

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

A lack of candidates and election issues

As local elections approach, newspapers - whether they make endorsements or not - usually exhort their readers to be sure to exercise the precious right to vote. Unfortunately, in most municipalities this year, that exhortation would be an empty one, since so few offices are contested.

While it may never have been easy to attract enough candidates for local office, recently it seems fewer residents want to make the sacrifices necessary to win and hold public positions. In many cases, that leaves governing as a private little game, played by a few people, many of whom have been reelected time after time with no opposition.

Perhaps the lack of participation at the candidate level is a reflection of the same apathy that is revealed in the meager turnout at most public meetings. There again, the same persons attend consistently and voice the only concern or support for the bodies' actions.

And while we hear so many complaints about the lack of voter participation, seldom is it suggested that a lack of choices may be the primary cause for it.

Whatever one may feel about the competence of any individual official, there is little question that this situation cannot lead to the kind of healthy public debate that characterizes the most well-governed communities. Without open discussion of issues and the attendant spotlight that falls on candidates' and officials' positions, government is often reduced to the "buddy system" whereby the few in power do pretty much as they please, since no one seems to be watching.

And who can blame them? Politicians are not different from the rest of us; they often feel that winning election is an endorsement of themselves, and a license to do as they see fit. This thought is reinforced by the public's lack of interest in municipal proceedings.

We have been told that media attention is one reason people don't run for public office - that sensationalized coverage leads many candidates to shy away from government service. If that is the case, we simply are a generation that lacks the backbone of prior ones.

One of our greatest presidents, and perhaps the man who contributed more to the formation of our Government than any other, Thomas Jefferson, was the target of merciless attacks by the press of his day. Much of what was written about Jefferson would be actionable today.

Yet, Jefferson and many of our leaders have been strong enough to withstand the mudslinging. At least part of their strength came from their commitment to public service as a noble undertaking worthy of the sacrifices they had to make.

Please vote this Tuesday, especially if there is a choice to be made. But then do a little more. Attend public meetings; make your desires and needs known; urge your fellow citizens to do the same. Only by participating can we make our governments as good as it is possible for them to be.

Deer killer might have caused more harm

Two weeks ago, a killer shot a deer on protected land and then left it to die. Like so many similar incidents, his crime would have gone undetected had it not been for the watchful concern of nearby residents who took down the license number and description of his vehicle.

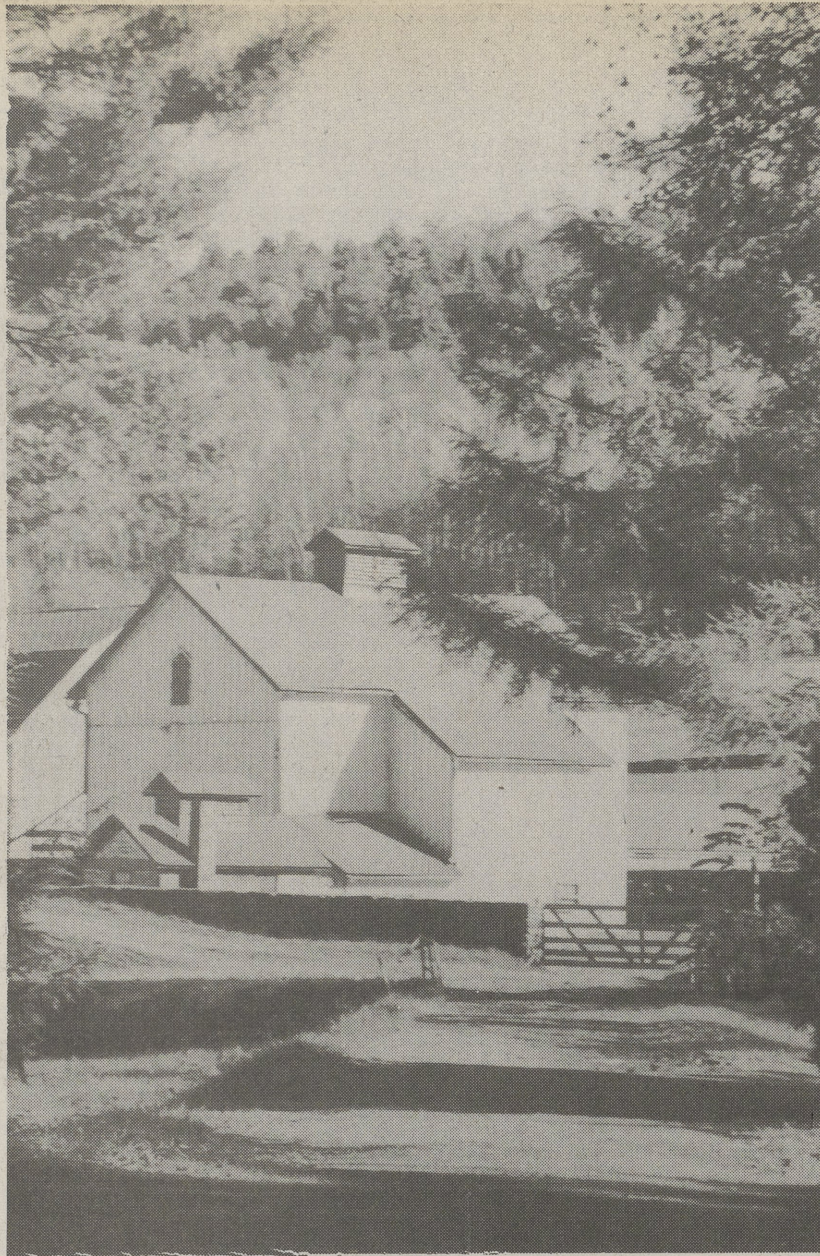
Poaching, jack lighting and other forms of illegal hunting give the sport a bad name. Real hunters know the rules and obey them because they also know the reasons behind them.

