

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

If Borough residents care, they should attend next meeting

Residents of Dallas Borough have much to talk about with the borough's Council of Supervisors at its monthly meeting next Tuesday; the question is whether anyone will care enough to attend.

In recent months, a ruckus has been raised over the installation of rumble strips on Route 309 and subsequent attempts to have the noisy addition removed. Most recently, it was discovered that the borough's solicitor, John S. Fine, Jr., had misled the council about action he should have taken to have the former Hearthstone Pub torn down. Those with a longer memory will remember that a past borough manager skipped out with \$5,000 (or more) of the borough's money, but no charges were ever filed against him.

Does Dallas Borough have more problems than other communities? Perhaps not. But neither does it seem to have the leadership some others have; leadership that anticipates needs and solves problems quickly and effectively. There are probably many reasons why that situation exists, but chief among them must be that the citizens of the borough haven't consistently demanded better performance. In the end, we get the government we deserve.

It can be intimidating to bring your complaints to a borough meeting, especially for those not accustomed to public gatherings. Unfortunately, some of the supervisors have occasionally made it even more difficult by challenging those who dare to speak out. When that happens, a useful public process breaks down into a power play, with the council holding all the cards.

It's perhaps understandable that the supervisors acquire an attitude that people should leave them alone if residents only communication is an occasional outburst over their personal discomfort or inconvenience. Where, they might ask, were you when we were wrestling with big problems?

Small town government in America should be filled with a lively debate as citizens and elected officials decide the best direction for their community. There are always disagreements, sometimes strong ones. But progressive communities work out their conflicts in a spirit of cooperation and concern for the good of all, avoiding the paralyzing cynicism that comes with uncompromising positions. Somehow, that spirit has broken down in Dallas Borough. Now would be a good time to begin to repair it.

But it won't fix itself. Citizen participation is the foundation of good government. Who among us could promise to do what's best for the community if left entirely to our own devices? No one, of course; we need different opinions and ideas in order to find the best course.

One thing is nearly certain. If no one cares enough about tearing down the Hearthstone Pub — or about removing the rumble strips — or about recovering all the stolen money — then none of those things are likely to happen. But if residents show up next Tuesday to voice their concerns and to demand action, they can't be ignored.

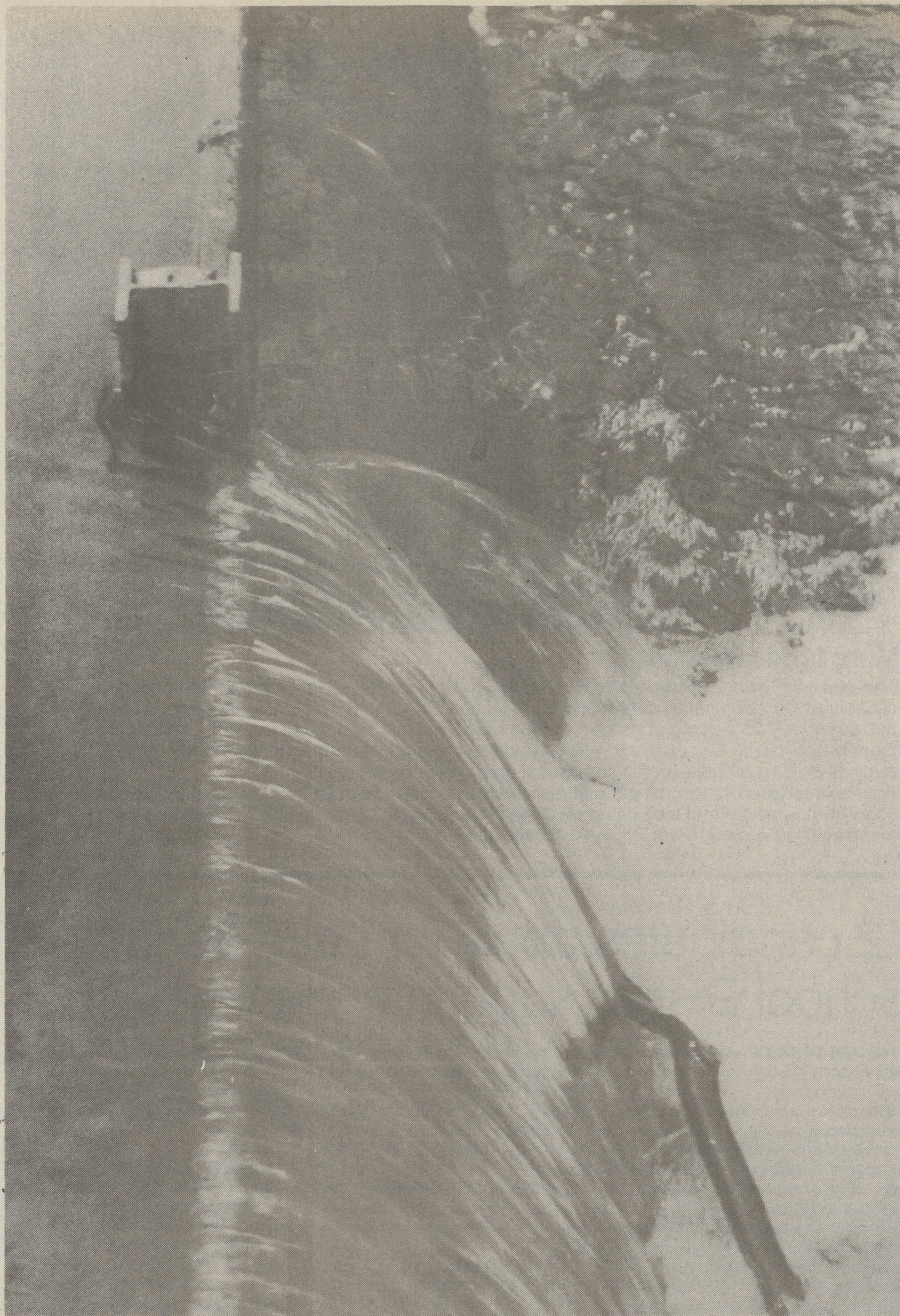
The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21 starting at 8:00 p.m. in the Dallas Borough Hall on Main Street.

