

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Charlot Denmon will be missed at The Post and through the area

The entire Back Mountain community lost a big chunk of its recent history last week when Charlot Denmon died. Nowhere will her absence be felt as much as at The Dallas Post, her home away from home for the past 20 years.

"Tooties," as she liked to be called, at one time or another served this newspaper in virtually every capacity, from taking classified ads to writing editorials. She loved The Post and the work, and would never refuse any assignment; in fact she constantly volunteered to do more, even when age began to take its toll on her energy.

Co-workers were often astounded at the accuracy of her memory of past events. Having covered news throughout the region for many years, Tooties had come to know the personalities and occurrences in every community. Her recall was amazing and she often served as the best source of information for other writers who either hadn't witnessed events or who had long ago forgotten the details of them. When other media wanted to know about the Back Mountain's history, a talk with Tooties was one of their first stops.

But Tooties didn't rest on her past accomplishments. In the years she worked for the present publisher, she frequently was able to break important stories because news sources trusted her with information that wasn't available to anyone else. In that time, the publisher can't recall a single incident in which Tooties' reports were seriously challenged. On the contrary, her subjects often commented on her fairness, even when they didn't like the news.

Her knowledge of the area and its people were put to good use in 1989 when Tooties gathered and wrote all the material for The Post's 100th anniversary issue, a 30-page chronicle of the newspaper and the area it has served. While she was often heard to remark that she would have preferred living elsewhere, listeners knew she didn't mean it, and her affection for her home came through in the pages of the newspaper.

One of Tooties' favorite topics was education, not only because it was interesting but because she loved young people and witnessing their growth and accomplishments in the classroom and on the athletic field. She covered all school sports with an eye not just for stars but for those youths who were performing up to or above their natural ability. It was often a surprise to hear informed comments on the state of the local football team or cross country squad coming from this petite older woman.

The description of a person as "crusty" never fit anyone better than Charlot Denmon. But the hard outside only served to cover and protect a warm and loving heart. Tooties was proud of the fact that she always spoke her mind, and she could argue with the best opponent. But when the discussion was over, there was never any animosity left behind as she went about her business.

Through the years, dozens of Dallas Post employees grew to love and respect Charlot Denmon. We will miss her very much.

A positive response to Lehman gas leak

News stories about incidents such as the recent gasoline leak in Lehman all too commonly include a report that the alleged source of the problem denies responsibility and has hired a lawyer to defend against any charges. That apparently is not the case this time, as the owner of the service station from which the gasoline is suspected of coming has gone out of his way to supply clean water to the affected homes, and has volunteered to pay for drilling new wells when needed.

That is a refreshing response and one that, if emulated more frequently, could go a long way toward solving some of the ills that our nation faces. Just think how much better off we would be if every industry took responsibility for cleaning up its own messes. And how much more attractive would our landscape be if removing or properly restoring buildings and land that have been damaged by use was part of the responsibility of being in business?

Unfortunately, too many individuals and businesses think that avoiding responsibility is one secret to success. It's not, and the price the rest of us pay for their irresponsibility is too high.



Nature study, Wyckoff Sanctuary

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

Letters

Prison working to contain water shortage

Editor:
On September 20, 1991 Jackson Township's Pat Rusiloski espoused the view on TV Channel 28 Noon News that local citizens are concerned about the State Correctional Institution at Dallas because of the water shortage that has caused the Institution's administrators to temporarily stop showers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Pat's fears were not allayed despite SCI-Dallas' Superintendent Ryan's assurance that the people in SCI Dallas were responding to the shower cutbacks in a humanly manner.

Pat feels that if the people in SCI Dallas are not given their shower water back soon a riot may occur at the Institution in the near future. Pat offers no explanation for her theory, offers no evidence in support thereof, and has not spoken to one person in SCI Dallas.

Of course Pat could have bolstered her bald assertion with the fact that clean towels have also been cut back. The people in SCI Dallas now receive clean towels several times a week. Even though many people have their own personal towels, the cutback in towels could have factored largely in Pat's analysis.

Pat could have also mentioned that because of the water shortage, the people in SCI Dallas have been occasionally compelled to eat with paper plates, styrofoam cups, and plastic silverware. Of course the inmates who work in the dish-washing section of the kitchen are elated when they do not have to wash three times a day silverware, trays and cups, for over 2,000 people.

One last factor missing in Pat's theory is that while the water has not been shut off in each persons' cell, the water is almost always light-brown in color. The water tastes a little odd, and does not smell usual.

The people in Dallas Correctional Institution are experiencing perhaps the same minor discomforts due to the water shortage as are the local citizens. The water shortage is a natural phenomenon which no one is responsible for. Had Pat spoken to one person in SCI Dallas, perhaps as Superintendent Ryan said, Pat would have perceived that we are responding to the situation in a humanly manner. Pat's theory therefore did very little but unnecessarily startle the local citizens.

Pat, your statement was an abuse of discretion. You should use your influence to vociferously demand an answer from the experts as to why in the past ten years our U.S. Prison Population has increased 50%; that is 500,000 more people in prison now than there was ten years ago. 97% of all prisoners are eventually returned to the social mainstream. Why are there so many social offenders? Why is the recidivism rate so high? As a social offender, I am concerned that Pat is not rioting over these unanswered questions that are taking a devastating toll on the very quality of life in America.

A water shortage? They have come and gone without incident in the past. The people in SCI Dallas are responding very commendably to the temporary problem as they have done in the past.

