

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Lake sewer records must be rebuilt

It appears that no state or federal mandate required the Harveys Lake Sewer Authority to maintain accurate records of its installations when the municipal sewer system was installed 12 years ago. That being the case, the authority didn't keep records of who connected to the sewer and who did not, even though their regulations required every home or business located within 150 feet of the mains to do so. Now many Lake residents are paying the price for that shortsightedness.

Anyone trying to surmise the reasons for this lapse could come up with several reasons for it, ranging from the benign to the avaricious. Whatever the reason, it's likely that in the end it will cost taxpayers more to develop a list after the fact than it would have while the installations were taking place.

That's not to mention the expense and trouble many homeowners have gone to in order to remove dangerous bacteria from their water. As it becomes more likely that the source of the contamination of private wells in Harveys Lake is unconnected or improperly closed septic tanks, the ultimate cost of the lapses of a dozen years ago will grow.

Now the Authority faces the difficult and costly task of creating the records they should have kept on the installation of the sewers. It is a large undertaking, but the health and safety of borough residents is under threat until the job is done and the source of the bacterial is eliminated.

We hope they will get on with it in a far more aggressive manner than has been evident thus far. A house to house survey seems the only method that will insure accuracy. Perhaps volunteers from the community could help, if properly trained on how to inspect for the proper hookups.

Newsprint pact would aid recycling

Word that a Canadian company is hoping to enter into an agreement to buy thousands of tons of waste newsprint generated in Luzerne County is most welcome. Newsprint has been one of the most prodigious buy hard to dispose of materials filling our landfills.

The newspaper industry has been slow to respond to the obvious hazard that waste newsprint represents. Its bulk consumes a significant percentage of landfill space, and the inks contain potentially dangerous chemicals.

But under pressure from conservationists and government, the industry is rapidly addressing the problem. Several large newspapers in Pennsylvania have committed themselves to using more recycled paper, and that should spur growth in the supplier ranks of that commodity.

Each week, even a small paper like The Dallas Post generates dozens of waste copies via unused office copies and returns from news dealers. And each week we have wished there was something more useful to do with them than toss them in the dumpster. Perhaps there will be, soon.

Dictatorship with a Communist face

Now that the curtain of secrecy that has shielded the former leaders of East Germany is being lifted, there seems to have been very little difference between their conduct and that of despots anywhere else.

While their citizens queued up for basic necessities, the leaders enjoyed all the luxuries that a rich westerner might have. We see little difference between their behavior and that of dictators like the Duvalliers of Haiti.

If there is a lesson here, it may be that a nation's success depends on both its ideology and the quality of its leadership. Either one alone is insufficient to insure prosperity - when both are lacking, disaster ensues.

Surely the lavish lifestyle of the fallen East Germans was not a secret among the well-connected in that country. High ranking members of the press would have been among those who would have known about their excesses. But in a nation where the press was bridled by the very leaders who were abusing their power, word did not reach the general population.

That can't happen here, at least not yet. We must be ever vigilant to see that our citizens have access to as much information as possible, so that they can decide whether their leaders serve them well or poorly.

Sometimes our system is untidy and disconcerting, but in the end, nothing else has worked so well.



Twinkle, Twinkle
Dried weeds sparkle in the December sun. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Here is a summary of important events that occurred at the State Capitol recently, supplied by Rep. Scott Dieterick, R-120th Legislative District.



RIOT PROBES CONTINUE - Inmates at the riot-torn Camp Hill state prison testified before U.S. District Judge Sylvia Rambo this week in an effort to force prison authorities to improve living conditions in the facility. The prisoners are being represented by American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). According to the inmates, prisoners remain handcuffed and, in some cases, shackled together. Corrections officials contend that it is necessary to handcuff and shackle together. Corrections officials contend that it is necessary to handcuff and shackle the inmates to prevent further violence and to restore order to the facility. Legislation will be introduced in the House next week urging a House investigation of the riots and conditions in prisons throughout the state.

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - Dec. 15, 1939
NIEZGODA SKATES IN SPORTS REVUE

Harveys Lake police nab two youths who robbed Remel LaBar's cottage at the lake taking a diamond ring, a ruby ring, a watch and cash.

The projected state highway between Dallas and Tunkhannock will skirt Dallas cutting away from it near the Dallas Township School and joining it again near Fernbrook Park.

Dallas Post Office has extended its staff in anticipation of the Christmas mailing rush.

Joseph Niezgoda of Dallas will be one of the accomplished skaters who will take part tonight in the winter sports revue sponsored by the Boston Store at the new Davis Rink at Pierce Street and Second Avenue.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 16, 1949
YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS MUSICAL

Youth choir of 30 voices of

Lehman United Methodist Church will present its second annual musical Saturday night.

L.A. Furneaux and his son Barry, former Back Mountain residents, are now the operators of one of the largest poultry farms in Eastern Pennsylvania. Their farm is now located near Factoryville.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Garinger to celebrate their 45th anniversary.

Back Mountain Merchants unite and all trim store windows for Christmas.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 17, 1959
FIVE WIN MERIT SCHOLAR LETTERS

Santa will arrive by fire truck for the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion party on Saturday.

Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Prokopchak shot his second deer this season.

Five Back Mountain students won National Merit Scholarship Letters of Commendation. They were Janet Vanderhof, Francis

Bebey, Daniel Grey, Clinton George Hess and Durelle Scott III.

Operation Christmas is underway at the local post offices.

Mrs. Herman Thomas was named president of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club.

