

## THE DALLAS POST

## EDITORIALS

## Barriers on Route 309 could save lives

One way to make driving Route 309 safer would be to install medial barriers along its entire length from Trucksville to Dallas. The barriers have been in place for several years from just below Trucksville to Wilkes-Barre resulting in the virtual elimination of serious accidents on a very busy stretch of highway.

Contrast that experience with the Back Mountain's, with severe crashes occurring almost weekly and two fatalities in the past several months. Both of those deaths would have been prevented had medial barriers been installed where the accidents occurred.

While barriers are most effective in preventing head-on collisions, their installation would also eliminate the greatest risk of rear-end collisions that result when a vehicle waiting to turn left off of Route 309 is struck by a car or truck approaching from behind. With the installation of barriers, left turns would only be possible at locations that would provide a left-turn lane or a "jug handle."

Businesses may complain that installing barriers will harm their prospects by cutting off half of their traffic. While it might be true that barriers prevent unlimited turning, it's equally accurate to believe that some shoppers avoid Route 309 entirely because of its present chaotic condition. Already, some residents do all their business on one side of the highway at a time so that they don't have to risk a left turn across or into traffic.

Route 309 is already overwhelmed by the volume of traffic travelling on it, and the profusion of driveways and entrances into it. As population and traffic flow continue to grow, driving on it will only become more dangerous. It's time something was done to save lives that are needlessly lost on this dangerous highway.

## After the war, can we win the peace?

The United States and coalition effort against Iraq has been a textbook use of military power by a superior force. President Bush and his commanders have avoided the pitfalls of past conflicts and, regardless of future events, have taken the course that minimizes both casualties and the duration of the war. But what do we do after it's over?

America's two uppermost goals must be to foster open, democratic societies in the Middle East, and to turn the same commitment and energy that we have demonstrated in war toward enormous problems at home.

The surest way to avoid another Kuwait is to bring some measure of democracy to governments that have traditionally been monarchies or dictatorships. As events in Eastern Europe have shown, it is by no means automatic that populations accustomed to totalitarian rule will embrace representative government. But if we believe in the efficacy of our own system, we must stay the course in promoting similar organizations elsewhere.

On the home front, victory over poverty, hopelessness and other root ills of our society will not be swift or spectacular. These battles will require steadfastness of perhaps unprecedented proportions. They will also require that Americans share the cost of recovering from more than a decade of neglect and profligacy, a notion that has not been popular of late. In his solid conduct of the war, President Bush has confounded critics who questioned his character. Now is the perfect time for him to use his popularity and influence to convince the public of the importance of domestic issues.

The success of the Persian Gulf war may recharge America's belief in its ability to overcome any adversity. Now is the time to tap that spirit and put it to use for our own benefit.

## Thanks for the Valentine

Like dozens of other local businesses, employees of The Post were startled by the sight of a Valentine heart on our door last Thursday morning, with the message, "Thanks for serving Dallas, you are loved!" Of course, at first we thought the message was just for us, and it warmed our hearts to receive such a thought from an appreciative reader.

Discovering later that every other storefront up and down Route 309 received a similar present didn't dampen our spirits though; instead it made us realize that it was not us but those who took the time to make and distribute the hearts who should be congratulated. Thanks; your efforts brightened our day.

## Library news

## Amnesty Day brings back books kept out more than 1 year

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library held an Amnesty Day on February 14, Valentine's Day and we were thrilled when three books were returned that were all longer than one year overdue.

One book, "Bulimarexia" a medical book on a rare eating disorder was three years overdue and without the Amnesty Day, we were told it would not have been returned.

"The Gunslinger" by Stephen King was due May 30, 1989; it was returned; and a children's book, "Trains" by Byron Barton was due a year ago and came back on Amnesty Day.

We are very grateful for the return of these books. Many of our patrons were surprised to find that they did not have to pay overdues and graciously donated a few dollars to our library. It's nice to have

the books back.

We are very fortunate to have three volunteers working for us under the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Luzerne County. The program is funded through a combination of federal and local sources. The program is open to any retired person age 60 or over who is interested in volunteering and is available to accept an assignment on a regular basis.

The volunteers choose an assignment with a participating agency or organization based on their individual talents, skills and interests. Our volunteers are Virginia Davis, Nell Transue and Edward Transue. They are very reliable and do many interesting jobs at the library. Anne Rappaport is the project director.

We were surprised and thrilled to receive a copy of the limited edition poster of the Conflict in the Gulf "Operation Desert Storm,"

printed by Payne Precision Color Graphics of Dallas.