Steven Heiser
SCI Dallas

Scott Dougherty
SCI Dallas

Mike Vance
SCI Dallas

Brian Bretz
SCI Dallas

A. Case for conservation

The Eleventh Commandment

By ALENE N. CASE

I recently saw a quotation from Ted Turner in *American Forests* magazine which said, "We've got to somehow make our way to where we can live off the interest of the planet rather than the principal." This statement brings up-to-date some other things I have been reading lately.

In the mid-nineteenth century (1854) Chief Seattle wrote a letter to the "Great Chief in Washington," Franklin Pierce, in response to the federal government's offer to purchase the Indians' land. In it he gave the following analysis of the ways of the white man:

"We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He leaves his fathers' graves behind, and he does not care. He kidnaps the earth from his children. He does not care... He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as

things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert."

Obviously, President Pierce did not pay much attention to this warning, nor have his successors with the possible exception of Theodore Roosevelt.

W.C. Lowdermilk studied the deserts that people have left in their wake over the past 7,000 years. Apparently, the "white man" is not the only one who has raped his surroundings. The Chinese have major problems with silt-filled river basins caused by clearing and farming on the steep slopes of the highlands in which these rivers originate. Many of these hills are now completely barren as are those of Lebanon, Syria and North Africa. Residual forests remain in the courtyards of temples and monasteries indicating that the climate could still sustain plant growth if the soil had not been washed or blown away.

He came to the conclusion that Moses had omitted something important from the Decalogue. Dr. Lowdermilk gave a speech in Jerusalem in 1939 in which he

offered the following Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish off the face of the earth."

It is my hope that this column will aid its readers in following this last commandment in the weeks and years to come. Together we shall explore our options and learn from those whose lives can teach us about creative ways to relate to this planet and its inhabitants.

Alene Case has worked on environmental projects since 1968. She holds a bachelors degree in zoology from Duke University. She lives in Trucksville.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Oct. 2, 1931
DALLAS WATER CO. TO DRILL NEW WELL

Cresswell Drilling Company has been awarded the contract to drill a new well for Dallas Water Company.

Kingston Township School Board adopted a resolution for floating of bonds for a new high school building.

Local physicians and interested citizens discuss the possibility of a sanitarium or hospital being located here.

Dallas hopes to defeat Kingston Township gridders when they meet this week.

Arizona starring John Wayne is playing at Himmler Theatre this weekend.

50 Years Ago - Oct. 3, 1941
HIGHWAY FROM DALLAS TO HARVEYS LAKE GETS 3RD LANE

Lehigh Valley officials confer with community center committee to discuss the use of the railroad property for the proposed center.

Air Raid wardens make plans for blackout on Friday night.

Field agents of the State Department of Health will be at Kirby Health Center for several days to aid those seeking birth certificates.

Paving begins on the third lane of the highway from Harveys Lake to Dallas.

Newspapers are the major industry in Pennsylvania with the state leading the nation in the number published.

Engaged - Betty Josephine Ide and Roy Almerion Covey; Cora Elston and Robert Jones.

St. Therese's Ladies to sponsor reading and tea at College Misericordia.

40 Years Ago - Oct. 5, 1951
SCHOOL OFFICIALS: DRUGS NO PROBLEM

Directors choose Westmoreland as name for its Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Joint senior high school.

Three helium filled balloons launched at Lock Haven Labor Day for the Flaming Foliage Festival were found in the Back Mountain area.

Local school authorities say use of drugs is no problem in local schools.

New floodlights will be used for the first time at the 11th Annual Halloween Parade in the judging area.

Wed - Amy Louise Miers and John Andrew Odell; Nancy Roche and Warren L. Thomas; Phyllis Jane Pascoe and Glenn H. Brunges.

Miss Grant Takes Richmond starring Lucille Ball and William Holden playing at Star-Lite Theatre. On Moonlight Bay starring Doris Day playing at Himmler Theatre.

30 Years Ago - Oct. 5, 1961
DALLAS GETS NATURAL GAS

Natural gas comes to Central Dallas.

Staunch library supporters gather at dinner honoring Miriam Lathrop.

Dixon's Restaurant is sold to Jack Townsend of Athens, Ohio.

Ray Shiber will discuss slavery before Civil War Round Table at Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Bloodmobile to be at the Back Mountain YMCA building, Shavertown Oct. 20.

Wed - Donna Ruth Boyle and Gerald Blazik; Mary Lou Harz and Franklin Mayberry; Jeannette J. McDonald and G.B. Schoonover.

Lake-Lehman defeats Northwest 13-6 with Don Anesi scoring two touchdowns.

20 Years Ago - Sept. 30, 1971
POLICE HOLD DISPLAY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS

Elby's Restaurant is negotiating to purchase the building at the intersection of Route 309 and Route 415, Dallas Borough. The building was formerly the Suburban Restaurant.

United Fund opens its drive in its 50th year.

Dallas Borough votes to keep 24-hour answering service.

Dangerous drugs and narcotics were displayed at the Wyoming National Bank sponsored by Kingston Township Police.

Pa. Game Commission instructs youth on how to handle guns.

Engaged - Catherine M. Thompson and Howard Earl Stritzinger; Jane Gallagher and George Mannear Nicholson Jr.

Wed - Marcella Blizzard and William R. Lathrop; Jo Ann E. Tucker and Henry J. Straub.

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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