

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

A day for honor and remembrance

Monday is Memorial Day, the day on which we stop to honor our brave men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country.

Most of us will never face the prospect of death in battle. We can only imagine the courage it took for our fallen heroes to face the enemy in war, knowing the ultimate price might be their lives. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

In this era of new-found trust and good feeling between the earth's most powerful nations, perhaps this Memorial Day marks a time when people are beginning to discover how to cooperate rather than fight. It would be a fitting tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Even if you can't attend one of the formal ceremonies marking the day, we hope you will take some time to recall the enormous price that others have paid to maintain our way of life, and to pray that mankind finds peaceful solutions to its conflicts.

Municipal leaders face new challenges

Congratulations to the winners in last week's primary elections - and to the losers, too. By stepping forward to run for public office, they have shown that their concern with their communities is backed by action.

The Back Mountain faces many challenges now, perhaps more than it ever has before. Rapid residential development has strained the traditional mechanisms that deal with municipal needs. Completion of the Cross Valley Expressway in 1991 will add more pressure for commercial growth. Leaders today need to look beyond their own township or borough's boundaries for answers to problems.

In the past year, the emergence of the Back Mountain Citizens' Council and the Dallas Borough Preservation Association have marked a new activism in area residents. Officials at all levels now recognize that their communities' citizens want to participate in the decisions that will affect their lives and property.

We trust that the interest of citizens and the concern of officials will mean a new era of responsive and progressive government in the region.

School budgets leave little room for choice

The Post's story this week on the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school budgets illustrates how little breathing room boards and administrators have in allocating finances for the systems. That makes it doubly important that the public be kept abreast of the schools' needs and the responses to them.

When mandated programs, salaries and benefits are totaled, they make up 80 per cent or more of each system's budget. That leaves less money than most educators and parents would like for discretionary use in additional classes or activities.

It's always easy for disgruntled taxpayers to decry tax increases. Perhaps if we all stay better informed about the budgetary needs and wants of the schools, we can help the boards to make the best possible use of the money available.



Everything's coming up tulips

For the family of John Ennis on (naturally) Spring Street in Dallas, this season's offerings are quite delightful. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - May 26, 1939 MARATHON PLANNED FOR MERCHANTS DAY

Dallas United Methodist Church to observe its 50th anniversary.

Class of 1939 at Monroe Township High School, Beaumont, will be graduated next Tuesday at 8 p.m.

College Misericordia to graduate its largest class of 59 members Tuesday, June 6, at Irem Temple.

Marvin Elston retires as his sons, Walter and Ralph take over his farm.

Marian Weintz to wed Leonard Harvey June 1, at Meeker M.E. Church.

Luzerne-Fernbrook marathon planned for Luzerne Merchants Day.

40 Years Ago - May 27, 1949 KIWANIS CELEBRATE 22ND ANNIVERSARY

Dallas Kiwanis Club observes its 22nd anniversary.

Dallas citizens join protest of the constant racket of diesel engines of LVRR trains.

The new Acme Market announces its fine new store coming to Church Street, Dallas.

Himmeler Theatre announces the film "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" a special matinee Saturday.

Hillside Farms sells prize bull 'Anderson Jerome' to Anderson Farms, Massachusetts.

30 Years Ago - May 28, 1959 EARL'S DRUG STORE SOLD IN TRUCKSVILLE

Back Mountain High Schools will graduate 176 students this week, 99 from Westmoreland High School and 77 from Lake-Lehman.

The Memorial Day parade will start at 9:30 a.m. from the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Home Saturday.

Harry Holak purchased the Earl's Drug Store, Trucksville, from Earl Henwood and will operate the pharmacy under the name Trucksville Pharmacy.

Beaumont defeated Forkston 19-2 Sunday for its fourth straight win.

Ben Franklin Store holds ribbon-cutting at its grand reopening in its new location on Church Street.

A scale model of the new Dallas Senior High School is to go on display as soon as a plastic protective display cover is designed for it.