Wed - Joyce Ann Shalata and Paul Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jolly celebrate 50th anniversary.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 18, 1969
NEW ACME MARKET COMING IN SUMMER

The Acme Market-long a Dallas landmark, will have a new home this summer when work is completed on the huge new market now under construction on the corner of Church and Foster Street.

The school absenteeism of students and teachers was discussed at the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting and directors discussed ways to reduce the absences.

First National Bank of Wilkes-

Barre celebrated the opening of its Dallas office Monday morning.

Engaged - Reba Ann Heidel and James R. Yarnal; Linda Jacques and Frank John Chorba; Lois J. Type and Richard H. Disque II.

Wed - Bonnie Lou Hoyt and C.R. Goodrich; Nancy J. Zampatti and Edward V. Crinnion, Jr.

10 Years Ago - Dec. 20, 1979
KNIGHT WRESTLERS SECOND IN TOURNAY

Dallas Free Methodist Church officials claimed PENNDOT made the driveway to the church entrance hazardous.

Kingston Township manager Mark Kunkle explains Route 309 parking rule.

Dallas Junior Woman's Club hold holiday dinner at the Irem Country Club.

Dallas cagers defeat Trojans at Nanticoke 69-62.

The Knights wrestlers came in second in the Tunkhannock Tournament.

Library news

Holiday festivities scheduled for next week

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library will hold its December meeting in the form of a Christmas Tea and celebration with Christmas stories, poems and programs on Monday, Dec. 18 at 1:30 in the reference room.

A special program will be presented by Inga Goldsmith titled, "Christmas in Denmark". The Book Club members have invited the Friends of the Library members and the library volunteers to attend this special program. Members of the community are also invited to come and join in this seasonal entertainment. Refreshments will be served and guests are welcome. Reservations are not required.

The library staff is planning a Christmas open house Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19, 20 and 21 during the hours of 1 and 4 p.m.

Coffee, tea, punch and cookies will be available and the community members are invited to join in the celebration and browse through

the library and enjoy the Christmas decorations. The library is very festively adorned with all the Christmas lights and decorations.

New books at the library: "California Gold" by John Jakes is the latest historical novel by this author. It explores the lure and the legends of California, charts its change from a frontier to a modern state and chronicles as only Jakes can the loves and battles of a host of vivid characters. It captures the glory of the eternal California dream.

"Straight" by Dick Francis is the author's 28th novel in which he proves again that he has no equal. Derek Franklin, an injured steeplechase jockey, nears the end of his career and is thrust into trouble and mayhem by the accidental death of his older brother, Greville. Derek Franklin must call on all his stamina and endurance just to complete the final furlong.

"Tropical Freeze" by James W. Hall brings back Thorn, the hero of last year's surprise suspense hit. He is now a Key Largo fisherman turned avenger despite himself and

cursed with a nose for trouble. The mysterious disappearance of his boyhood friend, an FBI agent, entangles Thorn in a web of violence and intrigue that involves underworld petty crooks.

"Mothers" by Gloria Goldreich is the compelling story of two women with deep maternal affection for and claim to the same child, and of the man who fathered

that infant. It is also an honest exploration of the passion for parenthood, for biological continuity, and of the courage, drama, and conflict that such passion inspires. An intriguing story.

The staff at the Back Mountain Memorial Library extends best wishes for a happy holiday season and the very best of everything as we look forward to the 1990's.

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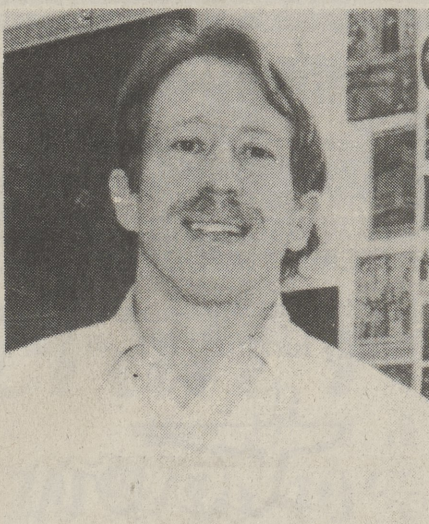
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION

The Post asks: "Do you believe that the cold war is over?"



Edie Shaffer
Dallas
Retired

"No. I'm glad to see the people are free to come and go but I think it will be a long while before there is a friendly feeling between all of the countries."



Dr. Thomas Winters
Lehman
Professor

"The Berlin Wall coming down is a very promising development but it's too early to tell how things are revolving."



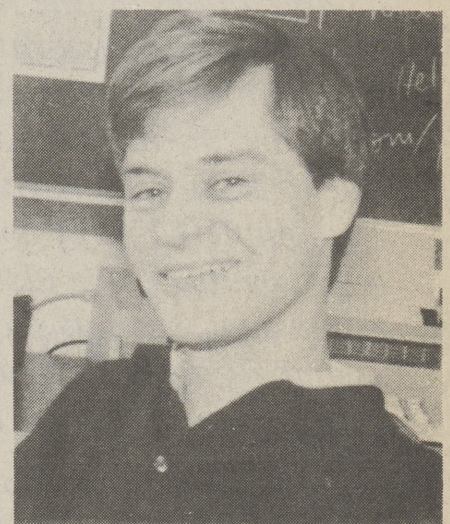
Maryann Blessner
Lehman
Guidance Counselor

"No. I don't think it will end that quickly. Countries can't be unfriendly for so many years and then have it all end so soon."



Charles James
Lehman
Principal

"No. It won't end so soon. They may have some form of democracy but not like ours."



Steve Alston
Lehman
Professor of Physics

"The Wall coming down is a symbolic sign to the end of the Cold War but a lot of work needs to be done and we need to move cautiously."