

## Anderson Afield

# Business interests are newly silent on clean air bill

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

President Calvin Coolidge was a man of so few words that they nicknamed him "Silent Cal". Consequently, when the poet, Dorothy Parker, was informed of his death she replied with a typical touch of cynicism, "How can they tell?"

Be that as it may, he is remembered for his statement, "The business of America is business". If Silent Cal were with us today, I wonder if he would make the same pronouncement. In the 1920's, when he was President, the average businessman was aware that he needed air to breathe, water to drink, and food to eat. But he could not imagine that the quality and quantity of these necessities would ever be a matter of public concern. Certainly, no concern of his.

Alaska, in those days, was considered a far-off wild wasteland of Eskimos and polar bears; hardly a place in which big business would ever be intensely interested. In the so-called "Roaring Twenties", very few farms in America had electricity or indoor plumbing. Tractors were few and far between. Nearly all farm machinery, plows, mowing machines, and hayrakers were drawn by horses, referred to as "hayburners". The horse and buggy were counted on to get from the farm to the village store.

Silent Cal probably never dreamed that the Prime Minister of Canada would one day meet with the President of the United States and complain bitterly about acid rain, generated in the U.S. by combustion of fossil fuels such as coal and oil. Silent Cal probably never dreamed that a candidate for president would someday solemnly proclaim, "I am an environmentalist". In the "Roaring Twenties", whoever heard of a Clean Air Act?

The fact remains that George Bush did promise to be an "environmental" president. He did promise to sign an effective clean air act. Unfortunately, his actions to date have not matched his rhetoric. The proposed Clean Air Act does not come to grips with the cause of acid rain nor the "greenhouse effect". But perhaps a weak clean air

act is better than none at all.

Most environmentalists, accustomed to an outworn mantle of scarred hopes, are disappointed but not too surprised. After all, vigorous support for a strong Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act would arouse the animosity of the automotive industry, big oil, the giant utilities and the defense contractors. In other words, a coalition which generally does as it pleases while the President, Congress, and taxpayers stand by helplessly.

But what is this I hear from a friend in a big utility company? We take it for granted that those in the business of generating energy by fossil fuel combustion will lobby against any Clean Air Act, no matter how weak. And you expect them to ride tandem with big oil, in opposition to any efforts to reduce auto emissions.

But according to my source, the parent utility company is in disarray. Their professional lobbyists have been told by top management to lay off! Don't lobby against the environment until further notice! How come? How can this be?

Well, the best guess seems to be that Exxon's public relations in regard to the Valdez oil spill were as ineffective as their efforts to clean it up. Thousands of Exxon credit cards are apparently being returned. The Governor of Alaska is mad, the commercial and sport fishing industries are mad, millions of bird watchers are mad, and membership in the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, and National Audubon Society is growing by leaps and bounds.

According to my source, the word is that they'd better not protest too loudly or they're apt to face a really effective Clean Air Act later on.

As Shakespeare said, "Sweet are the uses of adversity; which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in its head".

Methinks I do hear the ghost of Silent Cal muttering, "The business of America is trying to survive the business of America".

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.

## New building dedicated at Gate of Heaven School

Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, blessed the new building at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas Sunday as part of an open house ceremony.

The new building, which is located adjacent to the existing facility, is a one-story structure that will house nearly 100 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Gate of Heaven changed its

operation this year to interparochial status that includes not only Gate of Heaven Parish but also St. Therese's, Shavertown; Our Lady of Victory, Harveys Lake; St. Frances Cabrini, Carverton, and Blessed Sacrament Mission, Centermoreland.

There is a total of 380 students now attending the school, which graduated its first class of 22 students in 1955.

## Special services to honor Rev. Pillarella on retirement

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Back Mountain residents are invited to attend special services September 24 to honor Rev. Andrew Pillarella, retiring pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church. There will be a special service at the church, Sunday, September 24, at 11 a.m., and a special program that same afternoon.

The many residents of the community who have been touched by the friendly smile or voice of Rev. Pillarella during the past 27 years are welcome to attend these special services.

Rev. Pillarella has served as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian for 27 years, since forming it in 1962.

In 1962, Rev. Pillarella came to the local congregation from the Second Presbyterian Church in Pittston, to become the organizing pastor of the local church. At the time, Trinity was the first new church to be organized in the Back Mountain area in 70 years.

The first services of the local church were in the Dallas School gymnasium, in classrooms of the elementary school and in the Pillarella home.

In 1964, the church founders bought seven acres of land near the Dallas Township Elementary School and began building. Building has continued through the years, and in 1980 the church added a new wing called the "Miracle Building."

Born in New York, the Pillarella family moved to Staten Island when Andrew was a youth. He was the son of Italian immigrant parents and the eldest of nine children; eight boys and one girl, Rose, who was the youngest.

