

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Let's keep the Back Mountain beautiful every day of the year

Saturday is "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Day" and there are plenty of places in the Back Mountain to start fulfilling the promise of that title.

Luzerne County may hold the unhappy distinction of being the dirtiest county in a dirty state; unfortunately, our part of it is little better than the rest. Look around as you drive our roads. It doesn't matter if you are on Route 309 in Dallas Borough, or a farm road, there is litter everywhere you look.

We've heard many reasons for the problem, from teenage drinking (if you are underage, you want to get rid of the evidence as quickly as possible, so you toss the bottles out the window), to the lack of a bottle bill. We would guess those explanations are satisfactory for part of the problem, but, as a friend of ours was fond of saying, there are many reasons but no excuses.

The simple fact is, not enough of us care enough to make a change. And, given the lack of political leadership in this county, we will need to care a lot. Some people do. Harveys Lake is having its fifth annual cleanup and recycling day this Saturday, and they expect a big turnout to help pick up the accumulated trash around the lake. Other Back Mountain municipalities have their cleanup days scheduled between now and the end of May, though most of them are designed more to help homeowners dispose of unwanted items than to clean up the streets and fields.

Not that traditional spring collections don't help, they do. Surely, if the townships and boroughs didn't take away this material, some of it would be dumped by a country road somewhere.

Whether we like it or not, the appearance of our roadsides is an indictment of ourselves. How many of us take the time to pick up litter that ends up on our own property? How many go one step further and pick it up when it's not on our own land? Not enough. When was the last time you picked up and disposed of a random piece of trash in the parking lot of a shopping center? If we don't show this kind of concern for our environment, how do we expect our children to learn that keeping our habitation clean is important?

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Day is a wonderful idea. Let's go it one better, and make every day one in which we show our concern for our environment - and ourselves - by picking up just one piece of trash and disposing of it properly. If we all did that, it wouldn't be long before we lived in a showplace instead of a pigpen.

Wetland areas deserve our attention

As Charlot Denmon's story this week explains, we have often in the past underestimated the importance of wetland areas. Many of us are just now coming to understand that the swamps of our youth are a key link in the ecological chain.

Wetlands' appearance often give no obvious clue to their value. Until we know what a tremendous - and irreplaceable - resource they are, we won't see their worth. But if we take the time to study them more closely, we see wetlands teeming with life as they protect us from disaster.

In addition to supporting hundreds of life forms - many of which are found nowhere else - wetland areas provide natural flood control and stability in the water supply. When they are removed, we must replace them with costly and inefficient structures of concrete and steel. Unfortunately, we have never been able to build replacements that offer equal protection against flood or drought.

Next week, we'll report on how wetlands have come into play here in the Back Mountain. Until recently, many of these areas have simply been filled and covered over out of ignorance. With a new awareness of their value, wetlands now affect many aspects of our region's development.



Father, son...and duck?

This father-son fishing team was out early Saturday morning staking out their fishing spot on the western end of Harveys Lake. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

Winners of Library Week poetry contest announced

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has announced the winners in the poetry competition held at the library in celebration of National Library Week. There were 162 entries in the grades 1-3 category and ribbons were presented to: First place, "The Shuttle" by Stephen Stolarick; Second place, "My Brothers" by Bobby Baird; Third place, "Thunderstorm" by Teresa Belles; and Honorable Mention to Todd Butcher for "Fish"; Aaron Martin for "Bees"; and Danny Weller for "Spring". Grades 4-6 had 110 entries with winners to: First, "Spring, Summer, Winter & Fall" by Jolynda Brown; Second, "Ill Phil" by Heather Gryzic; and Third, "The Coming of Spring" by Alisa Merolli. Grades 7-9 with 27 entries and winners: First, "In the Fall of Winter" by John Gilgallon; Second, "Yom Kippur Service" by Kristen Gurdin; and Third, "The Cosmos" by Tara Neyhard. Grades 10-12, 4 entries with winners: First, "The Road to Victory" by Peter Nulton; Second, "Death of Another" by Jennie James and Third, "Like the Flowers" by Christian Swier. Adult category with 16 entries; First, "Aspasia" by P.J. Roberts; Second, "The Acrobats" by Mary Ellen Nulton and Third, "Night Rain" by Jane Lasecki. The winning poems are displayed on the bulletin board in the library with their respective ribbons attached, and will be here during April. All

entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Thanks to the entrants, congratulations to the winners.

The members of the staff at the library are a little sweeter and definitely a little heavier after National Library Week. Library patron, Jane Hacking, stopped in for her books and brought brownies and jelly cakes for us stating that she appreciates all we do for her and wanted to show it. Theresa Graham came in later and brought some apple buns in and her comment was, 'Be kind to the library staff; they're kind to you.' We certainly appreciate their kindness and National Library Week was a great time to be rewarded!

An interesting bit of information: The Borough of Dallas will be 110 years old on April 21. The Back Mountain Library is proud to be a part of that borough.

