

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Time for action on
Hearthstone Pub

The former Hearthstone Pub in the center of Dallas has been allowed to be an eyesore and a danger for far too long. For some reason, Dallas Borough officials have not pressed aggressively to have the building demolished, so it has remained a firetrap and a home for vagrants, preventing positive development from taking place. It's time for action.

Despite assurances from the borough's solicitor John Fine, Jr. that proceedings on the building will move forward this fall, the matter is not listed on the court docket for September or October. During the past two years, court documents to condemn the structure have been filed twice, but then not followed by action. Meanwhile, the building continues to deteriorate, posing an ever-increasing threat to nearby structures.

One would think that after two years, the borough's solicitor would at least know who to take action against. Apparently, he doesn't, since one of the papers he filed was challenged because it was directed to persons who claim no formal affiliation with the property or its listed owner, TLC Enterprises. Not that the owners of the eyesore are making it easy to track themselves down; names on records filed in Harrisburg are apparently not those of current officers.

But that's no excuse. Two years is more than enough time to find and serve the appropriate parties so that this hazardous and unattractive building can be removed. Borough residents should not accept any more delays in this project, and officials should not accept any more stalling by the solicitor.

Fire company's
history is service

Charlot Denmon's feature story in this week's issue on the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Company is a reminder of the benefits that volunteers bring to local communities.

When it was first formed in 1927, the company served virtually all of what we now call the Back Mountain. Today, most of the towns have their own volunteer departments in order to serve the needs of a growing population.

Like many area companies, what we know as the Dallas Fire and Ambulance was originally named for one of its benefactors; in this case Dr. Henry M. Laing. Dr. Laing served the area for many years from an office where the Dallas Borough building now stands. After his death, his widow donated \$1,000 to the fledgling company and the Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company was born and lived until 1974, when it merged with the ambulance association.

Throughout its more than 60 years, the fire company has depended on the service of volunteers and donations from the public. There have been lean years and fat, but throughout them all the combination has served the community well, as anyone who has seen the volunteers in action at a fire can testify.

Thanks to the men and women who volunteer their time and risk their necks for the rest of us, and thanks to those who support them with the money needed to provide adequate service.

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.

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Hollyhocks at Hillside Farms in Trucksville

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Library news

Party August 9 for summer reading kids

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will host a party for the members of the children's summer reading program on Thursday, August 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Frances Slocum State Park. These are the children who have been working on the "Treasure of the Black Diamond Club" and the Read to Me program.

All participants attending the party will meet at pavilion #1 near the park entrance. Sneakers and informal attire are suggested. Reservations are required and may be made at the library.

The library grounds were alive last week with children and teachers in swimming attire. The Little People classes from the second floor of the library building picked a hot, sunny day and held a "Back Mountain Library Little People sun and swim time at the beach." A small swimming pool was used for the swimming and a sprinkle system provided the water sprays. A great time was had by all and the sounds of laughter filled the air.

A very faithful reader of our

library books recommended a few good books that she had read to me; which I read and enjoyed over my vacation week. They were "Inheritance" by Judith Michael and "Into the Darkness" by Barbara Michaels. Two excellent stories. That's a switch; a patron recommending books to library staff. Thanks, Gerry, your choices were super!

A dear friend, Book Club member and library supporter suffered a fall recently and has some very bad breaks in both of her legs. One of our library pages was calling her the other day to pick up a book she had reserved and I asked to speak to her. This friend is Irene Davies of Church Street in Dallas and she explained that she could not get in to pick up the book. I offered to take the book to her; which gave me a reason to visit which I had wanted to do anyway. She is one remarkable woman, both legs in casts, broken ribs; but with a wonderful philosophy and outlook. She has a hospital bed in a room in the back of the house and is looking forward to the day when she can get out of bed and walk again.

Irene and her husband, Bruce, helped with our bulk mailing for Ham 'n Yeggs at the library and then took 100 letters and stuffers home; stuffed envelopes, sealed and stamped them for us and Bruce returned them to us ready for mailing. The book I took to her is Rosemary Pilcher's new one, "September", a great story. Another super thing about the visit, I hand delivered her personal library card to her; our current new project at the library, and gave her the new number she will be using. A very special shut in delivery.

Speaking of the new library card project; Stephanie Donnelly of Trucksville was in the other day and received her new card. She has No. 1990, very easy to remember this year; however, she says next year will be a problem. She now has two things to remember; a number and getting the books back on time without having to pay an overdue fine.

A friend told me today he liked to eat lunch in the library because you can see the Reader's Digest!

Only
yesterday60 Years Ago - Aug. 1, 1930
BOROUGH SUFFERS
WATER SHORTAGE

Citizens of Dallas Borough will meet Monday night to discuss ways and means to discuss the present water shortage in the area. Scores of families and businesses have been without water service during the past week.

Four sections of Lehigh Valley train conveyed members of the Coxton Welfare Association to Harveys Lake for their picnic.

Dr. Henry M. Laing firemen were hampered in fighting a fire which destroyed a home on King Street because the borough was without water mains and fire hydrants.

Dallas Borough Council appointed Elwood Elston as a special policeman at the wage of 60¢ an hour, not to exceed \$60 per month.

Dallas and Beaumont remain tied for first place in the Rural League while East Dallas drops to second.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 2, 1940
STORMS CAUSE PHONE
SERVICE PROBLEMS

A stream of U.S. Army troops moved over the Back Mountain roads this week on their way to the nation's biggest peacetime maneuvers at the Plattsburgh-Watertown area, south of the Canadian border.

Commonwealth crews worked night and day to restore the service put out of order by severe thunder storms within the last week.

Dallas Oddfellows make progress in their conference on moving or altering their building to make way for the new highway.