20 Years Ago - May 29, 1969 POST EDITOR RECEIVES PA NEWSPAPER HONOR

Mrs. T.M. B. Hicks, long-time editor of The Dallas Post, received honors from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association for her editorial "Because He Had A Dream", on the death of Robert Kennedy.

A proposal for integration of all water systems in the greater Back Mountain was put forth by Eugene Goffin, member of the Kingston Township Water Commission at a meeting last week. Goffin stated that the water systems are inadequate and with tremendous growth anticipated for this area, it stands to reason the present water supply will be taxed beyond its capacity.

Thomas H. Jenkins was named to the newly-created position as business manager of the Dallas School District. Robert Dolbear was named assistant principal.

Engaged-Sharon E. Pudim and Lynn G. Johnson Jr., Pamela Sue Nafus and Todd Stephen Hilbert.

10 Years Ago - May 24, 1979 BRUNGES RECEIVES EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Dallas Borough Council is conducting a 'fix-up' program in the borough.

Back Mountain Telecable Company, newly purchased by Phoenix Corporation of Hershey, may raise its rates in order to expand its services and improve the quality of reception for its customers.

John Sgarlat of Harveys Lake takes title to second largest tract of land zoned for casino construction.

Sweet Valley Firemen plan Memorial Day Fair surprises.

Malcolm Brunges receives the Eagle Scout Award in special ceremonies at Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Back Mountain Kiwanis holds its annual rodeo.

Steve Skammer completes 5-1 pitching record for Villanova University in his sophomore year.

From the capitol

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill recently from Rep. Scott DiEfferick, 120th Legislative District.
AUTO INSURANCE HEARING - The House Republican Insurance Task Force held a public hearing on the role which fraud and car theft play in Pennsylvania's escalating auto insurance rates. Rep. Thomas P. Cannon (R-Delaware), task force chairman, said the panel is focusing on fraud and auto theft in the first of a series of hearings on the problems plaguing the current insurance system in the state.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE - Husbands and wives should be permitted to testify against each other in certain criminal court cases under legislation unanimously approved by the House this week. Sponsored by Rep. Lois S. Hagarty (R-Montgomery), the bill would permit spouses to decide if they want to testify in most criminal proceedings. Currently, spouses are not generally allowed to testify against each other. Pennsylvania is one of only two states which retains strict spousal privilege laws. The measure was sent to the Senate for consideration.

Opinion

Why Pennsylvania needs a strong ethics law

Some legislators say voters don't really care about ethics in government. After all, no one ever writes to them about it. More likely, high ethical standards with strict enforcement are basic expectations which the public holds for government.

Perhaps we need to refocus the ethics discussion. As economic consumers we constantly seek better quality products and demand quick access in the marketplace. As our needs dictate we can upgrade quality, switch brands, purchase more, purchase less, or do without. Marketplace competition creates quality standards measured in parts per million, or with tolerances in thousandths of an inch. With a global economy, the competition to produce the best products has heightened.

Sadly, we demand much less accountability and responsiveness as political consumers than as economic consumers. Opportunities for change only occur every two years through elections, and rarely in conjunction with critical government events.

In 1988 one third of the legislative races went uncontested, and during the past three general elections only three incumbents were unseated. This is extremely ironic because government is the only service which we, as taxpayers, are required to purchase on pain of imprisonment and fines—regardless of whether we individually need or are satisfied with the quality, value, or selection of services.

The absence of real competition creates a void in accountability and generates a genuine need for effective ethics laws to provide some quality control over government.

Fortunately, the majority of our public servants are honest and hard working men and women. But, all officials, no matter how

visible or obscure, occasionally are pressured to provide favored treatment for some special interest, and their responses can have profound effects on the public.

Unfortunately, it only taxes an unscrupulous few to wreak havoc on the system, potentially costing taxpayers enormous amounts of money, and endangering public health, safety and welfare. Sound ethics laws provide an added incentive to act in the public interest.

The state ethics law is the citizens' warranty for good government. It establishes minimum standards of conduct for public officials, and helps to create an environment which reflects the standards of excellence most public officials demand of themselves. It is one of the few real quality control mechanisms protecting the public interest from corruption.