The library has received a copy of "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie. This book is No. 1 on the New York Times best seller list for a few weeks. This controversial book has received much publicity and the first patron from our library who read it reported back to us that it is not a great book, it is boring, hard to read, could not understand, and she didn't finish it. The information on the book jacket states it is a great wheel of a book, where the past and the future chase each other furiously with bewitching astonishing stories.

Road repairs scheduled this week

Matthew R. Collura, Luzerne County Maintenance Manager, has announced the following work schedule for Department forces for the week of April 17, 1989:

Bridge Cleaning - Various locations throughout Luzerne County.
Brush Cutting - Lake Street and White Deer Road in Dallas Twp.;

SR 4011 in Fairmount Twp.

Ditch Cleaning - Manor Drive in Kingston Twp.

Drainage Repair - TR 115 in Bear Creek Twp.

Pothole Patching - Bunker Hill in Kingston Twp. and Luzerne Boro.;

Lake Street in Dallas Twp.;

SR 4019 and SR 4021 in Ross Twp.

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - April 21, 1939 EVANS FALLS CHURCH TO BE DEDICATED

Evans Falls Methodist Episcopal Church will be dedicated Sunday, April 23, at 3 p.m.

Dallas consumers await PUC's view of area's water shortage.

Ethel Wallo named May Queen at Lehman High School.

Wed - Mildred Isaacs and Philip Cheney; Kathryn Banta and John Bevan.

Deaths - Asa P. Shaver, Trucksville; Viola Baer, Dallas.

Mr. and Mrs. Giles Wilson, East Dallas, hosted the Dallas Twp. basketball champions at a chicken dinner at their home.

40 Years Ago - April 22, 1949 DAVID KUNKLE MAKES EAGLE SCOUT

David Kunkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warden Kunkle, is named Eagle Scout.

Lehman plans Fifth Annual Horse Show for July 4.

Library Club voted to buy one book each year in honor of most outstanding citizen in the Back Mountain.

Wed - Jean Monk and Tex Wilson.

Engaged - Ruth Louise Yeust and Roy Summers.

Anniversary - Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lord, Sweet Valley, 66 years.

30 Years - April 16, 1959 JEAN FLEMING WILL MARCH IN WASHINGTON

Civil Defense air alert test due Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Ted Raub of WDAU-TV will be emcee of the Dallas Township P.T.A. amateur night Friday, May 8.

Sixth grade student Jean Fleming is picked to march in the Patrol Parade in Washington, D.C., May 9, with 30,000 safety patrolers from every state in the Union.

Police Association of the Back Mountain holds its first annual dinner.

Wed - Sally Ann Ide and Richard H. Paterson.

Engaged - Nancy Boston and John White.

Bob Eggleston, Vernon, was named athlete of the week over the Scranton Times radio station WEJL, for his outstanding performance in volleyball.

20 Years Ago - April 19, 1969 BUTLER AND BUCKLEY PLAN LIBRARY AUCTION

Kingston Township residents fired a series of complaints at the Kingston Township supervisors last week over sewage and water problems.

Chairmen of this year's library auction, Charles Butler and Edward Buckley, have made plans for the kickoff dinner, May 7, at the Irem Temple Country Club.

Spring fire burns 25 acres in Jackson Township, destroying tires, shacks, pigeons, apple trees, chicken coops and a trailer.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ray, Sweet Valley, 25 years.

Wed - Rita Nafus and Sp. 5 Richard E. McCuen.

Engaged - Janice Eileen Hanna and Sp. 5 Donald E. Curtis; Susan Frances Cheney and Dr. David Michael O'Byrne.

N.J. Molski, supervisor of Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Division reported that 1473 beaver pelts have been taken during the 1969 trapping season in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

10 Years Ago - April 19, 1979 MRS. GRAINGER ON OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM

Mrs. R.N. Garinger, Harveys Lake, is in Europe on a 14-game 19-day Olympic qualifying Tour of Europe with the U.S. field hockey team.

Dallas resident Paul Donlin raps borough zoning variance.

Lake-Lehman School Board moves ahead on new school at Harveys Lake.

Ignatius Hozempa runs for reelection to Lehman Township Board.

Married - Janet Johnson and Daniel MacAvoy.

Rev. Charles Gilbert, Mt. Zion, observes his 88th birthday.

Lake-Lehman volleyball team completes 2-year win streak.

Former Dallas Assistant Coach Lou Palermo is now with Secret Service and is guarding President James Carter.

Report from Harrisburg

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill recently from Rep. Scott Diatterick, 120th Legislative District.

CAT FUND REPLACEMENT

All private insurance companies in Pennsylvania would be required to offer motorists medical insurance coverage similar to the state's CAT Fund under a bill which passed the House overwhelmingly this week. The CAT Fund, which is being phased out May 1, provides coverage for medical costs up to \$1 million for injuries resulting from an auto accident. The bill would require that all catastrophic coverage rates offered by private insurers be approved by the state Insurance Department. It was sent to the Senate for consideration.

