

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Despite Dallas resignations, public service still attractive

Has public service become just too difficult and unpleasant, or was last week's resignation of three Dallas Borough councilmen an aberration? The answer to that question is neither easy nor apparent, but it bears investigating.

Certainly, being a local government official is often a thankless job, or worse. From their side of the table it seems that citizens show interest in the workings of their community only when they have a complaint. Even then, it's seldom that residents take the time to find out if their concerns are properly founded, and thus the discussions that take place at public meetings often lead nowhere. And, of course, as a public official, one's motives are always questioned and people with nothing better to do spend their time spreading rumors about your secret agenda.

No better illustration of a public official's dilemma serves better than the fuss over the new trash and recycling program in the Back Mountain. Because of its small population, Dallas Borough was not forced to institute a recycling program this year, but the borough council saw tagging along with Dallas and Kingston townships as an opportunity to anticipate what would eventually be required while saving the vast majority of residents money and helping to clean up the environment. That was exactly the result for most citizens, but a small, vocal minority harassed the council and especially its president about their decision. Tim Carroll denies that this particular incident triggered his resignation, but many people suspect it was a large contributing factor.

There is no question that public officials are subject to scrutiny and criticism by residents and the news media, but that is as it should be. Anyone who wishes to hold office must accept that they also may become a lightning rod for complaints and controversy. But the other side of public service—the positive side—can be the feeling of satisfaction that comes from helping to guide one's community along the proper path. In so doing, a local government official can make a real difference in the lives of his neighbors and for future generations. To enjoy that satisfaction, one must care deeply not only about the present operations of the community, but about planning for the future.

Only the three Dallas Borough officials who resigned know all the reasons that led to their decision, but clearly for these three people, the level of satisfaction wasn't equal to the discomfort. That shouldn't discourage others who have a vision for their town from seeking public office.

DAMA boots it again

Judging by how it has notified businesses about recycling requirements, it seems the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) hasn't learned a thing from the controversy surrounding the residential trash and recycling program it instituted in July.

Commercial enterprises in the Back Mountain received letters from DAMA last week along with a paper describing what materials can be recycled and a form on which to report the volume of recycled material. But the information created as many questions as it answered, and the fact that it arrived only a couple of weeks before the September 26 deadline for starting to recycle caught most businesses by surprise. Trash haulers apparently weren't given notice of DAMA's plans either, nor were they invited to help design the correspondence so that unnecessary confusion would be avoided.

Commercial recycling works differently from the residential program primarily in that each business can contract with any hauler as long as the hauler can properly handle recycling. The blanket contract DAMA signed with Danella Environmental Technologies for residences does not apply to businesses. Like so many other items, that is not made clear in the correspondence from DAMA.

