

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Bidding for costly services makes sense

After receiving an unsolicited second bid for the its insurance policies, Dallas Borough officials say they will solicit bids for the coverage next year. They didn't make any changes this year because they felt there was not enough time to make a thorough review of the competing bids.

Seeking competitive bids on insurance — and any other costly item — should result in savings to borough taxpayers. At the very least, the procedure will assure the borough that it is getting the best value for its money. In the case of insurance policies costing more than \$30,000 annually, that is good news.

Bidding wasn't pursued in the past because borough officials say it was not required. Let's hope that now they see that doing a little shopping is useful, whether or not state codes demand it.

It's easy to support the library auction

The 44th Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction is drawing near, and many residents may not know that there's a role for them in this premier fundraiser for an important institution. It doesn't take any more time than a phone call, and it might not even cost anything. The role is that of contributor of items to be sold during the event that begins July 4.

Several committees have been working with increased intensity lately, soliciting new, used and antique merchandise to be auctioned off for the library's benefit. But there's always room for more, as each donation will add to the total funds generated by the sale.

If you're in business, consider donating to the new goods committee. Individuals can supply used items for the odds 'n' ends booth, baked goods for the bake sale, or used books for the book booth. If you have an unusual item to be considered, don't hesitate to offer it.

Feeling generous? Call Nancy at the library at 675-1182; she'll get you in touch with the appropriate committee, and you'll have helped in this community-wide effort.

Correction

Due to the editor's error, an editorial in last week's issue of The Post contained inaccurate information. In the editorial, titled "Accident will spur safety improvements," it was stated that Dallas Fire Chief Ted Wright had said that a written policy would be implemented requiring fire personnel to push a traffic light control each time a truck left the Dallas fire station. That information had come from reports published shortly after an accident involving a Dallas fire truck.

However, in a news story in the same edition of The Post, Wright said that although the fire company's policies have been questioned, they would not be changed.

"We've reviewed everything," Wright said last Thursday in a conversation with The Post. "As far as we're concerned there's no need for any changes."

The Post regrets the error.



Pop-ease

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek) Barbara P. Kocher

Library news

Memorial Library begins summer reading program

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The summer reading program for 1990 is now in progress at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. This year the program is the "Treasure of the Black Diamond Summer Reading Club" and began on June 18. Children in first through sixth grade are eligible to play. There will be a special pre-school "Read-to-me" program for younger children. All the libraries in the Luzerne County Library System will participate in this reading program and will be searching for the treasure. Children may sign up any time during the day and will be given their game board at that time.

There will be some very special new activities included in the regular festivities for the 1990 library auction. The beginning date is the most exciting new idea. The auction will begin on the 4th of July for the first time ever and this year will be the 44th annual auction. A baked goods booth will feature brownies, cakes, pies, cookies, candy and other goodies during the hours of the auction. The bake sale will be held from July 5-8 and

the committee is looking for donations of baked goods to sell. Baked goods may be dropped off at the baked goods tent between 4 and 6 each afternoon. The sale will be held from 6-8 each evening. The ladies working this booth are Pam Egly 696-1178 and Marilyn Dehaven 675-8405 and they will be happy for food donations or help at the booth.

A special feature on the 4th will be the "Chicken with Curtis" all day from 11 a.m. on. Also on the menu will be barbecued ribs and shish-ke-bobs. Tickets may be purchased in advance for the barbecue at the library.

Two gentlemen arrived at the library with a lot of equipment the other day from WNEP-TV. They set up their equipment and proceeded to tape some of the activities in the library and took more pictures of the outside buildings for viewing on their TV station in the near future. They were two very considerate young men, Frank Kutch and John Sinclair, interns for WNEP-TV station. A little bit of press excitement at the library.

The library is featuring two special deals in conjunction with

the upcoming auction. A \$5.00 contribution deal; buy a bell for \$1, an antique chance for \$1 and a 50/50 chance for \$3. Then there is a super library auction shirt deal: buy a hooded sweat or a crew sweater shirt and get an auction T-shirt free. The hooded deal is \$15.00 and the crew is \$10.00.

Some new Book Club books have arrived for the book club shelf. There is "Invasions" by Eugene Izz which is a story of force and shock which sends the reader crashing down a trail of violence, sex and betrayal—where the monsters we fear most are the monsters we ourselves create. The story takes place in the dangerous part of Chicago and involves the Stateville Penitentiary.

