

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Our roads need more, better traffic control

If you have spent too much time sitting in traffic stalled at the light in the center of Dallas, this week's story about lights in the Back Mountain may help explain why.

It seems to us that the region's highways need more lights and more coordination of them for both smooth traffic flow and safety. While PennDOT has consistently underestimated the need for better traffic control here, the Back Mountain's growth in recent years is unmistakable. And that growth will accelerate when the Cross Valley Expressway is connected to Interstate 81 in 1991.

For years, local municipalities have been willing to accept the financial burden of installing additional lights, but PennDOT has turned down their requests saying the lights weren't needed. But how many more people must die at the intersection of Route 309 and Main Street before a light can be justified there, for example?

Along with more lights, installing a device to coordinate their cycles and speeds would make our highways safer and more convenient to use. Presently, the lights in Kingston Township are green for about one minute for autos traveling on Route 309. When those same cars get to Dallas, the lights stay green for only 30 seconds. Motorists on their way to Harveys Lake know the result.

We think it's time for a complete series of lights at appropriate points on Routes 309 and 415. There should be lights at these locations: Route 309 and Franklin Street, Shavertown; Route 309 and Main Street, Dallas; and the intersection of Routes 415 and 118 in Dallas Township.

In addition, all lights on these routes should be coordinated for speed and cycle, so that motorists driving at the speed limit can drive the entire distance from Luzerne to Harveys Lake without stopping. Once drivers accepted that driving at the speed limit moved them smoothly on their way, speeding would diminish drastically. Coordinated lights would also open more regular "gaps" so that drivers wishing to enter traffic lanes would have safe opportunities to do so.

Better traffic control on our highways is long overdue. Let's not make it any more costly or disruptive than it must be, by addressing the problem now.

President confounds supporters and critics

If he has done nothing else in his first six months, George Bush has managed to show both critics and supporters that he is less predictable than either had thought.

Ardent conservatives, who had hoped the President would simply carry on the laissez faire policies of his predecessor, have been disappointed to see him propose action on the environment and in other matters that strike them as unnecessary government intervention.

Proponents of some of Mr. Bush's initiatives, while welcoming them, are concerned that little more than lip service has yet been forthcoming. They know that if promises are given no money, they cannot be kept.

We share the perplexity that many Bush watchers express. We still can't separate the campaign-style media stunt from deeply held beliefs. Perhaps the best - or worst - example of that confusion was Mr. Bush's brief but noisy attack on the Supreme Court's decision upholding Americans' right to burn the flag in protest.

Even if the President truly believes that flag burning is one form of expression that should not be tolerated, his response was more appropriate for a stump speech by an underdog in a Congressional race than for the President of the United States. And we have deep reservations about his plan to amend the Constitution over this issue, when legislative action could accomplish his purpose.

Overall though, we are heartened by Mr. Bush's thoughtful, mature approach to the issues America faces. The world, and the United States' place in it, is changing at a very rapid rate. Mr. Bush seems to have the capacity to see our relationships with other nations in a new and more productive light, and to accept the realities of an emerging new order.

There are many who would resist the President's tacit acknowledgement that the United States is no longer the dominating force it once was in world affairs. They see any lessening of our influence as weakness. We tend to agree with Mr. Bush's opposite assertion that the strength of the nations we have aided is recognition of our accomplishment.

The real test for George Bush seems yet to come, and it is likely to be an economic one. He has promised much - soon he will be asked to deliver.



Cattails (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

'Friends of the Library' goal topped by more than \$400

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is grateful for its many 'friends'. The 1989 'Friends of the Library' campaign has reached a total of \$5,423.00, halfway into the year. This is a record amount for this campaign, having passed the budgeted amount of \$5,000. The mailing list for the campaign was updated prior to the mailing and our chairman of 'friends' was looking forward to an even larger amount because of this. The 'friends' money is a designated amount in our annual budget, and the contributions are much appreciated when it comes time to balance the budget. A warm thank you to our 'friends'.

The newest member of our staff is Susan Scott of Tunkhannock. She is working for us under the student work-study program sponsored by PHEAA. She is working 40 hours a week at the library and we will be reimbursed for 50% of her salary at the end of the summer. She is presently helping with our 1989 auction accounts receivable billing which is a rather large time-consuming project. Along with this, she is helping with inventory.