What DAMA needs least right now is apparently what they will get as a result of this latest failure in communications—a fresh group of confused and sometimes angry people complaining about another DAMA program.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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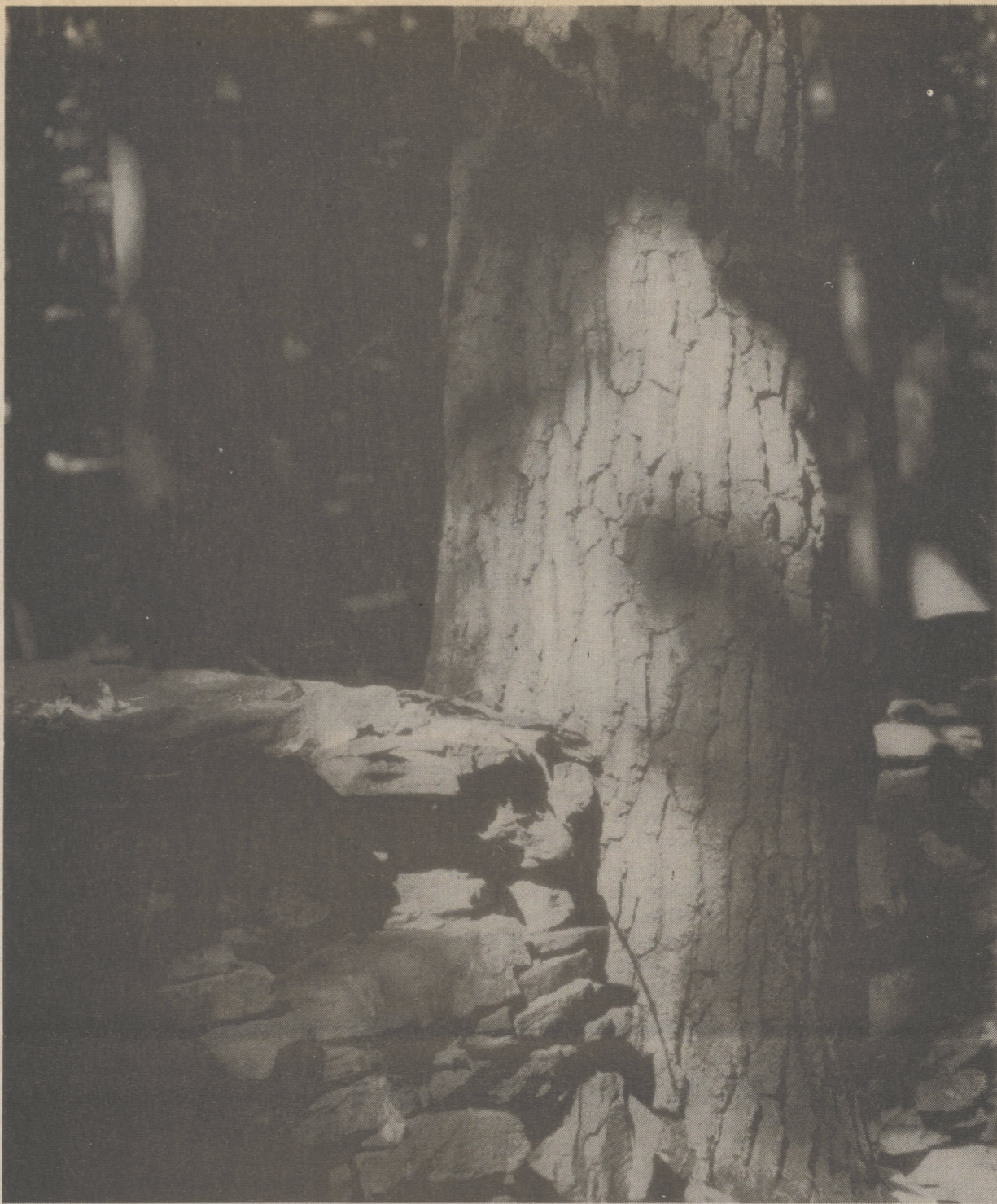
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Wild things that make my heart sing

(Post Photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

Library news

Triathlon champ autographs cookbook

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library held its first meeting for the new season recently in the reference room at the library.

Mrs. Florence Crump was voted to stay on as President Emeritus of the club with Nancy Kozemchak sharing responsibilities. Elin Northrup will continue as treasurer and Blanche Thompson will serve as contingency fund chair. Mary Lou Swingle was nominated and voted in as the new secretary of the club to begin her duties in October.

The Contingency Fund was able to purchase three new books for the Book Shelf in the library with year end funds. They are: The Wilk Rose by Doris Mortman; Domestic Pleasures by Beth Gutcheon; and Darcy's Utopia by Faye Weldon.

The members decided to have their annual Christmas Tea on December 16th after a short business meeting in the reading room at the library. The Friends of the Library members and the community are invited to reserve this date and come to the library and par-

take of the tea and enjoy the special program which will be presented.

The recent program was presented by members bringing a 'show-n-tell' item from home. These consisted of miniature paintings in conjunction with Cider Painters of America done by Libby Davis; a hand-made quilt by Grace Martin; a story called 'Marth's Secret Ingredient' from a new magazine call Reminiscer by Frances Linskill; 1889 & 1890 antique books from June McCloskey; the last doll from Germany in 1917 before the war, Queen Louise, by Elizabeth Stoehr; Martha Parker brought pictures of her cottage in Vermont, the plans of which she completed herself.

