

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

No time to waste on improving highway

State Senator Charles Lemmond and Representative Phyllis Mundy say they would welcome the opportunity to meet with local officials to discuss what can be done to make Route 309 safer for motorists. We hope local officials take that as an invitation and schedule such a meeting soon.

Few who drive on the highway are comfortable with it in its present form. The speed limit is consistently exceeded as four lanes of traffic pass dozens of side streets and parking lot entrances. There is little separation between vehicles moving in opposite directions at high speeds. Several busy intersections are without traffic lights or other traffic control systems. The result has been too many accidents resulting in death and injury.

And it's going to get worse. The Cross Valley Expressway will be completed late this year, adding more cars and trucks to the mix. Plans are afoot to build a bypass around Tunkhannock that would feed more vehicles, especially trucks, through the Back Mountain. Population growth will mean more cars moving up and own the highway.

It's time that a comprehensive plan was developed to better control traffic on and around Route 309. Doing so will require the best efforts of local and state officials (Dare we expect anything from the county?) as well as those who travel the highway or depend on it for their business. Waiting will only make the job more difficult and the loss of lives and property greater.

If kids ruled world, would there be war?

Whether they talk about it or not, the war in the Persian Gulf has grasped the attention of children. Given the number of United States troops involved, nearly everyone knows of a friend or relative who has either been deployed to the Gulf or who may be. Add to that the consistent media coverage and you can see how a youngster might become overwhelmed by thoughts of the war.

Or maybe not. In recent stories about children's reaction to the war, they have exhibited remarkable insights along with troubling questions. It's clear from many of their comments that the basic concept of those who start wars — people killing others when they disagree — is not a part of their character. Hopefully it never will be, but there seems to be an understanding that "bad men" must not be allowed to dominate others.

Many of the soldiers who participated in World War II felt that they were fighting so that their children and grandchildren wouldn't have to. That dream lasted only a few years before Korea and then Vietnam. Perhaps we must acknowledge that grown-up human beings are not yet ready to resolve their disagreements the way children do. Maybe it's we who should listen to them sometimes, and not the other way around.

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 their 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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January thaw on a Huntsville Road farm

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Library news

Silver spoon collection from Shirley Forney now on display at Back Mountain Library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring an interesting collection of silver Presidential Spoons. These spoons have been loaned to us by Shirley Forney of Shavertown.

There are 35 spoons in the display beginning with George Washington and ending with Lyndon Johnson. It seems Shirley's parents started her on this collection when she was just a baby.

They would buy one spoon a week for 25 cent each; which was a few years ago. There for a while, they had trouble locating the company which was making the spoons and were able to track it down and continue with the collection.

However, after the Lyndon Johnson spoon, they lost track completely of the company and have not been able to find them; therefore, the collection ends with Johnson.

The display includes a picture of George Washington, our first president, and with a few cherries and a hatchet. The other end of the display includes the figure of Uncle Sam and a set of American

flags. This is a very patriotic display and is perfect for the month of February, which includes President's Day celebrated on February 18. The display will be at the library until February 27.

I have to say a very warm thank you to Bob Besecker and Martin Barry of the Dallas Fire Company who came to our rescue with a tall step ladder and a very brave individual who was able to replace a burned out light bulb in the 16 foot high ceiling of our library reading room. These are the high intensity bulbs and we needed some super help to reach the high ceiling.

We have recently weeded some of the fiction collection in the library and have pulled some duplicate copies of books, which we are selling at bargain prices on the main floor in the library. There are some very good and fairly new titles on this sale shelf.

We have a new rotating collection of books from the Osterhout Library on a pleasant and upcoming subject. The collection is called "Greenthumbing It" and includes all kinds of books on gardening, including outdoor gardens and indoor plants as well. There are

some beautiful books on all kinds of growing; answers to questions, tips on how to plant, and ideas on what to grow where for the best arrangement. This collection is located to the rear of the reading room and is available for borrowing until June of 1991.

New books at the library: "Possession" by A.S. Byatt is a novel of passion and intellect including wits and intelligence, romance and scholarship. The story involves two young academics doing research on two poets and as they trace their movements, a bizarre and haunting counterpointing and correspondence of passions and ideas begin to emerge. An astonishingly rich and exhilarating blend of mystery, romance and comedy.

"And The Sea Will Tell" by Vincent Bugliosi is a true mystery from the author of Helter Skelter. A young woman, alone with her husband on a tiny Pacific atoll, finds an odd aluminum container washed up out of the lagoon, and beside it on the sand something glitters: a gold tooth in a scorched human skull. The investigation that follows uncovers an extraordinarily complex and puzzling true crime story. A powerful crime story.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 13, 1931
FARM INSTITUTE CALLED SUCCESS

A two day Farm Institute at Kunkle, arranged by Luzerne County Agricultural Extension Association of Pennsylvania State College, was said to be a marked success.

The Dallas Post welcomed the American Stores Company as a new advertiser in the Back Mountain paper.

The Meridian basketball team defeated the Plymouth team 34-32.

Beaumont had a crowd of more than 400 persons attend the dedication of its new school building Friday, Jan. 30.

Shavertown Branch of Nesbitt Hospital Auxiliary was entertained February 6 at the home of Mrs. H.A. Weise, Shavertown.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 14, 1941
SON SERVES ON SAME SHIP AS FATHER DID

National defense courses for young men out of school between the ages of 17 and 24 will open in shop classes next week in Lehman and Dallas Township Schools.

Local schools receive a share of state funds allocated to the 66 counties in the state.

Dallas sailor Hobart Odell Henson is aboard the U.S.S. New York, the same ship his father, the late Grady Henson served on 23 years ago.

