

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Guard rails can save lives; install them now

Possibly the most disturbing news The Post has presented in some time are reports that installation of guard rails along Lakeside Drive around Harveys Lake has been met by "very stiff resistance" from property owners. Despite the fact that in the past two years two residents have died after their cars have plunged into the lake, a few property owners apparently have decided that their "scenic view" is more important than preventing future accidents.

Lakeside Drive is considered a state highway, and guard rails are and will be located on the state's right-of-way. When PennDOT first said it would install more guard rails, it gave Harveys Lake Borough the option of kicking in money to purchase wooden ones, which would have been more attractive to most eyes. But we don't recall the town fathers taking much time to ask residents if they would be willing to spend a few dollars more; they just assumed residents would say no.

So now another local family unnecessarily mourns the loss of one of its members. How many more will there be, and who will take responsibility?

PennDOT has committed a paltry \$50,000 annually to the installation of guardrails; at that rate, it will take most of the decade to complete the project. And now we learn that action came only after a lawsuit was filed claiming the department's negligence in waiting until now to do something about this obvious hazard.

But this neglect hasn't occurred in a vacuum. Where have local officials been all this time? Why haven't they raised hell with state legislators and PennDOT to have this danger eliminated? Isn't the primary duty of our elected officials to protect our welfare?

There's more than enough blame to go around for the latest tragedy at Harveys Lake. Perhaps the most appalling is the notion of those who see human life having less value than their aesthetic pleasure. Surely theirs will be the harshest possible judgement should an accident occur where they prevented installation of the only obstacle between life and death for one of their neighbors.

Easter message holds hopes of the season

This Sunday most Christians will celebrate Easter, the day marking the resurrection of the crucified Jesus Christ. While the actual day may be in dispute, there can be no doubt that the holiday signifies the greatest promise ever made to mankind; that there can be life everlasting. For believers, Easter marks the fulfillment of that promise.

If this week has special spiritual meaning for you, we hope you will feel its significance personally.

There are parallel holidays in other religions and ancient times. The Easter season is also the time of renewal for living things that have been dormant through the cold, grey winter months. Plants, birds and animals come alive with the warmth of the spring sun, and we all feel a little stronger and healthier. In that small way, all of Nature shares the spirit of the resurrection.

Enjoy the day and the season; it holds promise for us all.

Passover reminds us man won't be enslaved

Jews begin the eight-day observance of Passover at sundown Saturday. It is the holiday that commemorates the flight of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

"Passover" comes from the Biblical story in which God brought a plague upon Egypt as retribution for keeping the Israelites in bondage. In the story, told in Exodus 12, God warns the Jews of the coming horror in which the first-born child of every household will die. He tells Moses that if the Jews mark their doorways with the blood of a sacrificial lamb, He will pass over their homes. The morning after the plague strikes, the Israelites began their journey out of Egypt.

The most important symbol of Passover is the unleavened bread called matzoh. According to the story, in their haste to flee the Jews did not have time to let bread rise. Today the holiday is celebrated in the home with a feast called the Seder, at which unleavened bread and other foods symbolizing the escape are eaten.

While it is a Jewish holiday, the story of Passover contains an important message for all mankind, one that has been underscored by recent events in the Middle East. That is our abhorrence at one group of human beings holding another in bondage. The repressive regimes of modern times may have more than we would like to admit in common with the ancient Egyptians. But this holiday serves as a reminder that mankind will always struggle against oppression, and will ultimately succeed.

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.



Curious duo on Huntsville Road

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Letters

Gulf carnage could have been avoided

Editor:
As to the Gulf War, no one questions or has questioned the dedication of our armed forces, but we must nevertheless continue to ask ourselves whether the punishment inflicted on Iraq was in any way proportionate to the severity of its crime in invading and occupying Kuwait.

Recent figures indicate that, apart from deaths due to "friendly fire", our combat death toll was less than 50 as against 100,000 for the Iraqis, a ratio of over 2,000 to 1, totally without parallel in any modern military engagement.