Engaged - Anne Waznick and James Kozemchak; Fay Mazur and Ignatius Kozemchak.

Wed - Ruth Churnisde and Edward Van Horn; Muriel Craft and Judson Bailey; Esther Barnes and Lawrence Smith.

Dallas Arrows face a stiff battle as they fight to stay in the playoffs in the Rural League.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 4, 1950
NATONA MILLS NOT
ALLOWED IN BOROUGH

Luzerne County Court handed down a decision that would make the ordinance illegal to bring Natona Mills into Dallas Borough.

A prohibition rally at the Dallas Free Methodist Campground drew a large crowd.

Dallas Business Association will sponsor a Pet Parade August 23 to be judged at the Acme Parking Lot.

Engaged - Norma Drapiewski and Donald Dayton Long.

Wed - Helen Urlick and John Niezgoda; Mildred Lyons and Robert Broody; Jean Zimmerman and James Martin; Dorothy Weaver and Henry Kraft.

Lazarus Department Store agrees to sponsor the Dallas Indians Little League team.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 4, 1960
ROBERT VOELKER TO
BE NEW POSTMASTER

A survey shows that the biggest taxpayers in Back Mountain are the owners of the Linear Plant and second highest Natona Mills. Linear taxes are paid to Dallas Township, Natona Mills taxes are divided between Dallas Township and Dallas Borough.

Robert Voelker, Shavertown, will be installed as the new postmaster of Shavertown Post Office.

Dr. Lester Jordan is named chairman of next year's Library Auction.

Noxen defeats Forkston 7-6 for the team's 13th consecutive win.

Engaged - Mary Louise Post and Thomas R. James; Mary Ann Heck and Raymond W. Stiller.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 6, 1970
BACK MOUNTAIN TO
GET COMM CENTER

A new country network which will bring 24-hour service to the Back Mountain Community will begin Sept. 1, reported Nick Souchik, executive director of Luzerne County Civil Defense Center. The new system will be known as the Luzerne County Police Communications Center.

Mrs. T.M.B. Hicks recently returned from her trip abroad where she visited Norway, Sweden and Denmark and will tell of her experiences in five installments to be published by The Dallas Post.

Coach George Curry announces Lehman's football physicals will be given Aug. 15 at 9 a.m.

A thrill-packed exhibition will be presented by Evel Knievel, the world-renowned motorcycle daredevil at the Pocono International Raceway, Aug. 16.

Wed - Linda Jean Culp and Jeffrey Alan Holmes.

Send The Dallas Post
to a friend - it makes
a great gift.
Call 675-5211
to find our how.

Animal rightists misunderstand relationship of hunters, prey

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

Among American do-gooders, past and present, Anthony Comstock (1844-1915), may be remembered as a social reformer and crusader against vice. Admittedly, most of the younger generation claim they never heard of him, while some senile citizens, such as myself, figure they haven't missed much.

Although Comstock, the individual, has long since been laid to rest, comstockery, in one form or another, is still very much alive. The dictionary defines it as "Overzealous censorship of literature and the other arts because of alleged immorality".

The way anti-hunters and animal rightists carry on is a case-in-point. For at least two million years, man has been satisfying his hunger by feeding on the flesh of birds, mammals, fish and various invertebrates. The original Americans, whether red or white, were good hunters. They had to be. With the advent of agriculture, successful hunting and fishing were no longer

absolute necessities for our survival. But they did, indeed, provide essential and most welcome protein to the diet in grandfather's day.

Venison, wild ducks, geese, quail and doves were very much in demand. Hunting for the market not only provided highly delectable meat for the city folks, it provided a good living for the market hunter. But when the axe and plow destroyed the habitat of the deer, turkeys, and antelope, and when the white man deliberately eliminated the buffalo to make room for his cattle, and drained the marshes to make room for wheat and corn, populations of game birds and mammals could no longer sustain market hunting. The professional market hunter ran out of raw material, and his career came to an end.

Now it came to pass that in pursuit of game for the table, many individuals developed a deep love for the chase. Ironically, it was this love for the ancient pursuit of prey that helped to outlaw the sale of fish and game, and turned the

steady decline of game species completely around. Today there are more deer, wild turkeys, and antelope than the pioneers ever saw. Buffalo have to be thinned annually due to lack of space. Doves are extending their range farther and farther north. Canada geese are so abundant in many areas they are almost a nuisance.

In stark contrast, the dusky seaside sparrow which was never hunted, became extinct last year. Our national emblem almost preceded the seaside sparrow, and its numbers are still dangerously low. No one every hunted brown pelicans in the Pelican State, but they were extirpated in Louisiana. There are only a few Kirtland's warblers left. Golden-cheeked warblers are on their way out, so are American bitterns, piping plovers, loggerhead shrikes, and a dozen other nongame birds.

Now if eagles were really tasty, would hold well to a pointing dog, and offered a real challenge to the sportsmen, they just might be as abundant as wild turkeys.

Many game birds and mammals

are abundant today because the sportsman translated his love for the chase into providing suitable food and cover for them.

The most respected and effective conservationists in our history were ardent hunters. The great Aldo Leopold loved to hunt as well as write. John James Audubon would rather hunt than paint. For that matter, I refer you to Moses, who decreed, "If a bird's nest chance to be before thee... with young ones or eggs, and the dam sitting on the young, or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young... the young thou mayest take, that it may be well with thee and thou mayest prolong thy days". (Deuteronomy 22:6) I reckon the modern anti-hunters would like to make Moses eat those words, because he plainly told his followers it was okay to take and eat the surplus young.

It's interesting to note that the Comstock Act was seldom invoked against such pornographic garbage as "Night Life in Chicago", "Adventures on a Pullman Sleeper", or "The Confessions of an ex-Nun".