

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

More cars, more trucks, more growth, but controls needed

It may fit the classic description of "a blessing and a curse." Route 309 is scheduled to connect directly with Interstate 81 in just a few months, bringing new convenience to motorists who want to travel from the Wilkes-Barre area and south to the Back Mountain and beyond. What has been an irritating 20 minute or longer trek through heavy traffic will now take less than 10 minutes, all of it spent on a limited access roadway.

The highway's completion will lead to substantial change in the Back Mountain. For starters, thousands more cars and trucks, especially trucks, will use Route 309 each day. Truckers who are heading north or south of Wilkes-Barre will find 309 is now the fastest way to reach Interstate 81 and eventually 80. Many also know that taking Route 118 west from Dallas and later rejoining Interstate 80 will bypass a weigh station. Now it will take much less time to reach 118. Trucks heading south will gladly take Route 29 from Tunkhannock, then 309 to the interstates, rather than fight traffic in Clarks Summit.

Easy access to the interstate highway system could mean other changes here. Suddenly businesses that wouldn't consider locating an office or plant in the Back Mountain will find their biggest objection removed. That could lead to commercial development on a scale beyond anything the region has ever seen. That's not necessarily bad; we could use more steady, good-paying jobs right here. But it means increased pressure on resources like water supplies, which are already threatened by the chaos and lack of oversight.

And more residential development is assured, both in a continuation of the past several years growth and spurred by the highway system.

These are happy problems, compared to those faced by communities with declining populations and crumbling business districts. But our growth will not come cheap, nor should it. Back Mountain communities must take charge of their future by reviewing ordinances carefully, and by working together to develop a master plan that will encourage development while protecting as many of the area's attractions as possible. If we don't start doing a better job of that, the area risks becoming an ugly hodgepodge of uncoordinated development. That would lower both its esthetic and financial value for everyone.

U.S. cars better, makers should stop whining

Those poor relations, the American auto manufacturers, are at it again, traveling to Washington to beg for protection from the Japanese. Seems they just can't keep up with the imports (many of which aren't imports any more), so they want restrictions on how many can be brought into the country. They also asked that Congress not impose higher fuel mileage standards, melodramatically claiming that such requirements would mean the death of the domestic industry.

What hogwash. Instead of resisting higher fuel efficiency standards, auto manufacturers should be sinking research money into alternative fuels and high mileage powerplants. The fact is, if Congress hadn't imposed mileage standards on U.S. auto makers in the 1970's, they'd probably all be out of business because they wouldn't have responded to the market.

American cars are now better than they've ever been and in many cases present equal or better value than imports. But we won't make further progress by hiding from the competition. Nor should the buying public be asked to accept less than the best from our companies.



Sure sign of spring

(Photo by Maria Sawka)

Letter to the editor

Proposed group home is not a business

Editor:

I couldn't help but sadly note the irony existing between two of your front page stories printed March 27. The headline of one story describes students greeting an operation dessert storm pen pal while the other story highlights a neighborhood protesting a future group home. In one story, students raised banners in welcome; in the other, neighbors unite to exclude.

The article explains that the neighbors are "against the group home because it is a business in an R-1 area; not because of the residents." I assure you that to the

men and women who will call this house their home, this building will not be a business. It will be a place to return to at the end of the day, a place to cook their dinner, a place to prop their feet up while watching television and a safe place to sleep at night.

It is easy to "protest" a business in our neighborhoods. Business sounds so sterile, so void of a human face. But this is not a business which will operate in this house.

These are human forms, with human hearts who because they were born with a handicap must

rely on others to help them function in this complex society.

They depend on us, our neighborhoods, our businesses to welcome them into our world and to help them navigate what to them often seems to be an obstacle course.

It takes understanding and heroism of another kind to welcome as neighbors these people with handicaps who simply wish a place to live. I think they deserve as much.

Ellen H. Campbell
Dallas

Library news

Story teller to be featured at luncheon

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library would like to invite the public to attend the 3rd annual "Luncheon With A Special Author" to be held on Thursday, April 25 at The Barn at Newberry Estate.

Reception and hospitality will begin at 12 noon and the luncheon will be served at 12:30. Reservation forms are available at the library where you may make table arrangements and lunch choices. The cost of the luncheon is \$16.00, checks made out to the library.