Iraq is a third world country one-fifteenth our size. Mr. Bush has frequently assured us that we hold no grudge against its people. We had very recently supported its leader in his war against Iran, and

our State Department had even more recently assured that leader that we had no interest in intervening in resolution of any of his grievances against Kuwait. The Iraqi army, devoid of any fighter cover or effective anti-aircraft defenses, was fully as vulnerable to high altitude bombing attack as was its civilian population, a fact surely known to military intelligence.

Was there any sense whatever under such circumstances in launching an attack in a manner clearly destined to result in the ruthless slaughter of at least many tens of thousands and very possible hundreds of thousands of virtually defenseless human beings without first exhausting every possible hope of arriving at a reasonable compromise of conflicting

interests through diplomatic channels?

Why were negotiations ruled out in favor of the issuance of one ultimatum after another, each couched in such terms that only a head of state willing to accept abject humiliation could possibly comply? Given the advice of our two most recent Chiefs of Staff and seven of eight of our living Secretaries of Defense to give the embargo time to exact its toll, why was such advice rejected out of hand in favor of the "military option"? The "war" is over, but the question remains and will remain, was it a "war" that ever should have been waged at all?

Bob Fleming
Dallas

Business tax increase will hit consumers

Editor:
Governor Casey is trying very hard to make everyone believe that business owners haven't been paying their fair share of taxes. He claims that the business tax has fallen to only 23 percent of overall revenues when it should be 30 percent. I'm afraid the Governor, with all due respect, is not telling the whole story.

He has failed to take into consideration and explain to the public that business owners also pay sales and personal income taxes. This pushes their contribution to state revenues to 35 percent.

Small-business owners have hardly been on the short end of the tax-paying stick. How can the

governor expect—especially in a recession—that we can absorb increases such as he's proposing in net income tax and also in that odd creation imposed by only a few states called the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax?

If his proposal becomes law, some business owners will have no choice but to off-set the increase costs of doing business by cutting wherever they can—employee benefits, wages, possibly the size of their workforce. Employers who can afford to leave the state will have a good cause to go where being self-employed is worth the dedication, worry and tremendous expense it requires.

Not long ago, I joined fellow

members in the National Federation of Independent Business/Penn. in applauding Gov. Casey for what seemed to be a serious effort to cut fat from state government. Has he changed his mind?

At a time of lower revenues, small-business owners are slicing expenses to keep operations running and people employed. That's exactly what state government should be doing. And the Governor shouldn't expect small-business owners to pick up the slack, unless he and everyone else is willing to pay an even steeper price down the road.

Jay Niskey
Dallas

Commercial drivers course offered

In response to the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 which requires Pennsylvania issue a "Commercial Driver's License" (CDL) to all qualified commercial drivers, the Luzerne County Community College Continuing Education Division and the Valley Automobile Club, Inc. -AAA, will offer a program to assist area residents in preparing for the CDL examination.

Drivers required to obtain a CDL are operators of commercial motor vehicles rated over 26,000 pounds, GVW; drivers of vehicles placarded for hazardous materials; vehicles designed to carry more than 15 occupants; those who drive commercial vehicles part-time, such as disc jockeys and mechanics; and anyone who drives a class

seven or eight truck.

In order to receive a CDL, applicants must pass a test which is used to determine whether a driver's general job knowledge and actual work skills are up to state and federal standards.

The 12 and one-half hour test preparation program will cover general knowledge, air brakes and safe driving practices. Programs will also be offered to drivers who require special testing to gain necessary "endorsements" on their CDL. Endorsement tests are needed by drivers of double/triple-trailer combination, tank vehicles, vehicles requiring hazardous materials placarding, and certain passenger-carrying vehicles.