Also, Mary Panaway brought items from Nepal and India, a Buddhist prayer bill and a prayer wheel and an incense burner; Audrey Farr had Wedgewood from England, a thimble and plates with Diana and Charles, from her daughter who was there for the wedding; Mary Lou Swingle told of a picture of Barbara Bush, herself

and her granddaughter in Washington when Mrs. Bush was invested as National Honorary President of the Girl Scouts.

The next meeting will be held Monday, October 21st at 1:30 in the reference room at the library. Pouring at the tea table were Martha Parker and Ruth Heintzelman.

The "Chefs and Artists" cookbook of the library features a page dedicated to the 1991 'Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon' and it's 10th anniversary with a special recipe for Runner's Pasta Salad. Greg Welch of Bangor, New South Wales, Australia; a world champion in 1990 was the winner here in 1991 and he autographed one of our cookbooks with: "all the Very Best! Greg Welch". This book will stay in the library as a special tribute to the triathletes.

The cookbook committee will have a table at the Christmas Craft Show sponsored by the Soccer Club at the Dallas Senior High School on Sunday, Oct. 6th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anderson afield

Wetland foes misrepresent their case

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

In the push to create an environment in which humans and other animals cannot survive, our wetlands appear as obstacles to the big promoters. As you know, the millions of small depressions known as "prairie potholes" fill with water in spring. Some water percolates down into the underground aquifers that supply drinking water. These little reservoirs, if not drained, reduce the rapid run off that creates floods downstream. Coastal marshes absorb the energy of hurricane tides. Millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, and aquatic mammals and reptiles depend on wetlands. Without coastal marshes, our entire seafood industry would disappear. Wildlife of the wetlands contributes hundreds of millions to our national economy.

But you cannot raise wheat in a prairie pothole. You cannot build houses in a marsh. You cannot make money on the cypress and tupelo gum in a virgin swamp forest. As long as wetlands remain wet, they will conflict with schemes for converting them into economic enterprise.

In recent years, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has been an effective tool for protecting wetlands without placing undue burdens on landowners, farmers, and developers. Comes now a determined and well-financed coalition of interests that claims to be

hampered by wetlands regulations. They are waging a campaign to weaken Section 404. Representatives of farm, homebuilders, oil and gas, and road construction lobbying organizations have visited virtually every congressional office with "horror stories" about Section 404. They are promoting amendments to the Clean Water Act that would destroy the program.

These horror stories are underlain by a pack of lies. Here are just a few examples:

They claim farmers who have been farming for decades need a 404 permit to continue farming. But Section 404 exempts ongoing farming, ranching and forestry. A farmer can continue his operation even if it involves deposition of dirt into a wetland so long as that is part of his ongoing program. Now if he wants to begin farming in wetlands, that have not been farmed before, he must get a permit to do so.

The liars claim a farmer can't even switch crops without a 404 permit. The truth is, he can plant different crops if they are part of his normal crop rotation. But if he is tired of trying to drain it and lets it revert back to marsh, then a permit may be necessary if he wants to start farming that wetland again.

Gullible congressmen are told you can't do anything in a wetland without a 404 permit. I only wish that were true! Permits are required only for dumping dredged or fill material into wetlands. Drain-

ing, flooding, or chemically contaminating a wetland does not require a permit; nor does cutting off inflow of fresh water or removal of cattails, bulrushes and other wetland vegetation. Clearly, protections now in place are minimal. They need to be strengthened; not weakened.

Recently, the administration set up a new criteria that would remove millions of acres from wetland protection (such as it is) by simply changing the official definition of wetlands. Under this change, the water would have to stand or saturate the land surface for 21 consecutive days. Since most prairie potholes (from whence cometh about 70 percent of our canvasbacks, mallards, pintails and other flat-faced fowl) dry up in less than 21 days, they can now be drained and plowed up. Thus they will contribute to our crop surplus and floods along the major rivers.

