

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

The Christmas story inspires all mankind

"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'"

These words from the Gospel of Luke, verses 3, 10-3, 11, express the beginning of one of the greatest stories in human history. On Tuesday, millions of Christians will again celebrate the birth of the Christ child, by worshipping alone or at church and by sharing their trust and hope with family and friends.

The spirit of the season has survived war and pestilence; greed and envy; false prophets and imperfect leaders. Yet it lives on, carried by a belief that is too strong to die. Now some observers think rampant commercialism will overwhelm the true message of Christmas, but the holiday and the tradition are to strong for that. A few sale ads can't trample 2,000 years of hope.

In the rush and distraction of the season, we think that all who celebrate this special time will find time for reflection on the true meaning of the season. Whether or not one believes the Christmas story literally, it can inspire us all to a better life here on earth and beyond.

Towns must demand more of developers

The Poepperling family of Lehman is in a fix that might have been prevented if municipalities in the Back Mountain were more demanding of developers.

Ever since the young family bought their first house, located in the Town and Country subdivision, they have been confronted by one obstacle after another, largely the result of the builder's failure to meet conditions placed on the property when it was first developed. Most of the problems result from improper handling of water runoff, which was to be addressed by restrictions that were tied to a zoning variance the contractor was given before construction began. But the promised drainage improvements were never made and the Poepperlings unknowingly bought the problems along with the property.

Neighbors who brought the drainage situation to the attention of township officials when the developer first sought permission to build on the lot, now must contend with excessive runoff but are understandable reluctant to blame their new neighbors. The township says it can't respond until someone files suit against it, and the Poepperlings have been unable to get any response from the builder. If this sounds a bit like a broken omelet, it is.

This and similar situations may have been avoided if municipalities in the Back Mountain demanded adequate protection against developers' failure to complete projects properly. In this case, the proceeds of a performance bond could have been used to complete the drainage work called for by the township.

Construction of homes has slowed to a crawl in recent months, but it will revive again. When it does, the Back Mountain will be an attractive area to builders both because buyers like the area and because most municipalities make so few demands on developers. Requiring safeguards from those who stand to profit from growth is a prudent and essential action our communities can take.

THE DALLAS POST
Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
Telephone: 717-675-5211

Ronald A. Bartzek Editor and Publisher	Charlotte E. Bartzek Associate Publisher
Peggy Young Advertising Acct. Exec.	Charlot M. Denmon Reporter
Paul Rismiller Composition	Rich Johnson Reporter
	Olga Kostrobala Classified/typesetting
	Jean Hillard Office Manager

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

Anderson afield

Cat companions: a whole lot better than Vietnamese pigs

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

If on my theme I rightly think, cats just barely tolerate human beings. In view of what we did to each other in the battle at Antietam (my granddad was in that one), and what the Germans, Japanese, Russians, Brits and Yanks did in WWII, (I was in that one for over four years) you may see why the cats' attitude and mine get closer and closer together.

Now if, by chance, your life has been singularly free of cats - I mean if a cat has never run your household - you may appreciate some reasons for maintaining the status quo. After all, it costs you money to subscribe to this newspaper, and you should get more benefits therefrom. So my thoughts on the matter are passed along for whatever they are worth.

Now Old Green Eyes (that's my ever-lovin' wife) has been a cat-lover since the time - about 30 years ago - I called and asked if she'd mind if I brought home a little strange pussy. The latter was more-or-less dominating the household of a wildlife sanctuary manager. Now on a wildlife sanc-

tuary, cats that eat birds, mice, baby rabbits and such are not looked upon with favor. So, to solve my employee's problem (he had to get rid of that damned cat), I volunteered the services of Old Green Eyes.

In the interim, there was Omar, Mischief, Pussy Cat, Little Luv, and Pooh that came and went: Now "came and went" is easy to say. Believe me, the coming and going ain't that easy. As of today, Pooh has come to rest 'neath the green willow tree out back. You've heard the expression "deathly silence"? Well, deathly silence reigns, at least temporarily, over our household.

Now when it comes to heart-break and the lonelies, I'm well aware that Dear Abby has long since sewed up the market on advice to the lovelorn. During the usual honeymoon, there's not much call for Abby's advice. And during the child-rearing period, husband and wife interact, communicate and scheme against the kids, while the kids scheme and plot against mom and dad.