In the recent case, the deer was shot at night. Game Commission officials point out that the shooter could easily have injured or killed someone because he could not see what was beyond his target.

With the rifle season fast approaching, it's up to all of us to see that needless damage - to humans or animals - doesn't occur.

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.



Indian summer

A barn on Hillside Road reflected the warm autumn sun one recent afternoon. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

Halloween party drew a scary crowd of goblins

By Nancy Kozemchak

The Back Mountain Memorial Library was crowded with all kinds of scary, funny, pretty and unusually costumed little people last Wednesday.

The three hour story sessions held in the children's room had Halloween parties with fun and games, stories, refreshments and a parade on the grounds of the library. There were children dressed as angels, a skeleton, 3 clowns, Dracula, Raggedy Ann and Andy, a star witch, tiger, knight in shining armor, a cow girl, a robot, bunny, red riding hood, a unique snowman, 2 dinosaurs, 3 witches, an army fighter and Bat Man. There were many cameras and camcorders on the premises as the children delighted all of us with their costumes and lively actions.

Cub Scout Pack 155 of Trucksville United Methodist Church arrived at the library with eight cubs. They were accompanied by their den leaders, Mrs. Janet Shaskas and Mrs. Katyl. These Cub Scouts were working on achievement No. 8 on the bear badge, which is a look back in time.

They used The Dallas Post bound volumes, which are stored at the library, to find out what happened on the day and year they were born and what also happened five years before that time. They also had to find out something that happened in their community.

The Book Club of the library held its October meeting in the reference room. The speaker was Charlot Denmon of The Dallas Post. Frances Linskill had won first prize of a painted pumpkin in some contest she entered and was gra-

cious enough to donate the pumpkin to the library, which adds to our Halloween decor.

Dorothy Sanders donated a book to the library; 'Kitty Carlisle' which she had read and thoroughly enjoyed. Grace Martin read the poem, "October's Bright Blue Weather"; Peggy Love told about the author, Barbara Pymm, her writings and her life; Helen Graham told of her tour of Gettysburg and the tour of Eisenhower's home. Frances Linskill told about the ultimate biography of Norman Rockwell and will donate the book to the library.

Refreshments were served with Elizabeth Stoehr and Helen Graham pouring at the tea table. Next meeting, Monday, November 20th. Phillip Oh arrived at the library this evening with a special gift for Jane, our front desk attendant, and the library. It is a unique paperweight filled with cactus of different kinds and a special stone man inside, similar to the totem pole of the Indians.

Philip is 6 years old in Dallas first grade and has two sisters, Jane, 16 and Jeana, 15. Mrs. Oh was with Phillip and tells us they came to America from Korea 13 years ago and have lived in Dallas the past seven years. Phillip has become quite attached to the library and especially Jane, and they shared a hug and kiss before he left. They brought this paperweight back from Korea on a recent visit and had it inscribed To the Back Mountain Library from Phillip Oh 8-25-89.

This is a very thoughtful and unexpected gift from the Oh's. Thank you!

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - Nov. 3, 1939

OLD HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES MEET

The Class of 1909 was the oldest class represented when the alumni of Dallas Borough High School met Wednesday night.

Paul Redman of Shavertown is in Nesbitt Hospital recovering from a broken collar bone he suffered when he grabbed for the ball in a football skirmish last Saturday.

The Dallas Post will award \$1000 worth of cash prizes and daily commissions including \$400 grand prize during a seven-week circulation-building contest which will begin today.

Rev. Guy Leinthall left the Laketon Charge last Sunday to assume his new pastorate at Pittston Methodist Church on Wednesday.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 4, 1949

POST OFFICE ADDS A RURAL ROUTE

Six hundred people attended the annual Halloween Party at the Lake Township School.