The featured speaker will be Cynthia C. DeFelice, one of The Wild Washerwomen Storytellers who have performed throughout New York State delighting listeners with their tales. The speaker is also the author of three books for children.

In conjunction with the 45th annual library auction coming up in July, the book booth chairmen would like to ask for children's

books to be donated for the booth. They are always in demand and we never have enough to sell. They may be dropped off at the library during regular hours. There is also a need for cookbooks to be sold at the booth.

Some of our library staff and board members attended a library district meeting last week at the Osterhout in Wilkes-Barre.

The topic was "Planning and role setting for public libraries" with Joan Costello, librarian of the Osterhout and Bernard Slusarz, board president of the Kirby Library. They each had interesting plans to discuss. This was a very worthwhile meeting with many interesting ideas on library development.

New books at the library: "The Spy Wore Silk" by Aline, Countess of Romanones. This is a true story of royalty and murder. It is 1971 and news reports of the near-assassination of Morocco's King Hassan II shock Aline. She had received veiled warnings of such a

plot and now she had to make sure that the would-be assassins would not succeed in their second attempt. This is a true story of a Cold War mission into Morocco.

"Out There" by Howard Blum is a stunning expose of our government's clandestine activities and a meticulously documented account of the dedicated scientific search for extraterrestrial life. The story covers scientific sanctuaries of MIT to a raucous UFO Day celebration in Elmwood, Wisconsin; from the US Space Command headquarters to NASA's 97 million dollar space monitoring installation.

A grandfather informed me the other day that his granddaughter had a book overdue at the library and was told to pay the fine when it was returned. She told Grandpa the next day that she had a dream overnight; that books have teeth and they were after her because the book was overdue. However, it was quickly proven that such was not the case.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - April 10, 1931
TRUCKSVILLE FIRE CO. GETS NEW CHASSIS

Large throngs enjoy Easter Festival in the Back Mountain attending Sunrise Services and later Easter Services throughout the morning.

The Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Dallas Rotary Club will be held tomorrow at Fernbrook Park starting at 2 p.m.

The committee appointed by the Trucksville Fire Company and the Improvement Association announced that they purchased a new fire truck chassis.

Dallas Firemen are planning to hold a baked ham and bean supper in the barn of Adam Keifer at Shrine View.

The Lightning Flyer, a thrilling drama of railroad life will be presented at Himmler Theatre Friday and Saturday night.

50 Years Ago - April 11, 1941
MINSTREL SHOW TO FEATURE 45 VOICES

New Dallas-Harveys Lake Highway will be completed this summer with the construction of the five-mile link from Dallas to the Sunset.

Lehman citizens will landscape the school grounds of the new high school building under the direction of James Hutchinson of Luzerne County Agricultural Extension Association.

Kiwanis Minstrel Show this year will have a chorus of 45 voices under the direction of David Joseph of Dallas.

Engaged - Elizabeth Palmer and Frederick D. Finney.

To wed - Erma Shaver and Charles H. Conklin.

Gone With The Wind starring Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh will be at Himmler Theatre this Friday and Saturday.

40 Years Ago - April 6, 1951
LOCAL KENNEL SHOW TO FEATURE BOXER

Dallas Senior Woman's Club will hold a dinner meeting at the American Legion Home April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Charles Long of Sweet Valley entertained at a three-way dinner at Foss' Restaurant Tuesday, celebrating a birthday, an induction and a successful business year due to the cooperation of his employees who with their wives were his guests.

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

Wed - Leona Estella Traver and Donald Cook.

West Point Story starring James Cagney and Doris Day was playing at Shaver Theatre.

Ginger, a boxer owned by Dickie Clark will be shown in the Children's Handling Class at Back Mountain Kennel Club's sixth annual show at the Kingston Armory, Sunday, April 15.

30 Years Ago - April 6, 1961
NOT LICENSING DOGS COSTS RESIDENTS

Many persons were fined in areas of the Back Mountain for not having their dogs licensed.

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post to host Westmoreland basketball teams at dinner.

Daniel Richards is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Dallas Township tax collector.

Fifty three Dallas Cub Scouts are sworn in by Judge Edward Lopatto as Junior Deputy Scouts.