M.E.L.V.I.L.'S Magical Mystery Mansion Summer Reading Club is continuing its magical pace. The clue for the third week is 'Melvil was at the library today'. The three teams are The Masters Team, Servants Team and the Chimney

Sweeps Team. The first week winning team was the Chimney Sweeps and the second week was the Servants. The club will continue until August 11 for pre-school children up to sixth grade.

Maureen Borton Harris was in the library the other day with her three children. They were busy checking books out from the children's room for their home reading enjoyment. Maureen worked for us at the library as a student page when she was 15 years old. I found it hard to believe that was 21 years ago. She was then and is today, a very nice person.

New books at the library: "The Changeling" by Philippa Carr is a story of love, envy, passion and betrayal, by Britain's famed historical romance novelist. The story is rich in historical detail and an evocative portrait of Victorian England. It is the story of Rebecca Mandeville, who is left with her infant sister, Belinda to take care of, when her mother dies. The story becomes laced with affection but also with jealousy.

"Capital Crimes" by Lawrence Sanders is the ultimate Washington thriller. He calls himself Brother Kristos, a bearded bear of a man, whose eyes can pierce the soul. His origins are cloaked in mystery, but his present mission is clear. He was a man of God—or a power-crazed charlatan—with the future of the nation in his grasp.

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.

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - July 28, 1939 DALLAS WATER BEGINS DRILLING A NEW WELL

The new Luzerne by-pass will be completed by August 3 and a formal celebration will mark the long-awaited improvement.

Close on the heels of its \$7,000 improvement program in Dallas, the Dallas Water Company has begun drilling for a new well on N. Lehigh Avenue, Shavertown which is expected to provide relief for long-suffering consumers.

Twenty-eight of the country's flashiest long-distance swimmers are to shove off at noon from Hanson's dock in a five-mile race for the U.S. championship.

40 Years Ago - July 29, 1949 NEW BEAUMONT INN OPENS FOR BUSINESS

The new Beaumont Inn was recently opened for business by its builder and owner, Peter Masonis.

Little relief is in sight for Shavertown water consumers now that health authorities ruled out the use of water from the three deep wells of Fernbrook Mill because the water was unfit for human consumption.

Four of Sen. T. Newell Wood's horses from his Harveys Lake Farm are being shown at Elmira and later at the Ohio Show in Columbus, Ohio.

Engaged - Betty Eldredge Ford and Armand Lapane; Edith Howell and F. Allen Haughwout.

Wed - Lois Bertram and Harry Nolf.

30 Years Ago - July 30, 1959 IDETOWN FIRE HALL NAMED AFTER DAVIS

Postal survey being made in Truicksville-Shavertown areas to determine feasibility of carrier delivery.

Idetown Fire Company will be named for Jonathan R. Davis as a result of his son's generous offer to put the former carriage house on his father's estate at the disposal of the community as a fire hall and community building.

Explorer Scouts of Post 232 started down the branch of the Susquehanna early Monday evening, leaving Renova at 7 and camping for the night at Hyner Park. They expect to reach Sunbury sometime Saturday.

Ham 'n Yegg contributions

Total contributions to date to the Ham 'n Yeggs amounts to \$2,835. Additional names added to the contribution list include: Mr. and Mrs. William Brackett, J. Archbald Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Ed

Wed - Mildred Mae Katchmar and Robert Stanley Scrutsky; Nancy Hall and Thomas Lauder.

Rev. J. Edwin Lintern is named pastor of Centermoreland Methodist Charge as his first permanent pulpit.

20 Years Ago - July 31, 1969 TOP REPORTER JOINS N.E. NEWSPAPERS, INC.

J.R. Freeman, top national reporter from Texas and Colorado, joins the staff of Northeastern Newspapers, Inc., publishers of The Abington Journal and The Dallas Post, owner and publisher Henry H. Null, 4th announced this week.

Fresh Air kids enjoy story hour at the Back Mountain Library.

Engaged - Janice Eileen Hanna and Donald Edward Curtis; Jo Ann Severs and Lee Michael Philo.

Wed - Linda Lee Adams and Louis H. Estabrook.

Centermoreland Church holds its 14th annual auction and chicken barbecue August 8 and 9 at the church grounds.

10 Years Ago - July 26, 1979 DALLAS BUSINESSMEN STUDY MODERN EGYPT

Shavertown Fire Company will hold its annual auction this weekend beginning today July 26.

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy and Ralph Jamgochian, Dallas businessman, participated in an indepth and first-hand look at modern Egypt. Dr. Fahmy of Dallas conducted the two week tour of students and non-students as part of a Wilkes course entitled "Cultural Foundations of Education in the Middle East."