The title of the poster is "Courage": May the journey be swift, safe and successful." A quote from Gen. Douglas MacArthur printed on the poster "The Soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds, and scars of war." The picture is of footprints in the desert sand.

Our "Cut Casey's Cash Crunch" project has received \$70.00 to date and this is very gratifying, thanks to our super patrons and supporters. This money will enable the library to purchase some special new books during the time of the state financial crisis when many items on our budget will have to be cut. We are inviting new 'crunch' investors to join the project.

New books: "Power Shift" by Alvin Toffler is a book purchased with funds from the Christmas

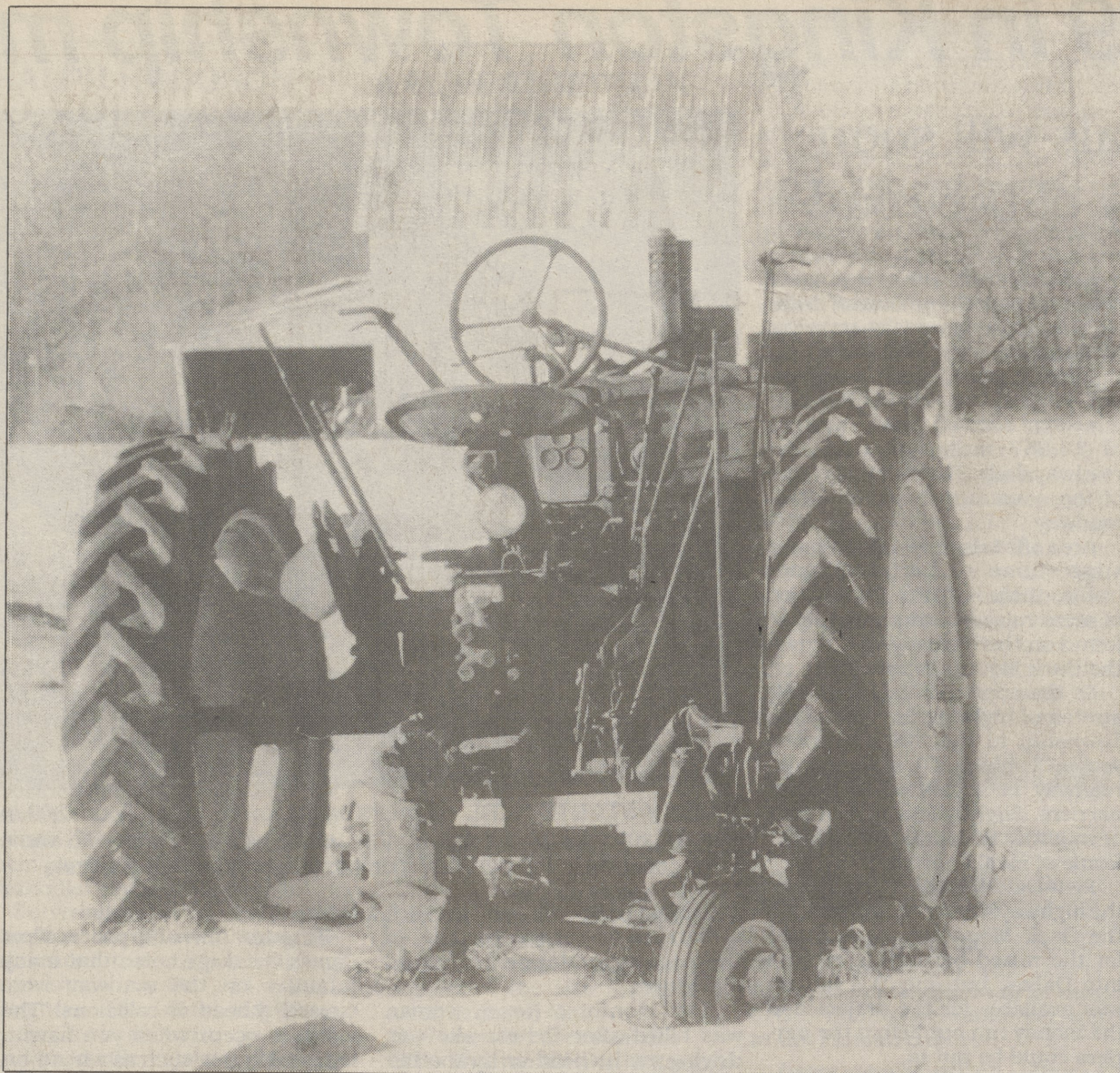
Book Tree project. It is a sweeping new work and promises to change public attitudes and private lives alike. The author shows us that many seemingly unrelated conflicts and changes swirling around us actually result from what he calls a "new system for wealth creation."