But when the kids leave the nest, the proud parents are left

without a common enemy. Sort of like when Gorby said to Ronnie, "You'll hafta find some other excuse for spending billions on star wars and stealth bombers. We're not your evil empire anymore". On the international stage, however, there always seem to be a Sandanista, Noriega, or Saddam Hussein against whom we can unite.

But that's on the international level. Here at home, after Peter Jennings, Dan, or Tom tell you the world is going to hell in a handbasket, - which you already knew - you need a center of attention.

Until today, Pooh kept this household pretty well occupied. She knew what she wanted. We knew what she wanted. She got what she wanted.

Admittedly, Tiger has been waiting patiently - ready, willing, and able to take over. But Old Green Eyes and I are getting too old to accept the loss of another benevolent dictator.

So, maybe it's time to write Dear Abby. On the other hand, a short time back, the papers and TV were full of folks making over a Vietnamese potbellied pig. I mean they were the "in-thing" and maybe they

still are. Folks claim they are sweet and neat and likeable and can be housebroken. Lord knows they don't come cheap! A pregnant sow runs \$3,500 and a shoat or large piglet \$1,500. Maybe I could get the runt of the litter for less than a case of Scotch. And if my investment turned out like modern-day bank deals, I could recoup some of my losses, seeing as how I love spareribs, bacon, ham and red-eyed gravy.

Now, after thinking it over, you may thing a miniature pig would

be just the thing to fill the void in this house. For some reason, Tiger doesn't seem too concerned about such a porcine prospect. In fact, she confidentially expects to take charge of things.

That's because little girls and pussy cats are born knowing things little boys and men will never learn.

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

Northeastern Philharmonic offers convenient ticket plan

For all those who have wanted to subscribe to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic but found it too inconvenient to fit their schedules, there is an offer now available which no one will want to refuse.

For \$50, a book of six coupons can be purchased which offers the maximum flexibility in selecting concerts. Each coupon (approx-

mately \$8 value) is good for the best available seat at any concert.

Six individuals can attend one concert or one individual can attend "half a dozen" different concerts. At \$24 for the best seats in the house, this offer represents potential savings of \$94.00.

For more information on the ticket gift book, call 457-8301.



Sign of the season

(Photo by Maria Sawka)

Library news

Holiday open house at library this weekend

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The library staff will be holding a Christmas open house for patrons, neighbors and friends of the library on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 19th, 20th and 21st of December from 12 noon until 4 p.m. We will be serving coffee, tea, punch, cookies and candy and we invite all library supporters and friends to join us in the Christmas festivities.

"'tis the season"; "Out of the Mouths of Babes"; and "Christmas is for Children". How very appropriate these expressions are for this time of the year, and they all are suitable remarks for an incident which transpired last week at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

We have been featuring a trolley display at the library for the past four weeks and one day last week a small boy and his mother came in to the library with a rather large plastic trolley.

The little boy was Matthew Noble of Dallas who is three years old and he asked if we thought Rev. Wert, the man who owns the trolley display, would like to have this

trolley to add to his collection. I told him I thought he would be happy to have it. It was the Neighborhood Trolley from Mr. Rogers and it plays the special music from the program.

What a wonderful gesture from this young boy and how pleased Rev. Wert was to receive it. It seems when this family outgrows their toys, they like to pass them along to others. That is a living example of the true Christmas spirit.

The display case in the office area is currently featuring a winter scene with lighted houses and a nativity scene in the center of the display. There are 2 Christmas trees, a snow mountain with skiers and a lake with skaters; the North Pole house with Santa Claus; and a Church with colored lights. The Christmas decorations are in place all over the library and outside the building as well giving us a happy Christmas atmosphere.

We would like to remind residents that we are accepting recipes for the library cookbook which should be printed by the library auction in July. There are forms at the library to use for recipes and they may be dropped off at the

library circulation desk. It is also suggested that an estimated order for cookbooks be made by each recipe contributor when the recipe is handed in. Approximate cost of the cookbook will be \$8.00.