Petitions have been circulated in Kingston Township requesting the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Route 309 and Franklin Street and a reduced speed limit on Route 309 between Center and Franklin Streets.

Dallas Community Development plan for proposed street and water and storm drains is to be done within three years according to Tom McCabe, project assistant. The Borough recently received approval of a \$250,000 development grant.

Wed - Alice Paxton and Roger Case; Linda Jean Catania and Wayne Gary Humphrey.

Engaged - Susan Nalbene and Philip Delpero.

National All-Star girls win District 16 title.

Road repairs set for week

Matthew R. Collura, Luzerne County Maintenance Manager, has announced the following work schedule for Department forces for the week of July 24:

BRUSH CUTTING - Swamp Road in Hunlock Twp.

MOWING - Various routes in Lake and Lehman Twps.

POTHOLE PATCHING - Various routes in Dallas Twp.

SHOULDER STABILIZATION - Eighth St. in Kingston Twp.; SR 4026 in Hunlock Twp.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
Editor and Publisher

Charlotte E. Bartizek
Associate Publisher

Sharon Zuzelski
Advertising Acct. Exec.

Charlot M. Denmon
Reporter

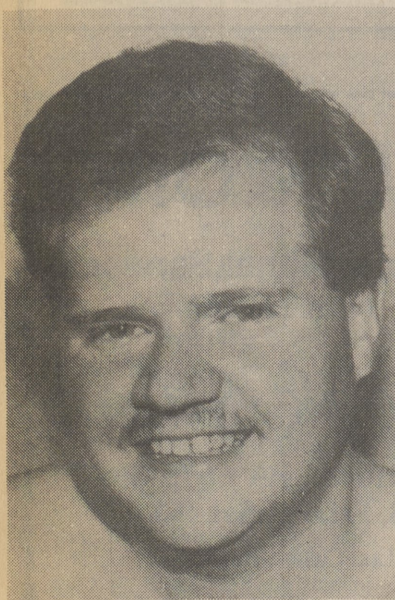
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Composition

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Olga Kostrobala
Classified/typesetting

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

The Post asks: Should the Back Mountain have the '911' emergency system?



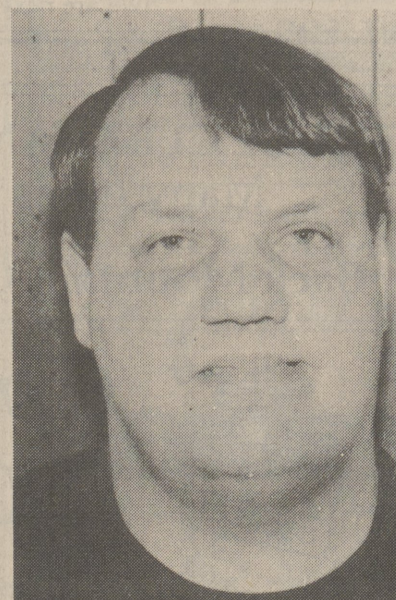
Wayne Sheldon
Grocery clerk



Charles Hann
Welder



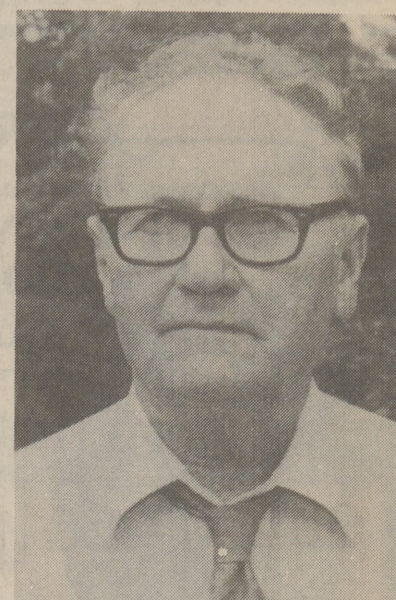
Michelle Pellam
Housewife



Frank Morgan
Warehouse laborer



Chris Davis
Emergency Dispatcher



Elwood Sheldon
Businessman

"We need something in this area. '911' would save time."

"Yes. It cuts down on the confusion when you need to make an emergency call."

"Everyone should. I have used it in the past and they quickly put a doctor on the line to help me through my emergency."

"Yes. It is a better service to the community."

"Most definitely. '911' would make it much easier to dispatch in an emergency."

"Yes. You get a response more quickly."