Hussein can't do for us what we should have done ourselves

In some perverse way, has Iraq's murderous dictator Saddam Hussein done the United States a favor by invading Kuwait? Some pundits have suggested as much, since they think this blatant grab for oil production profits will spur America to finally address its dependence on imported oil. We wish it were so, but we doubt it.

Americans have shown a remarkable ability to leave their fate in the hands of others, whether they are oil-producing Arab states or VCR producing Japanese. Ignoring all the warnings of two previous oil shocks, we now import a greater percentage of oil than ever. That's in part because our appetite for oil has grown as our government has slacked off from plans to force greater efficiency on auto manufacturers and others. And, of course, we have done precious little to develop alternative sources of fuel, many of which could be produced entirely from domestic materials.

No, it's unlikely that we'll learn anything from this latest episode. After things settle down we'll go back to our wasteful and shortsighted ways, until someday we have no choice. Then it will probably be too late.



Water over the dam

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

Jacob Swartwood's dinosaurs on display

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The remainder of the summer will be dinosaur days at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The display case is featuring a collection of plastic scale model dinosaurs borrowed from Jacob Swartwood of Dallas. Jacob is 8 years old and will be in third grade in the fall at Dallas Elementary School. His first dinosaur in the collection was a Triceratops. His father then gave him a collection of 8 dinosaurs and he has added to them on various occasions since then.

There is a model of a Blue Whale in the display that is not scale model, but all the others are. The plant eating dinosaurs include Glypton; Brontosaurus; Stegosaurus; Scelidosaurus; Megalosaurus; Brachiosaurus; Iguanodon; Triceratops and Diplodocus. There is only one fish eater; he is a Pterandadon. The meat eaters include Plesiosaur; Tyrannosaurus Rex; and Ichthyasaurus.

Jacob has made cards for each of the dinosaurs and they are placed in the case with the dinosaurs. He really knows all about his collection and keeps them at

home on a corner shelf in his younger brother's room. His brother, Jesse, is two years old and enjoys the dinosaurs also. Jacob has used his dinosaur display at a science fair project when he was in first grade. These dinosaurs make a very interesting display and will be at the library until September 5.

The library staff is happy to welcome a new volunteer. Andrea Sordoni who lives in Dallas and is married to George Sordoni, was looking for some place to do some volunteer work. A friend suggested the library and she came in and filled out an application and we are happy to have her volunteer for us. She is interested in the library and enjoys the work she does here, such as shelves books, checks inventory list and reads the shelves. She spend two to three hours at the library each week. She claims she was looking for a change of pace and she found it at the library. We appreciate her help.

The library has available for take out the Premium Guide catalog for the Luzerne County Fair. The fair is sponsored by the Dallas Area Fall Fair, Inc. and will be held at

the fair grounds in Dallas September 5 through the 9th. The theme for this year's 28th annual fair is "A Good Old Country Classic". The booklet contains the schedule of events; major contests; general rules; and sections on livestock, 4-H, open class arts and crafts and an index. The booklets are available in the foyer of the library.

New books at the library: "Mother Earth Father Sky" by Sue Harrison is a novel of extraordinary historical detail about one woman's struggle for survival. It is brimming with legends and myth and a compelling love story about an American woman who is forced to become the wife of a troubled man.

"Dragon" by Clive Cussler is a new Book Club selection and a novel that is thrilling and entertaining mixing recent history with some of our deepest fears. It is once again up to the inimitable Dirk Pitt to defuse a terrifying threat to world peace. The story covers Alaska to the Pacific.

Question: "Where would I find something about current events?" The answer, "Electricity".

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Aug. 15, 1930 ANDERSON SUSPENDS POLICE OFFICERS

Burgess Harry Anderson of Dallas suspended officers Avery and Elston for failure to report to work due to the recent agitation and newspaper publicity.

Four of the Borough's eight miles of streets will be hard-topped by Fall.

Trucksville Community Association will hold its third annual flower show.

Dallas loses 4-2 to Ashley in the Wyoming League.