Dallas Postmaster Joseph Polacky announced that another rural route has been extended to service 65 additional families on RD 3.

General contractors began laying the second lane of concrete on the relocation of Route 115 between Harveys Lake and Lehman.

Bands on the little wooly bears (caterpillars) forecast another mild winter.

Lehman Scotties copped the Back Mountain football title Saturday downing Dallas Township Redskins 7-0 before a large crowd.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 5, 1959

REPUBLICANS CARRY LOCAL ELECTIONS

Republicans carry the Back Mountain area but Democrats make heavy inroads.

Former Baptist Youth camp is sold to Hills of Hoe for drug addicts. The camp is located in Sweet Valley.

Dallas Junior Women light candles in 'Count Our Blessings' program for Thanksgiving.

The steel strike has caused Linear to lay off 32 employees. Wed - Margaret T. Belles and

Pvt. John F. Edwards; Irma Sickler and Charles Seward. Lake-Lehman gridders defeat Nescopeck 27-20.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 6, 1969

THE POST ADDS MORE PHONE LINES

The Dallas Post announced that it had a new telephone number, 675-5211, occasioned by an increase in classified-ad taking demand.

No change is expected in the Shavertown Post Office.

A Philadelphia inmate in the State Correctional Institution was critical after being stabbed by a fellow inmate last Saturday at 2 p.m.

Dallas Borough Patrolman William Tregaskis resigned from the department Saturday afternoon.

Wed - Erma L. Sutton and Erwin Stark; Marilyn Travert Swire and Claude M. Neifert, Jr.; Mary Lynn Richards and Robert Charles White, Jr.

Engaged - Barbara Jean Hojnowski and Paul R. Muskausk.

Dallas Mountaineers trounce Hawkeyes for fourth win of the season.

10 Years Ago - Nov. 8, 1979

HARVEYS LAKE GOP SCORES VICTORY

Back Mt. residents inconvenienced last week by the eight-foot link fence across the southern access road into the Dallas Area Municipal Authority will now find the gate open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during business hours.

Harveys Lake GOP wins a big victory in the election.

Dallas School Board votes to renew lights in the gymnasium.

Franklin Township Zoning Hearing Board will hear four zoning requests at a special meeting Nov. 19, 7 p.m., in the basement of the Orange United Methodist Church.

Wed - Phyllis O. Tondora and Don Clemow; Marianne Dennis and Fred Mahle; Karen Fedak and Nelson Nelson II; Ellen Vivian and Thomas Millington.

Knights dominate Hanover 13-3.

Report from Harrisburg

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

CAT FUND SURCHARGE REMAINS - By a 1939-59 vote, the House this week rejected a proposal to abolish the surcharge on traffic violations in Pennsylvania. The surcharge is used to retire the debt of the state's defunct CAT Fund. Introduced as an amendment by Rep. Jeffrey E. Piccola (R-Dauphin), the legislation would have killed the surcharges ranging from \$30 to \$300 on each moving violation and certain other traffic offenses. The state-run CAT Fund was established in 1985 to assist motorists injured in traffic accidents with catastrophic medical

bills. The controversial program was discontinued last year but remains \$365 million in debt.

PIGEON SHOOTING SUPPORTED - Legislation to outlaw pigeon shooting in Pennsylvania was defeated in the House this week by a 126-66 margin. Offered by Rep. George E. Saurman (R-Montgomery), the bill would have banned the events in which pigeons are used as targets by participants using shotguns. The most famous of the shoots occurs each year in the Schuylkill County community of Hegin in which some 6,000 birds are destroyed. Saurman contended the shoots were actually "massacres". Supporters of the events counter that banning the shoots would lead to increased restriction of gun use in the state.

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<p>Ronald A. Bartizek Editor and Publisher</p> <p>Edward Kraynak Advertising Acct. Exec.</p> <p>Paul Rismiller Composition</p>	<p>Charlotte E. Bartizek Associate Publisher</p> <p>Charlot M. Denmon Reporter</p> <p>Jean Hillard Office Manager</p> <p>Olga Kostrobala Classified/typesetting</p>
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MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION

The Post asks: "Does using computers help in your school work?"



Daniel Nichol
Student
Dallas

"Yes, the computer tells you where to find the correct answers when you get stuck."



Adam Lowe
Student
Dallas

"Yes, they are good for tests because their information can help bring you up."



Laura Poynton
Student
Dallas

"They help by explaining problems. You can go back and get help from the program."



Faith Odell
Student
Dallas

"Yes, they are fun but they also help with comprehension, math and reading."



Ellen Smaka
Student
Dallas

"They save time and they make work easier by explaining how to do programs."



Jennifer Howe
Student
Dallas

"In math and reading it helps you with the correct way to do it."