Samuel Brace of Dallas is one of 15 men ordered to appear for induction March 1 by Draft Board No. 1.

Wed - Esther May and William C. Baer.

Engaged - Abbie Van Buskirk and John Carr; Grace Mahler and Royal Lyne Jr.; Helen Holmes and Earl R. Vivian; Lois C. Mosier and Allen Scattergood.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 9, 1951
ROBINSON, SMITH HEAD RED CROSS DRIVE

Mrs. Mae Townsend made a gift of \$100 to the Back Mountain Memorial Library in honor of the 109th Field Artillery.

Mrs. Thomas Robinson, West Dallas, and Mrs. H.W. Smith, Lake Street, Dallas, were named co-chairpersons of the Back Mountain Red Cross Drive.

Eight Dallas seniors of Dallas Borough High School were suspended for three days when they took Friday off to visit Wilkes-Barre while supervising principal, Charles James was in Harrisburg on business. Four of the eight were members of the varsity basketball team. They will not be permitted to represent the school on any athletic team during the remainder of the year.

Engaged - Jean Anstett and Thomas Davison, Jr.

Wed - Alice Brown and John Stencil; Kathleen Hunter and Harold Cornell.

Harter High School edges Kingston Township 44-43 to win first half.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 9, 1961
LATHROP TO RETIRE AS BACK MT. LIBRARIAN

Edward Morgan buys Overbrook Water Company formed in 1928 by the late Mr. and Mrs. P.P. Dohl.

Westmoreland captures eighth straight downing Lake-Lehman cagers 84-39.

Miriam Lathrop, Back Mountain Librarian will retire at the end of the year.

Steve Hartman, hard-pressed mayor of Dallas Borough says there is any more snow he doesn't know where the borough is going to put it as the men have been working night and day manning dozers.

Engaged - Helen Petro and Ramon R. Balut; Maria Angela Capone and Theodore Robert Girvan.

Wed - Betty Fink Henning and William Heilig.

Lehman faculty rides to 34-28 win over Lettermen on donkeys.

Army Pvt. James C. Thomas, Jr., Dallas, recently completed eight weeks of military police training at Fort Gordon, GA.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 11, 1971
SNOW STORM KEEPS ROAD CREWS BUSY

William Price, Midway Manor resident, is seeking a slot on the Republican slate for Dallas school board membership.

Back Mountain area is blanked by eight inches of snow making it difficult for highway crews to keep the roads open for traffic.

A large tractor-trailer rig jackknifed Monday afternoon on the ice-covered road of Route 118, Lehman Township, about one mile east of Lehman Center.

Dallas cagers tie with Plains and Wyoming Seminary by defeating Ashley 100-45.

Lake-Lehman matmen defeat Wyoming Area 28-22, clinched by Jeff Sieber's pin over Warrior Bob Barry.

Anderson afield

Advice on nature from the Good Book

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

A reader from Potomac, MD, points out that in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve did not snuggle down in furs, but preserved their modesty with figleaves. He maintains, therefore, that we should not wear the hide nor hair of other animals. Nor should we include ducks, deer, or cottontail rabbits in our bill-of-fare. And no fair using them to break up the monotony that prevails in our pursuit of the almighty dollar.

I suppose one could argue that we needn't point the old Remington at pheasants and grouse when we can declare open season on Iraqis and various other members of the human race. But using the Good Book for guidance in such matters can be downright tricky.

A case in point is none other than Moses. This venerable rule-maker says in Deuteronomy, "If a bird's nest chance to be before

thee on the ground or in any tree, with the dam sitting upon the young, or upon eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young. Thou shalt in any wise let the dam go. But the young thou mayest take that it may go well with thee and thou mayest prolong thy days".

Now this idea of harvesting the young without cutting very deeply into the breeding stock has proven to be very sound management for such delectable critters as doves, mallards, and bobwhite quail. And in the case of a polygamous species such as the wild turkey, prairie chicken, or ring-necked pheasant, I suspect Moses would approve of letting all those meek mamas go, and training your sights on that macho male who is strutting his stuff, beating his chest, and lording it over the members of his harem. If so, modern game managers would agree that such a rule ensures a good crop next fall.

So, you find it in today's hunting regulations nationwide. We must concede that, for better or for worse, medical science plus a dependable supply of groceries has significantly increased the life span of the average American. But so far, the wildlife scientist has been unable to add much to the longevity of doves and quail. In those states such as Connecticut where the morning dove is rigidly protected from the gun, and in those states where hunting quail is strictly against the law, about 80 percent of the summer population of doves and quail do not survive until the following spring.

In the world of the dove and most wild game birds, the grim reaper seems to go about his task with little or no regard for the wishes of us bird-lovers.

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Before farming was converted to agri-business, with heavy machines, herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers, there were lots of small farms and farmers. As

farms grow ever larger and fewer, small farmers are pushed into cities. Somehow the words in Leviticus don't cut much ice in the agri-business world. "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest."

Quail need briar patches and weedy fence rows for protection from raptors and for nesting and feeding cover. They grow fat on seeds of ragweed, foxtail grass, and "the gleanings of thy harvest." The farmer does not provide food and cover for the bobwhite unless paid to do so. Fortunately, there are thousands of acres in the

southern states where landowners are paid (by hunters) to do just that.

I could come up with dozens of quotes from the Good Book that translate into sound, modern wildlife, forest, and land management.

In Deuteronomy, instead of laying waste to the land of the enemy, the soldier was ordered to cut down only those trees that did not produce food and nuts. As a squirrel hunter, I can only say, "Amen."

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

Calendar items should be submitted by Friday two weeks in advance if they are to run twice. Drop them off at our office or send them to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612