

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Reverse the trend, get out and vote May 21

Citizens of the Back Mountain will have the opportunity to exercise their most powerful right May 21 when primary elections are held for local and county offices. But if recent history repeats itself, a minority of registered voters will turn out. Consider that many persons who are eligible to vote don't even bother to register, and the result is that a relatively small minority chooses our leaders.

That will be most obvious in the race to fill four county judgeships, in which the same 17 candidates will appear on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. Should four of them win each party race, they will be unopposed in November. At the other extreme, four different candidates could possibly win in each party race, giving the voters a choice between eight candidates in the final election. In either case, it seems likely that any candidate who draws more than 10 percent of the vote will win the primary.

Dallas Borough offers the other extreme, with only as many candidates as there are openings on the borough council, thus assuring that all will win. Both of these situations undoubtedly contribute to voter confusion and apathy, but that really isn't an excuse not to participate.

There has been plenty of head scratching over why Americans don't vote in greater numbers and even a few ideas advanced on how to encourage participation. What there hasn't been is action. A couple of very constructive suggestions for change are to allow same-day voter registration and to hold elections at a more convenient time or even over a longer period of time. Perhaps those in power don't want to change a system that got them elected. And certainly an apathetic public that doesn't take the time to vote isn't going to become too exercised about changing the system.

Local and national politics share one trait that surely dampens voter enthusiasm—a distinct lack of candidates with vision and the ability to lead. When was the last time a candidate for office inspired you? Challenged you to greater achievement? Chastised you for your shortcomings while pointing out a better way to do things? If you're like most of us, you can't remember the last time. But is that the candidates' fault or ours? Probably a little of both.

Government service should be a high calling, at its apex in political leaders who see what we can become and aren't satisfied until we're on course to achieving our goals. Instead it seems to have become mired in innuendo and slander, almost like a television soap opera in which nothing changes except the names. Unfortunately, the voting public seems to have accepted that state of affairs, lulled by the relative material comfort we enjoy.

There may not be a whole lot of chances to make a difference this election, but there is the opportunity to serve notice that voters want to be treated with respect. Go to the polls Tuesday and make use of this most precious right. A large turnout can put candidates on notice that we're paying attention; that we care about our communities. Perhaps greater voter interest will encourage new candidates to emerge in the future. Or perhaps someone who is reading this newspaper will be inspired to challenge politics as usual with daring appeals to the electorate. Let's hope so; our future depends on it.

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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.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - May 22, 1931

ELSTON NAMED CHIEF OF POLICE IN DALLAS

Dallas Borough Council elected Elwood Elston as chief of police at a special meeting.

Dallas Township primary students to present an outdoor operetta, Wednesday night.

East Dallas team sets a fast pace in the Rural League as they continue to win.

"City Lights" starring Charlie Chaplin is showing at the Himmler Theatre.

Dallas Township will graduate its first class with appropriate exercises June 11 in Dallas Borough High School Auditorium.

Almost 50,000 fingerling fish were placed in Harveys Lake on Tuesday.

Entries for all Back Mountain Memorial Day program at Lehman swamp hard-working committees.

The new Dallas highway may open on Memorial Day.

Kingston Township May Festival and Field Day may attract 3,000 climaxed with the crowning of the May Queen.

Fifty forest fires have been reported to date this year.

Dallas Borough to award diplomas to 23 seniors.

A.J. Sordoni named regional head of OPM defense contract offices.

Wed - Phyllis West and Donald Veitch.

40 Years Ago - May 18, 1951

CURRIE TO RETIRE FROM SCHOOL BOARD

Several thousand feet of Sun Oil pipeline will be moved to make way for new homes in Trucksville. Robert Currie will announce his

retirement from the school board and will not seek re-election this year.

Pvt. Fred Templin left Camp Kilmer over the weekend for service in Europe.

Clyde Birth elected to the Back Mountain YMCA Board.

Back Mountain Little League will open Monday.

Burt Lancaster is starring in Vengeance Valley playing Friday and Saturday at Himmler Theatre.

East Dallas defeats Vernon 10-4.

Engaged - Phyllis Jane Sutton and Willard Russell Piatt; Phyllis Jean Borkowski and Hanford Eckman.

30 Years Ago - May 18, 1961

PEARL AVERETT GIVEN TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Westmoreland seniors gather for their last formal prom.

Mrs. Thomas Vernon outruns two opponents for director-at-large on the Dallas School Board.

A testimonial dinner was held for Miss Pearl Averett after her well-earned retirement from Dallas Schools.

Wilson Ryman, long term Dallas Township tax collector went down to defeat for the Republican nomination in a four-way race for that office Tuesday.

All chairmen for the Library Auction are to meet tomorrow.

Neighbors gathered to help rescue cattle when Philip Elsworth's barn blew down out in Kunkle at the height of a twister.

Gustav A. Kabeschat was named president of the Luzerne County Chapter, Pennsylvania, Society of Professional Engineers.

Engaged - Estella Mae Kingsbury and Donald L. Rome.

Wed - Jo Ann Weed and C.W. Kytile; Nancy Jane Jones and Richard H. Morgan; Susan Elizabeth Lehman and John Bowden Northrup, Jr.

Spring blooms



(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Library news

Unicorn collection on display at the Back Mountain Library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is showing an exciting collection of unicorns borrowed from Tami Palka of Shavertown. Tami is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Dallas Junior High School and has been collecting unicorns for six years.

