

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Traffic lights needed; but how will they be paid for?

Citizen demand for more traffic signals on Back Mountain highways has risen again, this time with a group of Dallas Borough residents petitioning for a light at the intersection of Route 415 and Center Hill Road, near Pickett's Charge Restaurant. That is but one of the locations that merit a traffic light, others being the intersection of Route 309 and Main Street, near Mark II; the intersection of routes 118 and 415 on the way to Harveys Lake; and the intersection of Route 309 and Franklin Street in Shavertown.

It's not easy in Pennsylvania to have a new traffic light installed. No matter how badly a municipality may want one, the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has the final say, based on their studies of traffic volume and hazards. In the case of the light near Pickett's Charge, approval was granted several years ago, but the application was never sent on, most likely because the borough felt it couldn't afford the \$60,000 tab.

That seems an absurd situation; if PennDOT has the authority to approve or disapprove lights, it should also bear some of the responsibility to pay for them. But that's the way it is, and if Back Mountain residents want better traffic control, they'll have to resolve themselves to paying for it.

Each of the intersections mentioned above has been the site of numerous serious accidents, several of them fatal. That fact alone should stimulate a serious investigation into the benefits and costs of installing lights at them. In the past, the need has been acknowledged, but the borough has been reluctant to come up with the needed funds, saying that taxpayers couldn't afford to bear the expense.

Maybe times have changed. There is no doubt of the need for more signals, particularly at the intersections near Pickett's Charge and Mark II. The real question is how to pay for them, and that's where some creativity may be required. The funds could probably be raised if a serious effort were made to enlist the public, taxpayers and businesses. Most people who drive on the local highways know the danger and inconvenience they face and would be willing to ante up for more safety.

But, again, Pennsylvania's arcane regulations stymie local municipalities' ability to meet the needs of residents. Under existing tax law, most boroughs and townships are limited in the rate of wage tax they can charge — in most cases to one percent. Therefore, the burden of raising more revenue rests on already-pressed property taxes, on which school districts and the county also rely.

The solution to this dilemma, then, rests with Back Mountain municipalities' ability to marshal support for a needed expenditure. It can be done, and it should be done.

'Ugly' guardrails better than none

Traffic control of a different type is causing a mini-controversy at Harveys Lake, where some residents are upset about guardrails that are being installed, calling them ugly and more suited to a turnpike ramp than the shore of the lake.

But ugly or not, guardrails are clearly needed around much of the lake, where it's far too easy for motorists who lose control of their vehicles to wind up in the drink or worse.

Perhaps the borough can put a coat of paint on the offending rails after installation. That might be a quick, cost-effective measure.



Autumn reflections

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

Book Club buys three novels for collection

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club held its first meeting of the new season last Monday in the reference room at the library. There were fourteen members present at the meeting and a warm welcome was extended to new member, Mary Panaway.

Our recording secretary, Jo Bonham, who has done an excellent job for many years announced she would have to resign her position due to her health. We appreciate all the years she has given to the Book Club and we will sincerely miss her and all that she has added to the monthly meeting. Bennie Matchet has accepted the secretary position on an interim basis.

The Book Club contingency fund donated money to the library to buy three novels for the library. The books are: Victoria Holt's "Snare of Serpents"; Len Deighton's "Spy Sinker"; and Kelsey Kirkland's "Shape of Love". An interesting letter was read from a former regular book club member, Peggy Love, who is now visiting in New York. Originally from England, she always had very interesting stories to tell at Book Club meetings.

The program was presented by John and Diane Youells, owners of

the Back Mountain Books in the Country Club Shopping Center. They brought many of their books for the members to browse through and gave us and insight into what stock they carried in reading material. They also showed us a 30 second video about the book store. As part of the refreshment portion of the meeting, our party girl, Jane, brought in a birthday cake to celebrate my birthday a few days in advance. The thought was greatly appreciated; it is still nice to hear a group of people sing "Happy Birthday to You", and the cake was delicious and enjoyed by all. Pouring at the tea table were Martha Parker and Elizabeth Stoehr. Book Club will meet in October on Monday, the 15th, in the reference room. Members and guests are invited to attend.

Speaking of birthdays, it is twenty three years ago this month that I began to work at the library; starting in the children's department and then moving up to the Assistant Librarian position. The library staff is given their birthday off as an extra holiday and this year is the first time that I actually stayed away from the library on my birthday. A real holiday! Those are two reasons why September is always important to me.

A very dear couple who were ardent supporters and users of the library moved to Lancaster during the past summer. Before they left, they brought many items to the library to be used for our annual library auction. Among these items was a hand made wooden sail boat with full regalia, which we put up for bids over the auction block. In checking the auction bills readying them for billing, I came across a bill which included the sail boat, which was sold for \$260.00, a nice donation to the auction proceeds. Interesting, the person who bought the sail boat lives on Water Street and also bought a book about a sailing ship. Thanks, Harvey, for giving us your sailboat.

We find all sorts of things left behind by our library patrons; in the returned books or at the tables where they study. However, a rare find last week was a child's sneaker. It was a small size and it is an Oshkosh brand. It is still here at the front desk waiting for its owner to pick it up.