New books at the library: "Rush" by Kim Wozencraft is a novel about a woman police officer as only a woman could have lived it. Raw, frighteningly realistic, it offers an unparalleled glimpse of a woman's heart—and a cop's head—in crisis. A spectacular novel; tough, gritty and shockingly real.

"A Time To Die" by Wilbur Smith is a story of courage and friendship, the thrill of the hunt, the savagery of war and the saving power of love. Sean Courtney is swept up in the violent tides of a new war and becomes the captive of a brutal enemy from his past. A novel of excitement and power.

The members of the staff at the Back Mountain Memorial Library; Mary Ellen, Nancy, Marilyn, Charlotte, Jane, Lou Ellen, Millie, Jane, Marie, Pat and Will wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a beautiful holiday season. This year, more than ever, our wish is for "Peace on Earth" Good Will to Men"

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Dec. 19, 1930
WILLIAMS GETS A 350-LB BLACK BEAR

Back Mountain residents are urged by The Dallas Post to contribute to the cause of needy families in the area.

\$129,112.88 taken in delinquent taxes by Luzerne County and distributed to the various districts.

High School basketball season opens tonight with Dallas Varsity going against Northumberland. The girls squad will also play.

Wed - Gertrude Landers and Dr. Robert Bodycomb.

Henry Williams of the Outlet last week shot and killed a 350-lb black bear in the vicinity of Richards known as the Meadows.

50 Years Ago - Dec. 20, 1940
GIRVAN HELPS JIM THORPE WITH CAR

Jim Thorpe, greatest athlete, breaks car and visits Dallas where he is hosted by Bob Girvan and a friend when they stopped to see if they could help Thorpe.

Frank Edwards shot a Canadian Lynx while he was deer hunting seven miles above Dinstell with Ted Wilson, Clark Fowler, Ernest Wilson and Ira Ross.

Christmas decorations on Main Street, Dallas, this year are attracting considerable comment because of their colors.

Dallas Borough cagers down Nescopeck 37-28.

Engaged - Charlotte Parsons and Robert N. Prideaux.

East Dallas Sunday School students and their parents will be honored at a banquet held in the church this evening.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 22, 1950
LIBRARY REVIEWS NEW BUILDING PLANS

Executive board of the Back Mountain Library met Monday night to review plans for the newly-acquired building next door to the library on Main Street.

Volunteers will man the air raid warning posts in the Back Mountain area. The Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post has assumed responsibility for the post on Huntsville Road.

First National Bank adopts pension plan for its employees.

Col. Leon Beisel will be guest speaker at the Dec. 26th meeting of the Toll Gate Lions Club.

The Church League basketball teams revise their schedule for the holidays in order to play all of their games before the season closes.

Women of Rotary entertain their husbands at a Christmas Dance at Irem Temple Country Club.

Woman's Club Chorale will broadcast over WILK.

Engaged - Margaret Elliott Lance and Dallas W. Haines, Jr.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 22, 1960
SANTA MEETS KIDS AT LEGION PARTY

Robert Hanson sells bowling alley business to Tony Bonomo former owner of Exeter Lanes.

Fifteen extra employees help post office handle record mail.

Back Mountain kids can dial OR5-1111 to reach Santa Claus.

Three hundred children greet Santa Claus at the Legion's Christmas Party.

Department of Public Instruction approves 43 acre site near Lehman Center for the new \$2 million high school this spring.

Westmoreland Cagers top Hannover 69-60.

Harveys Lake team leads league with its overtime win over Huntsville.

High School juniors and seniors attend College Misericordia Career Day.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 22, 1970
MULLOY AUTHORS MODERNIZATION PLAN

Dallas Borough ups budget eight percent for 1971.

Dallas Junior Woman's Club to distribute baskets to the needy families in the Back Mountain community.

Patrick Mulloy, Dallas, is among the authors of a massive modernization plan announced this week by the State Department. The plan is the result of unique experiment in "reform from within" by a major government department.

Gate of Heaven Altar and Rosary Society observe Christmas at the Castle Inn.

Engaged - Diane Lenore Hozempa and Bradley Evans Bryant.

Santa Claus arrives in fire truck at the Shavertown Fire Company's Christmas party for children of the area.

Dallas School District offers Type A lunch program.