"In Our Defense" by Caroline Kennedy and Ellen Alderman is a story of the Bill of Rights in action. Clearly and eloquently, the authors examine the historical and legal significance of each amendment and present several of the human stories that have given shape to these basic rights. They

bring together the voices and experiences of those who have used the Bill of Rights in their —and our— defense. This is a memory book given by Lindsay C. Robinson in memory of Dorothy Roberts.

The letter from Payne Printery enclosed with the poster concluded with the following message: "Payne is proud of all the men and women who are serving in the Persian Gulf and joining forces to maintain FREEDOM in the world. The poster is their small, but sincere, way of saying thank you to all who are risking their lives for PEACE through the world. Amen!"

The Dallas Post encourages its readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters 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.



On hold 'til spring

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

## Letter

## Says property rights supersede hunting

Editor,  
Your recent article and editorial concerning the inability of a Dallas family to obtain justice when they tried to keep hunters from trespassing upon their posted property raises a number of issues and concerns.

A scenario in which hunters can't read no trespassing signs, an investigating police officer forgets if he was supposed to arrest or not, and a district justice who proclaims his prejudice against convicting people of certain crimes sounds like a plot for a Neil Simon comedy. Unfortunately, it is just another case of Wyoming Valley Law where who you know is more important than what you know.

Every year when deer season rolls around, I marvel at the number of vehicles parked along our back roads which for miles on both sides are posted against trespassers and hunters. I have yet to see a local or state law enforcement officer taking any action against these obvious violations and the recent story of what happened to the Byron family probably explains why.

Quite obviously every hunter for fifty miles must know that the local district justice is himself a hunter and has no objection to hunters trespassing on private property. It is also apparent that the fundamental right to privacy afforded by the ownership of property is superceded by a hunter's desire to pursue his sport and quarry no matter where it may take him.

A few years ago, in a highly publicized incident, a woman in Maine was standing in her own backyard when she was accidentally killed by a hunter who mistook her for an animal. In an obvious case of mixed-up priorities, sportsmen criticized the deceased victim for not wearing any "day-glow" orange outer wear when she walked in her own yard.

I imagine that when the Byron

family sought to press charges against the hunters who were trespassing on their property, they did so out of a desire to prevent similar tragedy. When they were frustrated by some rather inept local officials, they had the courage and resolve to pursue it further.

However, in both cases, it should NOT have to be the responsibility of the homeowner to prevent such a tragedy. Hunting is not a fundamental right bestowed upon our people by any local, state, or federal law. Hunting is a potentially dangerous sport which demands that the sportsman exercise sufficient care and responsibility to ensure that he does not present a safety hazard to others.

It is almost impossible to imagine that a team of football, baseball, basketball, soccer or polo players would suddenly decide to play their sport in a stranger's backyard without first obtaining permission. Where then do hunters get the mixed-up idea that somehow, in the pursuit of their sport, they have the right to ignore posted signs and trespass upon the private property of others? I suspect it comes hand in hand with the mixed-up belief that ownership of a gun is also a right and not a privilege.

In the Byron incident, our local authorities had the great opportunity to set the record straight and send a strong message to those few hunters who flagrantly trample upon the rights of others with no respect or concern for their own actions. Instead they completely "dropped the ball" by failing to appreciate the possibly tragic consequences.

Next year when hunting season rolls around again, property owners in the Back Mountain area will again have a chance to be accidentally shot in their own back yards by hunters who have learned that local authorities have no desire to prevent such a tragedy by enforcing existing laws against trespass-

ers.  
And, of course, property owners have also learned that calling the police or seeking a complaint against such hunters isn't a viable solution either. That suggests that property owners now have to decide whether to ignore these hunters, stay indoors, or take some other remedial action.

Another solution is to support Tom and Joan Byron as they pursue their action to reverse this recent travesty of justice. Hopefully a more competent and impartial jurist will respect the fact that property owners have a right to privacy from the invasion of irresponsible hunters.

Although I no longer hunt, I actively support those who do hunt responsibly. Our area is overpopulated with deer which present a significant driving hazard. I much prefer to see a hunter shoot a deer than pass a deer killed by motor vehicles. Most hunters are very careful and responsible. It is usually the careless and irresponsible hunters who present a danger to others and whose actions ruin it for everyone else.