Engaged - Lois Vanderhoff and Thomas E. Williams; Ruth Marie Waldow and Joseph D. Stachnik. Dallas Kiwanis seeking talent for this year's show.

20 Years Ago - April 8, 1971
EASTER BUNNY ATTENDS EGG HUNT

R. Spencer Martin, chairman of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, answered Back Mountain residents questions recently about the sewers.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus at Lehman will have a new laboratory building, according to Campus Director George W. Bieri.

Lake-Lehman Bands plan Spring Concert for April 23-24.

Children who attended the Easter Egg Hunt at Dallas Senior High School Saturday found Mr. Bunny there handing out favors.

Engaged - Barbara J. Poetter and William J. Carroll III.

Wed - Bonnie Long and Dale E. Elston.

The finishing touches on Phase I of Dallas Borough playground will be completed within a month, reports Recreation Committee Chairman George McCutcheon.

Track season opens with a Dallas victory 85-55 over Pittston Area.

Junior high students form a bowling league due to the efforts of their advisor and Mrs. Charles Riegel of Shavertown.

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State department offers assistance to local governments

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

A crash course in local governmental problem solving is easily obtainable by the use of resources available through the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Local governments in Northeastern Pennsylvania desiring to compare themselves in a statistical and financial sense can obtain information from DCA as well as receive the professional technical skill level assistance which the Department's Bureau of Local Government Services, Bureau of Community Planning and other offices can bring to local governments. Throughout the 266 local governments in Northeastern Pennsylvania, a variety of needs as well as opportunities exist to promote how and in what manner services to residents can be most effectively provided.

For example, DCA maintains a comprehensive master file of over 43,000 local government officials containing titles, names, addresses and telephone numbers across the

Commonwealth. If a local government in Northeastern Pennsylvania wants to find out who to contact in a local government elsewhere in the Commonwealth about a problem, this source of information is readily available.

DCA publishes a register of earned income and occupational privileges taxes showing rates of taxation and names and addresses of collectors of these taxes. The Department prepares and publishes directories and statistics from municipal authorities in Pennsylvania. Most importantly, DCA provides advisory services in matters relating to local government activities with such services being available either through the state office in Harrisburg or the DCA Scranton Regional Office.

The age of the computer has made it easier to generate information and publish statistics reports which can be made available to Northeastern Pennsylvania local governmental officials.

Computer processed selective mailing lists with various sorts of

information and specialize listings, tabulations, and reports can be requested from the Department.

Authoritative sources of information in the form of procedural guides for executives, local governmental elected officials, auditors, assessors, tax collectors, and specialized handbooks on fiscal management and purchasing, councils of government, boundary change procedures, and citizens referenda are available through the DCA offices.

Another major service is offered by the DCA Municipal Training Division in the form of technical assistance and training to local governments in improving service delivery, effective use of federal and state programs and promoting intergovernmental cooperation.

Training is offered in the broad areas of local government structure and operations, community development, management, municipal finance and environmental protection. On site training programs are offered to meet the particular needs of problems of spe-

cific municipalities and agencies, at their own site, at a reduced price.

The Peer-to-Peer Program provides direct on-site assistance to local officials and agencies through peer consultants working under the auspices of and paid by DCA through a three-party contract. There is no direct cost to the assisted municipality or agency. Some examples of Peer-to-Peer assistance include police departments management, local governmental financial management, downtown revitalization design assistance, recycling assistance, and others.

Another form of help and advice to local governments is the Planning Technical Assistance Program. The objective of this program is to assist local governmental officials, planning agencies, and zoning hearing boards to fulfill their duties in planning and managing their community development and growth. An estimated 55% of local governments are currently zoned

and 90% are protected by subdivision and land development ordinances in the Commonwealth. A series of planning brochures for local officials and citizens is available from DCA. Many questions are responded to by DCA staff from local governmental officials and citizens on a myriad of land use issues such as regulations for mobile homes, agricultural preservation, group homes, day care facilities, fee schedules, zoning changes, subdivision reviews, comprehensive planning aspects and related topics.

The Bureau of Local Governments Services is located at 538 Forum Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 (717 787-7148) and the Bureau of Community Planning which responds to the planning technical assistance requests is located at 551 Forum Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 (717787-7400).

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.