"The Texan" starring Gary Cooper, played at Himmler Theatre this week.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1940 DAIRYMEN WANT TO RAISE MILK PRICES

Dairymen seek milk price boost to offset costs.

Work extends along the 11-mile length of the \$750,000 streamlined highway from Trucksville to Lutes Corners.

O'Malia firm opens one of the most modern laundries in the state.

Arrows to meet Jenks on Sunday and must win to earn a playoff spot in the Bi-County post-season series.

Engaged - Eleanor Murphy and Francis P. Basta.

Wed - Florence Olive McMichael and John E. Jones; Emma Lewis and Matthew J. Bandish.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 18, 1950 RAY SHIBER TO JUDGE DLADIOLUS SHOW

Local Draft Board 92 is preparing for inductees.

Ray Shiber, Dallas, was one of the judges in the 500 class at Binghamton Gladiolus Show on Tuesday.

Fred Eck, cashier of First National Bank of Dallas, will leave tomorrow for two weeks of Banking School at the University of Wisconsin.

Engaged - Shirley N. Benscoter and Sterling Meade.

Wed - Mary Ellen Hill and James S. Waters.

"Stage Fright" starring Jane Wyman shown at Himmler Theatre.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 18, 1960 AREA RESIDENTS WATCH SATELLITE

Many Back Mountain residents saw the satellite rising in the southeast and settling in the southwest. Lehman-Jackson nine is the league champ in the Teeners League.

Republican Chicken Barbecue at Tunkhannock this Saturday.

Beaumont tops Sugar Hill 8-5. Engaged - Charlotte Aleeta Travers and Ernest Slocum; Alice Jean Platt and Joseph Martin.

Wed - Peggy Williams and Pvt. Michael Dubil Jr.; Phyllis Mae Weaver and Howard Keller.

Trucksville Girl Scouts return from Wildwood at Harveys Lake.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 20, 1970 FIRST PHASE OF PARK ALMOST FINISHED

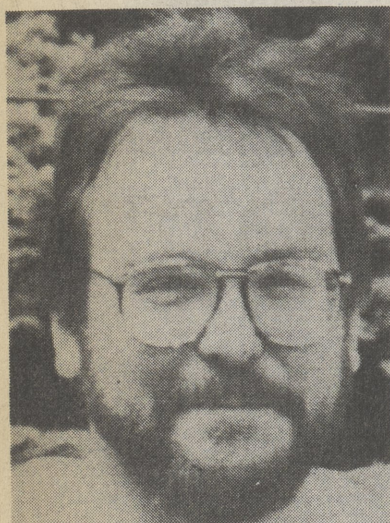
The 1st phase of the long-awaited Dallas Borough Park should be almost finished when school opens.

The East tops the West in last week's Unico game.

Amy Pearsall took first place in pony pleasure over 12.2 at the Idetown Horse Show. Ellen Vivian took first in the hunt seat equitation, regular working horse and in pony working hunter under saddle in the show.

Wed - Deborah Kleiner and Frank E. Wojcik, Jr.

Post asks: "Do you approve of sending U.S. troops to the Mid-East?"



Bruce Phipps
Self-employed
Dallas

"We need oil and we can't have the oil-rich countries dictating to us. I believe Bush did the right thing by acting promptly."



Paul Klemunes
Student
Lehman

"I'm in favor of our troops going there. These little countries are power and money hungry. They want to rule the world."



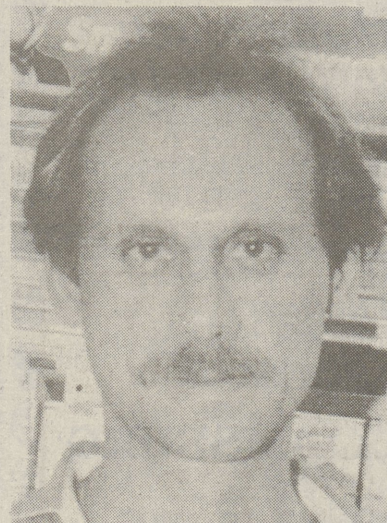
Jim Tupper
Businessman
Dallas

"Yes, even though the oil shortage will hurt our economy. It upsets me that a small country can do what Iraq is doing."



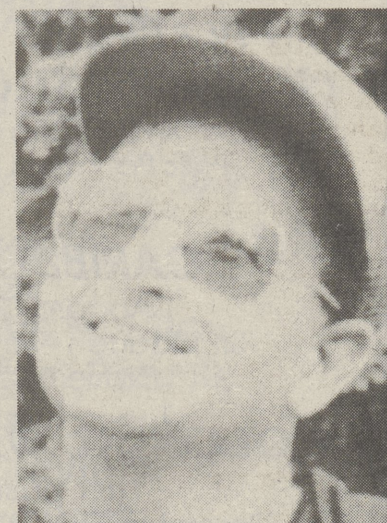
Robert Wilson
Retired
Oak Hill

"Yes, we have to protect the people over there and also try to settle the oil crisis."



Jack Peck
Pharmacist
Dallas

"We have to look out for our country and that's what we are doing."



Joe Ostrowski
Manager
Harveys Lake

"I'm a Democrat but this one time I approve of the president sending in troops to stop Saddam."