One of the most serious threats is House Bill 1330, by my own Congressman, Jimmy Hayes. This bill, if passed, will extract the few teeth in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Lobbying by the coalition mentioned above is so strong that the bill has 147 cosponsors. If your Congressman is among them, he is not doing right by you or your grandchildren.

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

Only yesterday

60 years ago-Sept. 25, 1931
GAS WELL STRUCK AT 2,000 FEET

Gas flowing at a pressure of 750 pounds per square inch has been struck at a depth of 2000 feet in the drilling operations being carried on at Jenks along the Dallas-Tunkhannock highway.

In keeping with an annual custom, Devens Milling Company of Dallas and Kinkle in conjunction with Tioga-Empire Mills will entertain 200 guests Friday Night at Kunkle Community Hall.

Doc Traver, striking out the first seven batters in the first game at Kingston Township school lot was unable to stop Shavertown this time around who won 10-3.

Four prisoners escape from Wyoming County and East Stroudsburg jails over the past weekend.

Animal acts thrill visitors at the Wyoming County Fair.

50 years ago-Sept. 26, 1941
FIRE COMPANY RAISES FUNDS FOR BUILDING

Members of the Henry Lehigh Fire Company are hard at work trying to finance a combination firehouse and community house for the borough.

Lehman Dropshinski, Lehman High School alumnus, is fighting his way to a name in New Jersey boxing circles.

Claude Cook of Fernbrook gets a used car bargain when he brings home a Ford phaeton only 30 years old in grand condition with only 7,000 miles on it and never run since 1928.

Rapid progress is being made on the new Lake road with one lane completed from Castle Inn to Dallas.

Wed- Elizabeth Piskorik and John Pitcavage.

The 'Big Store' starring the Marx Brothers now playing at Himmler Theatre.

40 years ago-Sept. 28, 1951
JIM BROWN HEADS DEMOCRAT CAMPAIGN

Attn. Jim Brown of Shavertown heads Democrats campaign in Luzerne County.

Frank Hayden Roads of Huntsville has been named Lieut. Col. in the Air Force.

Daylight Saving Time is out and Eastern Standard Time starts Sunday at 2 p.m.

Wed-Lorraine Sorber and Marvin Ellsworth Jr.; Jeanne Ikeler and Theodore Reed; Nancy C. Roche and Warren L. Thomas; Betty Jane Naugle and Albert E. Agnew.

Lehman Scotties will attempt to retain the Old Shoe at tomorrow's game at the Dallas Borough Kingston Township gridiron.

30 years ago - Sept. 28, 1961
NEW DALLAS AMBULANCE ON ORDER

Bulldozers are clearing acreage for the new Lake-Lehman High Schools Building.

Mrs. Prosper Wirt, new librarian for the Back Mountain Library arrived in Dallas Tuesday evening, one hour before the furniture.

Dallas Community Ambulance Association has a new ambulance on order, a new 1961 Cadillac.

Dorosky and Andrew's lead Dallas to 18-7 win over Lake-Lehman on the Dallas gridiron.

Wed-Jane Ann Wellhofer and Ens. Jerold A. Nelson; Lois Maceri and Robert B. Russell; Sandra Lee Morris and Ronald Lee Swingle.

College Misericordia to offer early morning caller of the air over WDAU-TV.

20 years ago-Sept. 23, 1971
VACANT HOUSE DRAWS COMPLAINTS

Vacant House in the Back Mountain brings complaints from neighbors.

Quick start at Brandywine indicates 1972 completion.

Harveys Lake Sewer plans avoids calculated delay.

Ribbon cutting opens telephone center in Dallas.

Saturday, Sept. 25, opens archery deer season which will continue through Oct. 29.

Lake-Lehman directors consider busing requests.

Dallas School District enrolled in Channel 44's I-TV courses.

Wed-Betty Ann Weaver and Thomas P. Shaver; Sandra Jane Tait and James H. Robb.

Dallas Mountaineers were surprised by GAR whose passing defense gave the Grenadiers a 26-13 win.

Knights bow to Meyers 23-6. Natona employees receive instruction on firefighting.