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Back Mountain residents, who are not registered but desire to vote in the May 16 primaries may still do so until April 17, at the Luzerne County Courthouse Annex on River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

Persons who are unable to go to the courthouse register may obtain registration forms from Dallas Township tax collector Leonard 'Pooch' Kozick; Dallas Borough tax collector Thomas Reese, Main Street, Dallas; Sen. Charles Lemmond's office, Kingston or

Representative Scott Dieterick's office, Kingston. After filling in the necessary information they should be mailed to the registration office whose address is on the form.

Those offices up for grabs in this year's primary include those seeking nomination to the county row offices (excluding county commissioners), as well as offices of tax collector, mayor, council members, supervisors, auditor, judge of election and school director.

Kingston Township residents do not vote for tax collector since they have Home Rule government and the taxpayer is appointed. There are three voting places in the township, southwest district, Trucksville Fire Hall in the township municipal building, Carverton Road for residents of that area;

northwest district, Shavertown Fire Hall, North Main Street, Shavertown, for residents of the Shavertown area; and northeast district, Carverton United Methodist Church, Carverton for residents in that area of the township.

Dallas Borough is governed by the mayor and council. In the borough there are two voting places, south district, inside the Back Mountain Memorial Library, Huntsville Road; and north district, in the council rooms of the Dallas Borough Municipal Building, Main Street, Dallas.

Harveys Lake Borough, also governed by a mayor and council, has only one voting place, the Harveys Lake Municipal Building.

See VOTE, pg 2

## Harveys Lake walk helps fight MS

Back Mountain residents will have a chance to get some exercise while raising money to help fight a disabling disease Sunday. The "Super Cities Walk Against Multiple Sclerosis", one of 20 to be held nationwide, will take walkers on a 15 mile hike around Harveys Lake.

The walk, which already has about 500 participants signed up, will start at College Misericordia. Registration will be held in the parking lot near the tennis courts starting at 8:00 a.m. according to Beverly Vespico, spokesperson for the local Multiple Sclerosis Society chapter. Walkers can register until 10 a.m. and start out as soon as they've signed up.

Ms. Vespico said the walk should take from five to six hours. At the midway point at Sandy Beach, there will be a beach party and lunch, and both the Dallas and

Lake-Lehman cheerleaders will be located along the route to encourage the walkers on.

The society hopes the event will raise \$50,000 to be used in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis, a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system, brain and optic nerves. There is no known cause or cure for the disease, and the walk is expected to raise funds for research and to provide services to local persons affected by it.

Walkers will raise money by finding a sponsor to pledge \$1.00 for each mile walked. In addition to local participants, residents of Wilkes-Barre and Scranton will arrive by bus to take part. For more information about the event, call the Multiple Sclerosis Society office at 824-7411.

## Robert Parrish is new full-time patrolman in Kingston Twp.

Robert Parrish of Dallas has been named to a full-time patrolman's position in the Kingston Township police department. He was appointed by a unanimous vote of the township's Board of Supervisors at a special meeting last Wednesday.

Parrish has been on the force as a part-time patrolman for the past

nine years. The full-time job opened up when Patrolman John Curham resigned to take a spot on the Wilkes-Barre police department. Curham had been on the township force for 18 months.

Parrish and his wife, Debra, and their two children Jennifer and Jeffrey, live on Parrish Street.

## Inside The Post

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## Coming up:

- BACK MOUNTAIN WATER COMMISSION - Thurs., Apr. 6, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.
- DALLAS SCHOOL BOARD - Mon., Apr. 10, 8 PM, Administration Bldg., Church St., Dallas
- JACKSON TWP. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Mon., Apr. 10, 7 PM, Jackson Twp. Fire Hall
- KINGSTON TWP. SUPERVISORS - Wed., Apr. 12, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.
- KINGSTON TWP. PLANNING COMMISSION - Tues., Apr. 11, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.
- LAKE TWP. SUPERVISORS - Sat., Apr. 8, 9 AM, Lake Twp. Municipal Bldg.
- LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD - Tues., Apr. 11, 8 PM.
- LEHMAN TWP. SUPERVISORS - Mon., Apr. 10, 8 PM, Lehman Twp. Municipal Bldg.