"Bred to Win" is a novel by William Kinsolving and captures the

Letter Seeks host families for Mexican young people

Editor:
I am a local representative for an exchange program seeking to place Mexican children ages 12 to 16 in area homes for the summer. In the last three months I have put announcements in church bulletins, PTA newsletters, and local newspapers; contacted Boy Scout and youth group leaders; written letters to high school Spanish teachers; tacked up information at my place of employment; personally contacted numerous families; and various other methods of soliciting interest in our program. To date none has generated even a call of inquiry, yet alone the match of a child with a host family.

These Mexican students are well-educated, mannerly, friendly, loving, and fun. It is an adventure which spans far beyond the eight weeks they are here. I have difficulty understanding why in all of Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Back Mountain/Mountaintop/Hazleton there are no families interested in experiencing some international goodwill and cultural exchange.

When I accepted the challenge to volunteer for this fine program, I did not foresee this as a possibility of happening. I hate to think I was naive in believing that some warm, loving family would be open to the idea.

I am not aware if this is happening only to our program or is common to many exchange programs. On our behalf, and others if needed, I urge families to consider hosting an exchange student, long- or short-term, and experience an unforgettable adventure. Our area is wonderful; let's open it and our hearts to other cultures.

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Anderson afield

Environmental Neanderthals inhabit top government posts

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

George Bush promised to be the "environmental president". No doubt he hoped to be just that and is still trying. Bill Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, is a competent man. John Turner, new Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is a competent man. So far, so good.

But it appears that as long as John Sununu is White House Chief of Staff, Bill Reilly must speak softly and carry a rather small stick. And as long as Manuel Lujan, as Secretary of Interior, is John Turner's boss, John must handle the western livestock industry with kid gloves.

I remember in March, 1989, in Washington, D.C., when Lujan was asked what he would do about the horrendous overgrazing in Arizona and New Mexico. With a politician's friendly smile, he assured

us he was not aware of any serious overgrazing, therefore, we should not be alarmed by it.

Recently, Secretary Lujan let it be known that he thought the Endangered Species Act should be watered down. As for the endangered Arizona red squirrel, his comment was, "But there are all kinds of squirrels, red ones, brown ones and I don't know how many."

I suspect such remarks are highly pleasing to some ranchers in Arizona who are demanding that the state's herd of about 70,000 elk be reduced by 61 percent.

A spokesman for the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and Arizona Wool Producers' Association recently announced that the state's livestock industry wants elk numbers cut back to the levels of the early 1980's. He also demanded that the Arizona Game and Fish Department be held liable to ranchers for any adverse effects the wild-

life have on private land.

He didn't stop there, however. He demanded that the Game and Fish Department pay for any grazing by wildlife on public land (land owned by citizens of Louisiana, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and the other 47 states) where the ranchers hold permits to graze livestock. He demanded that ranchers be given a portion of the state's revenues from sales of big game hunting permits and tags, and that hunting seasons and bag limits be set in accord with the desires of ranchers. He also demanded that the livestock industry be represented equally with wildlife interests on the Game and Fish Commission.

The western livestock industry undoubtedly believes the time is right for further diminishing the remnant of land on which deer, elk, antelope and other wildlife species can survive. As a former

congressman from New Mexico, the sheepherders and cattle growers seem to have their champion in Manuel Lujan.

In Arizona, roughly 1,000 people with political influence, mostly historically based, are destroying the environment by running cattle. What does Arizona get out of it? What does the U.S. get out of it? The only benefit accrues to a very small group of people. The western stockman calls himself "independent", but actually he's on federal welfare. Most of them run cows on public land at a tiny fraction of the cost of grazing on private lands.

Methodists think this latest outrageous demand by the stockmen may backfire. The Interior Department has announced that grazing fees on public lands in 1990 are reduced from \$1.86 per cow per month to \$1.81. These unbelievably low fees are beginning to be noticed, and they don't set well

with sportsmen or livestock men who only graze private lands.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation has well over a million members. These sportsmen and conservationists can vote. Before they permit the politicians to kill off 61 percent of the elk in Arizona, there may be some new faces in Congress and at the Department of the Interior.

Manuel Lujan appears to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the western stockmen, but you can't steal from all the people all the time.

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

Report from the capitol

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

DEER HUNTERS - Lawmakers said that legislation may be needed if the state Game Commission does not act to trim the state's overpopulated deer herd. Rep. James R. Merry (R-Crawford) said that he

will submit a proposal which would allow farmers suffering crop damage to invite a limited number of hunters on their land to shoot deer between Aug. 1 and Nov. 15 this year. The House also adopted a resolution calling on the commission to act, noting that the deer herd is about 38 percent over the commission's target.