To the occasional passerby, many sections of the Back Mountain area appear as if still virgin woodlands. But behind every crest in the hill or stand of timber lie homes or even entire housing developments. Our property and our privacy is just as sacred to us as it is to those who live in the more congested valley communities where hunters would never even consider searching for game.

The essence of this issue is that under the present circumstances, it is only a matter of time before some careless hunter causes a tragic accident. While there is still the means to prevent such an incident, it is the obligation of all responsible people to do so.

John T. Lougney, II  
Lehman Twp.

## Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 27, 1931  
STEVENSON NAMED  
NEW POLICE CHIEF

Movies of the I.O.O.F. orphanage at Sunbury will be shown Monday, 8 p.m., in the Himmler Theatre, Dallas, by the Oneida Lodge members.

Shavertown M.E. Church congregation sets an attendance record during the Loyalty Crusade.

Ira C. Stevenson is named the new police chief at Harveys Lake. He succeeds the late Captain John T. Ruth.

Engagement - Annette Stimpson and Stokes Lazarus.

Dallas Township cagers will play Laketon High School at Meridian Hall in Dallas tonight.

"The Squealer" starring Jack Holt and Davie Lee, will play at Himmler Theatre Friday and Saturday.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 28, 1941  
FARMERS SUPPORT  
CANNERY MOVEMENT

Few local residents were on the streets Wednesday when Capt. Larry Lee of Battery B and his convoy of 12 trucks and artillery pieces passed through Dallas to the Kingston Armory.

Gerald Frantz of Huntsville was named to the Board of Control of the Fairlawn Stores this week.

Local farmers enthusiastically support a movement to establish a cannery in the area.

Enlarged Acme Market to open next Thursday.

Engaged - Claudia Preston Jones and Norton Franklin Montross.

Wed - Lois Mosier and Allen Scattergood.

Dallas Borough has clinched a first place in the Back Mountain League while Kingston Township and Dallas Township will battle it out for second with Laketon standing a chance if they win tonight over Dallas Township and Kingston Township loses to Dallas Borough.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 23, 1951  
TWO OF FENNEL'S  
BUSINESSES ROBBED

Thieves entered and robbed Bert Fennell's Service Station last Tuesday night and the entry of his Hay-A-Snack Drive-in early Sunday morning. State Police and Police Chief Louis Banta are investigating.

Women of Rotary need who chairs to replace those worn out in service.

"All About Eve," starring Bette Davis and George Sanders, is playing at Himmler Theatre today and Saturday.

Wed - Betty Ella Lewis and John Robert Linger; Joan Phillips and PFC. Alan Wood; Grace VanWagenen and Raymond P. DuBois.

St. Paul's Lutheran men defeated St. Therese's 49-39 in Back Mountain Church League play last week.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 23, 1961  
GARRIS BOWLS  
PERFECT GAME

Terms of eight Dallas School Board directors end this year and only two of them can be re-elected, one of those to be the man eventually to be the lone representative from Franklin Township. Directors whose terms to expire are Dallas Borough: Lewis W. LeGand and Walter Mohr; Dallas Township: Francis Ambrose and Philip Cheney; Franklin Township: Doris W. Heslop and Henry Hess and Kingston Township: William Clewell and James Hutchinson.

Cliff Garris, Jackson Street, Dallas rolled a perfect game yesterday while bowling in open play at Crown Imperial Lanes.

Westmoreland cagers win 11th straight game downing Swyersville 68-43 in the North League.

Engaged - Betty Ann Mrozowski and Alfred J. Hudak; Ann Lorraine Wasser and James Michael Hawk.

Wed - Carol C. Inman and Harold McDermott.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 25, 1971  
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS  
ON CONDO PROJECT

Construction is beginning on the first cluster of units on the Newberry Estates Troup Fund's multimillion dollar condominium project.

John E. Thomas, M.D. and Patricia Rossi, M.D. have been named to the staff of Harveys Lake-Noxen Rural Health Center.

College Misericordia will present the Ganassi Earl Music Quartet from Berea, Ohio.

Dallas' Warren Boyes pinned Lake-Lehman's Jim Cook in 1:28 of the 112 bout.

Engaged - Jane Daley and Wayman Kenneth Miers; Elizabeth Ann Kraszewski and Benjamin Albert Warman.

Dallas matmen defeat Lake-Noxen 28-17 to win the annual Longmore Trophy for the first time.