PESTICIDE CONTROL MEASURES

Legislation which would regulate the use of pesticides in residential areas was unveiled this week by Rep. Jon D. Fox (R-Montgomery). Termed the "Good Neighbor Bill", the measure would require homeowners and commercial applicators to follow simple precautionary steps to prevent exposure to the chemicals by unknowing neighbors and their

pets. Such steps include the posting of warning signs, notification of individuals listed with a central registry who are known to be hypersensitive to chemicals and prohibition of pesticide spraying when winds exceed three miles-per-hour.

COLLEGE RESOURCE FUNDING

Rep. Fred C. Noye (R-Perry) this week announced legislation to increase funding to Pennsylvania's public and private colleges and another measure to improve funding to the state's Wild Resource Conservation Fund. The first proposal would allow taxpayers to direct a portion or all of their state tax return to the Pennsylvania college of their choice. The second measure would eliminate the current tax check-off method of funding the state's Wild Resource Conservation Fund and replace it with an annual state allocation of \$600,000. "The problem with relying on the tax check-off program for support is that the amount of funding the Conservation Fund receives each year varies substantially. It's impossible to run an effective program when the funding constantly fluctuates," Noye said.

Letters invited

The Dallas Post encourages readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters for publication must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. Letters received by Noon on Monday may be included in that week's issue.

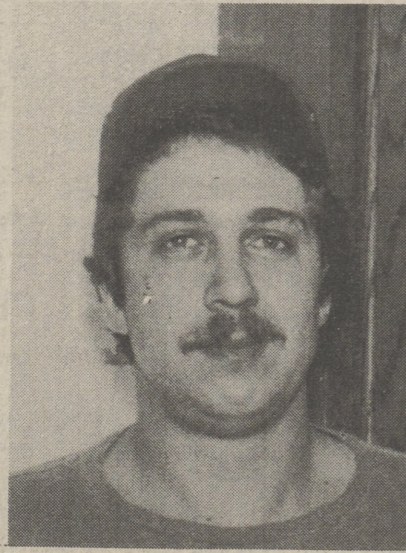
The Post asks: How many fish did you catch opening day?



Arthur Hontz

Teacher
Sweet Valley

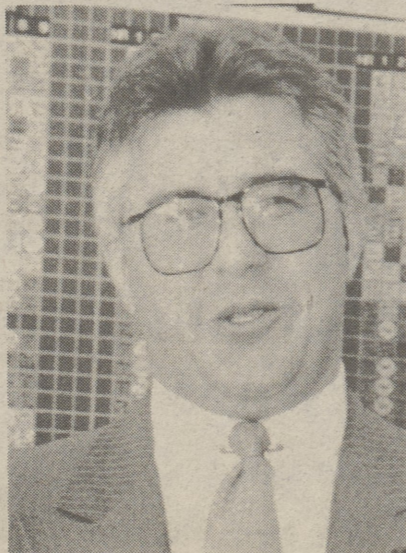
"I braved the weather and caught 8 nice size brown trout."



John Bombick

Proctor & Gamble
Evans Falls

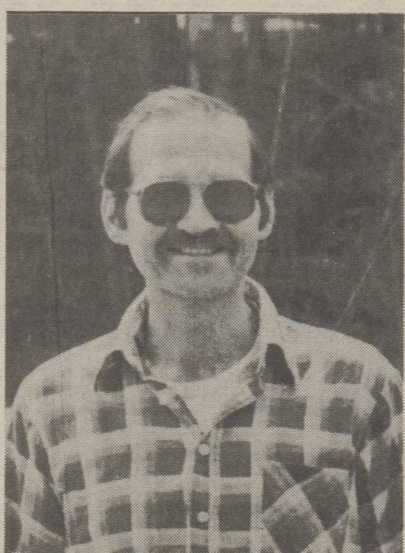
"I was dressed for the weather and stayed until I caught my limit of eight."



Frank Galicki

Principal
Dallas High School

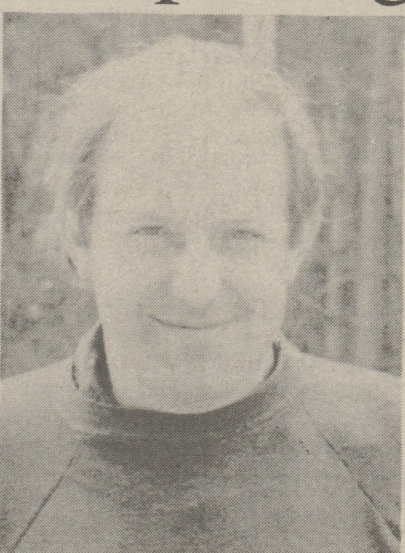
"I caught my limit of rainbow trout but a cold as well."



Ralph Perrego

Elevator operator
Dallas

"I didn't go out. The first day is always too crowded for me."



Woody LaBar

Mechanic
Lehman

"I did alright. I caught the limit and my boys caught a few."



Wayne Hughes

Teacher
Dallas

"The weather was too miserable so I didn't go fishing."