In addition to the test preparation programs, LCCC is offering

special programs in literacy testing and training as well as seminars on "How to Study"

The CDL test preparation program will be held at the LCCC Educational Conference Center. Each program will consist of two sessions held on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Offerings for spring classes are available on April 7 and 14; May 19 and 26; and June 2 and 9. "On site" training is also available to companies wishing to offer the preparation course and/or special programs to their employees.

For more information on the CDL test preparation program at LCCC, or to arrange for on-site training, call Karen Dessoye at the LCCC Continuing Education Office at 829-7481.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - April 3, 1931
FOREST FIRES CREATE WORRIES LOCALLY

Senator Andrew Sordoni presents new bills to permit municipalities to acquire airports.

Forest fires are a menace here and the Game Commission solicits cooperation of all in preventing fires.

A number of Dallas businessmen have been agitating for a municipal lighting plant for the Borough of Dallas.

'Morocco' starring Marlene Dietrich and Gary Cooper is playing in the Himmler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - April 4, 1941
DALLAS SAYS OWNERS MUST FIX SIDEWALKS

Dallas Borough Council insists that owners must put sidewalks in good shape either by repairing or replacing.

Arthur Devens heads his milling company.

Andrew Kozemchak is serving his third enlistment in the service and will fire the guns on the United States newest ship North Carolina.

Dallas Coach Howard Tinsley of Dallas Borough has been called for induction into the service. Tinsley is the Borough's basketball coach.

A second story addition, doubling office space is being built at Oliver's Garage by contractor Clyde Veitch.

Dallas Choir will repeat the cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

Engaged - Jeanne Hayden and Gerald Snyder.

Irem Lady Bowlers will hold their closing luncheon at the Club today.

Departing snow permits state to heavily stock trout streams.

40 Years Ago - April 6, 1951

FRANKLIN JOINS SCHOOL JOINTURE

Franklin Board enters jointure with Dallas Township School at a meeting of both boards Tuesday night.

First National Bank of Dallas and the Miners National Bank united with the announcement made at noon yesterday.

Dallas Borough Council will discuss the need for a traffic light at the fork on Route 309 to enter Memorial Highway, at their meeting.

Engaged - Amy Louise Miers and John Odell; Rosemary Kozak and Charles Pilger.

Wed - Leona Estella Traver and Donald Cook; Beulah Dienstel and Guy D. Ely; Isabelle Painter and Thomas N. Kreidler Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Hedden find South American menu includes filet mignon at 40 cents.

Bob Hislop opens his new bar and cocktail lounge on Main Street, Dallas.

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion to hold the Grand Opening of their new home on Memorial Highway, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

30 Years Ago - March 30, 1961

NEW OFFICE BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Ray Hedden to build new, modern offices on Memorial Highway, Dallas to be opened early this Fall.

Twelve Dallas School administrators and directors to visit Philadelphia school equipment display.

Candidates-at-large for the Dallas School District are William Clewell, Edward Ratcliffe, Mrs. Thomas Vernon, and Welton G. Farrar.

Harry Martin is seeking the office of supervisor in Dallas Township.

Lehman Letterman will operate Parry Service Station for a day to raise funds for club sweaters, trips and athletic equipment.

Palm Sunday crowds enjoy balmy spring weather.

Shavertown defeats Huntsville 60 to 47 to win championship.

20 Years Ago - April 1, 1971

NANCY GORDON HEADS OFF TO FRANCE

Leaks cause area water problems for customers of Dallas and Shavertown Water Companies.

Ground-breaking planned for luxurious apartments in the Brandywine complex.

Nancy Gordon, junior at Dallas High School, looks forward to summer in France.

C.V. Products, manufacturers of precision optical equipment is moving to Idetown.

Dallas drama students rehearse for 'The Crucible' under the direction of staff member Donald Hopkins.

Dallas girl cagers are globe-trotters boarding a bus to see the Harlem, Globetrotters in Philadelphia.

Wed - Karen Jean Richards and Scott Burns Shuster.

Dallas High School Diane Morgan is elected to join the state chorus.

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