Then there was this person who had an overdue book and when asked where the book was, his answer was, "I took it to the tailor, it's jacket was torn".

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Sept. 26, 1930 COMMISSIONERS SENT TO JAIL FOR YEAR

President Judge W.S. McLean sentenced Luzerne County commissioners to serve one year in jail, \$500 fine and removal from office as a result of two years investigating county expenditures and waste on the recently constructed Luzerne/Trucksville Highway by the Taxpayers Association.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company plans to burn notes tonight at a community program including a parade and dance.

Lockhart A.C. Club will visit Dallas this weekend in an effort to add another game to its long list of wins this season.

Wed-Marie LaBarr and Arnold Wright.

50 Years ago-Sept. 27, 1940 CALVIN McHOSE LUNCHES WITH MRS. ROOSEVELT

Taking advantage of the mild weather contractors laying Dallas's new highway had pushed work about 50 percent ahead of schedule.

The draft divisions for the Dallas Area for peace-time military service were announced this week by the state.

The Bloomsburg Fair was drawing record crowds and would conclude Saturday night with an all-star racing program and the final presentation of the sensational night shoe "Echoes of Broadway"

Calvin McHose was among the 12 persons who had lunch with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt on Monday when she visited Scranton.

Suburban Hill took the lead in balloting for a new name for the local area this week, only one vote ahead of the Back Mountain Region.

Former Dallas Burgess G. Harold Wagner is Democratic nominee for State Treasurer.

Lehman, Kingston Township and Dallas Township football teams will face their second opponents of the season this Sunday.

Wed-Clara Smith and William Rifenbery.

40 Years Ago-Sept. 29, 1950 BANDS WILL PLAY IN BOOSTER DAY PARADE

All five Back Mountain High School bands will march in the Booster Day Parade tomorrow, the first time in history that they have appeared together. The parade starts promptly at 1:30 p.m. with Lehman, Lake, Dallas, Dallas Township and Kingston Township taking part.

Alethea R. Jones, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Jones, Fernbrook, won a scholarship in physical therapy under the nationwide professional training program of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

Prince of Peace won the Back Mountain Church League playoffs last Wednesday by defeating St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1-0 in an extra inning game.

Wed-Shirley N. Bencocoter and Sterling Meade; Shirley Boston and Sheldon Hoover; Marion Zinn and Ralph Johnson.

30 Years ago - Sept. 29, 1960 FIRST HAYMARKET ANTIQUE SHOW HELD

The first annual Haymarket Antique Show was staged in a field a mile beyond Evans Falls with mountains for a backdrop.

Lake-Lehman Building Authority will meet tomorrow night to study revised plans for the new Junior-Senior High School building.

Beaumont takes first game of semi-finals from Noxon 6-4.

Engaged-Lida Jeen Hughes and Richard Goode.

Wed-Elma M. Morris and Charles Nice; Johanna Laskowski and Joseph S. Yurck; Beverly Bloom and Howard Perrego.

Farmers Night Market is a riot of color as harvest season reaches its peak.

20 Years Ago - October 1, 1970 KIWANIS BACKS TAX TO HELP LIBRARY

Evidence shows that a car thief is active in Franklin Township.

"Walk-a-way" which lasted only six days for an inmate of the State Correctional Institution at Chase was short term of freedom when the inmate was found in the area of the institution's dairy barn.

The incredible three-year winning streak of the Nittany Lions ended Saturday with their 41-13 defeat by a perfection-honed University of Colorado team.

Dallas Kiwanis Club backs the tax for the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Dallas Mountaineers toppled the Plainsmen 33-6 in the local team's third game on the Dallas field.

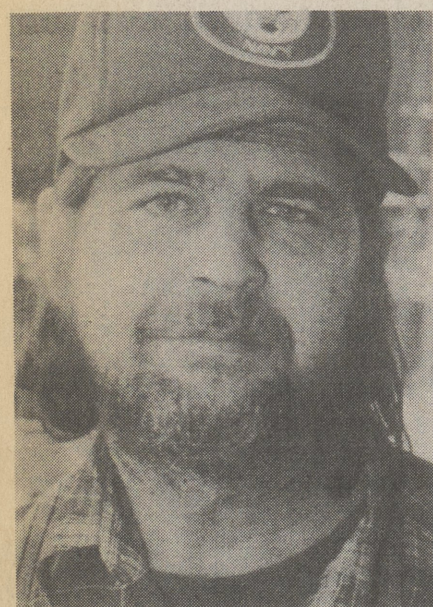
Wed-Cheryl Lee Evans and Joseph A. Abruzzi; Beverly Mae Schoonover and John C. Orlando.

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The Post asks: Are you ready for the cooler weather?



John Alsop
Trucksville

"I don't think we have much of a choice but being for Florida I prefer the warmer weather."



Dave Koval
Shavertown

"Not really, I like summer better than winter, I guess I'm just not ready for the cold."



Raul Lopez
Shavertown

"I guess so, I like both the warm and cold weather but when it snows I like to ski."



Audrey Brighthaupt
Dallas

"No, I like the summer. It is better when it is hot outside."