Andrew Pillarella was educated in the public schools and from the time he was eight years of age, he worked, first on a milk truck and later in a barber shop. He tried unsuccessfully to get a job in a vegetable store, but did get a route as a paper boy.

Rev. Pillarella's family were devout Catholics and he was an altar boy, but he later left the church when he disagreed with



Rev. Andrew and Edith Pillarella  
He is retiring from Trinity Presbyterian Church.

the priest. A best friend asked him to attend a youth meeting at a Presbyterian Church which young Andrew did.

He was so impressed by the leader, a lady who later became his mother-in-law, that he joined the Sunday School and became very involved in the activities. The pastor of the church soon appointed him secretary of the Sunday School.

Rev. Pillarella's family supported him and he eventually joined the Presbyterian Church.

Following graduation from high school, Rev. Pillarella worked in a bakery as a delivery boy and then for a New York Library Bookmo-

bile. He attended Delahanty Institute to become a New York fireman.

He married the daughter of the pastor of the Presbyterian church, Edith DeRogatis, February 21, 1941. Her father was Dr. Joseph S. DeRogatis of Our Saviour Presbyterian Church, New York. Following their marriage he worked as a milkman and was then drafted into the Service and spent 38 months in the 8th Army Air Corps as an M.P. in Germany.

After the war, Pillarella attended Bloomfield College and Seminary. While in the seminary he served as a student pastor in Hackensack,

N.J. and following graduation he was ordained by the New York Presbytery and called to serve in the Second Presbyterian Church in Pittston, where he remained until he came to Dallas.

Rev. Pillarella is well known in the area for his community involvement and has been active on the Mental Health/Mental Retarded Board and as a former president of the Mental Health Association. He is a former president of the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches and a member and former president of Dallas Rotary Club.

He was active in the Boy Scout movement and recently received the Protestant Silver Cross for service to Boy Scouts. Rev. Pillarella is a member of the Back Mountain Ministerium, Chaplain for the Irem Temple Shrine and has been active in local school activities, especially those involving the students.

He played a key role in all phases of the Lackawanna Presbytery, having served on many committees and also acting as moderator of the Presbytery. Rev. Pillarella has been extremely active on the camp committee of Camp Lackawanna, heading the campaign for the camp swimming pool and also aiding the purchase of the campsite at Vosburg.

His wife, Edith, taught for many years at Wyoming Seminary and after retiring she assumed directorship of the Trinity Nursery School.

The Pillarellas have three daughters, Elizabeth Joy Faerber, Dallas; Juliette Caryl Sgarlet, Dallas; and Mary Eith, now in Tempe, Arizona. They also have four grandchildren, Kristen Faerber; Carl, Jr., Andrew and Aime Sgarlet.

Although Rev. Pillarella is retiring from the Trinity Presbyterian Church, he is not retiring from the work of the church. He will continue to be a member of the Lackawanna Presytery and Pastor Emeritus of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

The Pillarellas will continue to make their home in the community and hopefully remain active with the children in the community whom they love.

## Bad check scam reaches into five counties

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

The arrest of Laurie Conrad, Springville, Pa., Thursday, Sept. 14, by Dallas Township police for passing a fraudulent check in the amount of approximately \$10 has resulted in a five-county investigation involving 107 fraudulent checks passed by Conrad and several others.

The investigation was first initiated August 24, when Conrad rented a VCR at National Video, Country Club Shopping Center and paid for it with a check which proved to be bad. The VCR was never returned.

Conrad was arrested and charged with the theft of leased property and passing bad checks

and arraigned before District Magistrate Earl Gregory. She was remanded to Luzerne County Prison in default of \$11,000 bail.

Conrad's arrest resulted in a check scam investigation which to date involves at least 18 municipalities in five counties with several other individuals involved in passing the fraudulent checks.

The individuals would go to business places and buy merchandise which was paid for by check. The merchandise would then be resold. As a result of this activity,

charges of theft by deception, criminal conspiracy and receiving stolen property have been filed.

Conrad was also arrested by Kingston Township police on similar charges and on Friday Tunkhannock Borough police arrested Conrad on similar charges under \$10,000 bail.

An investigation revealed that 107 checks have been passed in connection with the scam but only 67 have been accounted for, totaling in excess of \$12,000. The police are still waiting for the other 40 checks to be turned in.

The checks which were being used are in accounts in the defendant's name and are drawn on two different banks. Most of the checks were from Franklin First Federal Savings & Loan, Tunkhannock Branch, on which 100 checks are alleged to have been used. The second account is with Grange National Bank Laceyville, Bowman's Creek Office with only seven or eight checks used.

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