She received a jewelry box from her Aunt as a gift and then decided she liked unicorns and has been interested in them ever since. Tami buys some unicorns herself and receives them for gifts at Christmas, birthdays and other special days.

There is one very tall standing one from Mexico and another blue colored one, which were purchased while on vacation. There is a large bell with a purple unicorn; a blue castle night light; and a small silver one from Lancaster. There are two bookmarks; one a paper one which is inscribed, "Now I will believe that there are unicorns"; and one gold clip on bookmark.

There is a neat purple one and a snow ball from Florida and three sets of different poses, male and female unicorns. In the center of the display is an oil painting on canvas of a unicorn, given to Tami for her birthday from friend and neighbor, Rae Ellen Zekas.

There are 16 unicorns in the display and they make a different kind of approach to spring time. They will be at the library until June 5.

The 3rd annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Horse Show will be held at the Luzerne County Fair Grounds on Sunday, June 23 from 8 a.m. until dusk.

The horse show is now connected with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Horse Show Association and is one of a series to bring more prestige to the show and eventually make it a huge profit-maker for the library. Chairman of the show is Dr. John Shaskas and Kathy Shaskas, and they hope to make close to \$7,000 profit for the library from this year's show.

There will be 11 divisions in the show and we have obtained 12 sponsors. We would hope for a lot of local support for this 1991 horse show, which is held in conjunction with the annual library auction.

The Dallas Rotary Club will be manning a refreshment stand at the grounds and will be holding a bake sale during the day. The chairmen are asking the public to bake dessert items, such as cupcakes, slices of pie or cake and wrap them in serving sizes to be sold as desserts at the booth.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission of Harrisburg, PA has sent the library brochures and a poster announcing the upcoming 1991 Family Heritage Day sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Archives at the Scranton Anthracite Museum on May 25.

These items may be dropped off at the library on Friday or Saturday, June 21 and 22 from 9:30

until 5:30. The horse show has become an important part of the library summer fund raising projects and we would hope for the continued local support of our community members.

The special day is a celebration of families through music, crafts and family history. This year the special feature will be the ethnic heritage of Northeastern Pennsylvanians.

There will be master artisans creating crafts and music of past generations and you can join a Civil War unit as it prepares for battle. Activities and workshops are free to the public.

The day begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 5 p.m. Genuine 20th Century victrolas and beverages will be sold by the Anthracite Museum Library Volunteers. All activities will be held on the grounds of the Anthracite Heritage Museum or the Museum Lobby.

Anderson afield

Use a calendar, not nature, to tell the seasons apart

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

Up here in the Northeast, the changing seasons identify themselves without the aid of calendars. Every outdoor person, whether hunter, birdwatcher, fisherman, or gardener is aware of that. For example, the fall colors just don't make the scene in spring or summer. The shadbush is in such a hurry to tell you that spring has sprung that the flowers come out before the leaves. Could be it's trying to get ahead of dogwood.

Of course, the feathered, furry, and finny tribes have their own methods of telling you whether to wear your long undies, your bathing suit, or your sweater. Old groundhog may or may not be out and about on Groundhog Day, but by late February he's almost certain to be out checking the spring clover supply.

As soon as the ice goes out, mallards, black ducks and pintails will be pushing north with the spring. The shad usually let

us know when to start spading up the garden, and the Atlantic salmon spring spawning run was once a sure-fire indicator.

Unfortunately, salmon have been netted, hook-and-lined, and poisoned almost out of existence. As if such environmental insults were not enough, you can add a few misplaced dams that have prevented them from making little fish out of big ones. On the other hand, there is evidence of successful restoration efforts.

By and large, however, various plants and animals still herald the comings and goings of ice and snow, as well as time to plant and harvest.

When the first dandelions blossom, you can think about gardening. You can pretty well predict when black flies will be biting, when the May-apples and Dutchman's breeches will be in flower, and govern yourself accordingly.

I must warn you, however, that non-conformists are not confined to this headlong human race. For example, the book says chipmunks hibernate. Period. But an occasional insomniac may come above ground in the middle of winter. Presumably, this iconoclast either has not read the book or believes such rules apply only to other chipmunks.

And among our so-called feathered friends, unlike Tennyson, you may not be sharp enough to detect when a brighter iris changes on the burnish'd dove. But when that mournful critter carries sticks to build its makeshift, rickety nest, you can usually put away your snowshoes.

Turning to the plant world, it is downright misleading to be wading through the snow in December and come across that misguided tree-shrub, witch hazel, in full bloom! The brooding of a clutch of hootie-owls overlaps the blooming of witch hazel.

I've about decided I'll stick with the Farmer's Almanac. Above all, let us avoid authors who assign human values and philosophies to plants and animals!

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

20 Years Ago - May 20, 1971

MEADOWCREST WATER CO. RECEIVES FINES

District Magistrate Leonard Harvey captured the Republican nomination for magistrate by a runaway vote.

Back Mountain Library Auction Kickoff was a great success.

Meadowcrest Water Company is fined on four counts before District Magistrate Frederick W. Anderson.

Dallas Kiwanis pleased with 4-H activities.

Dallas track team repeats as district champs.

Rev. Andrew Pillarella elected president of the Mental Health Association at the annual luncheon meeting at Westmoreland Club.

Nesbitt Hospital Festival plans announced at annual luncheon.

Engaged - Susan Ellen Tippett and Dr. James Morrow House; Miriam Mohr and Jonn Deem.

Wed - Concetta Hreha and Ronald D. Szela.