Unless renewed by the legislature before June 30, the State Ethics Commission will die. It is obviously difficult to write laws establishing ethical standards. However, our lawmakers have a moral obligation to develop standards which are comprehensive, tough, void of loopholes, enforceable, encourage full public participation in the watch dog role, and fair.

The public will not tolerate another massacre of the ethics law such as happened last November. Legislators must remember that the purpose of the state ethics law is to protect the public from corrupt public officials, not protect public officials from civic-minded citizens.

We will soon learn what caliber of ethical standards our legislators will apply to government officials. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking.

Barry L. Kaufman

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.

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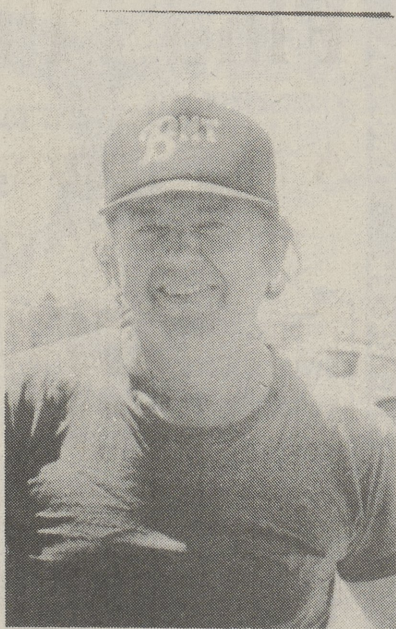
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The Dallas Post asks: "What do you plan to do for Memorial Day?"



Edith Shaffer
Homemaker
Dallas

"I'm looking forward to planting some flowers and relaxing."



John Ross
Maintenance
Dallas

"I'm going to have a cookout with my wife and children."



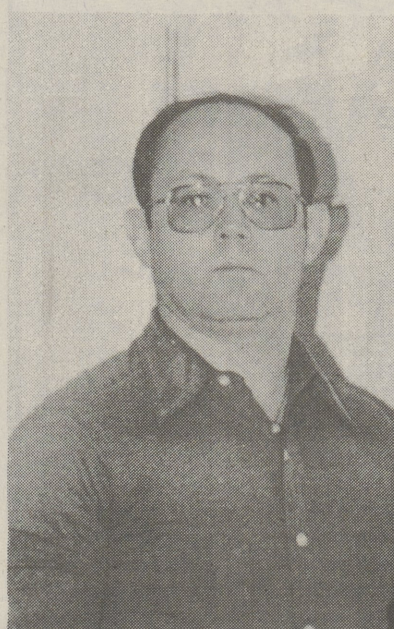
Tracy Hunter
Student
Dallas

"We're going to have a cookout after we come home from the lake."



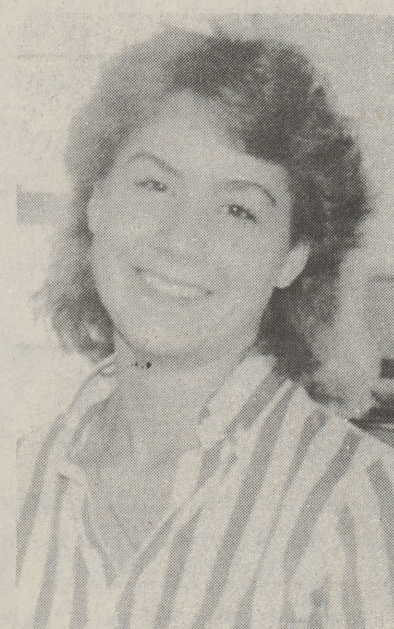
Jason Nutche
Student
Midway Manor

"My brothers and I are going on a picnic to Lake Jean with our parents."



Andrew Denmon
Food Supervisor
Dallas

"Nothing because I have to work Memorial Day."



Janine Franklin
Homemaker
Trucksville

"We are going out in the boat on the lake if the weather is nice."