



Charlot Denmon

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as a director in the Lake-Lehman School District. "In my opinion she was a class act in a number of ways. Her character was above reproach," Jones commented.

"She was always an honest, up-front person. Tooties always reported what was said at meetings," said Jones. "No matter what function or meeting she attended, you could pick up the paper the next day and truly feel she reported accurately."

Jones's comments were echoed by Frank Wagner, chairman of the Dallas Township supervisors. "She was one of the few reporters about whom I would say she was at the same meeting I attended," Wagner said. "She tried to do right by us."

Ray Carlsen, who with his wife Blaze owned The Post from 1975-1980, remembered Mrs. Denmon as a dedicated, loyal friend and employee. "Charlot was one of the most faithful newspaper staff members I've ever seen," Carlsen said Monday. "It's people like her who serve the community and its institutions."

John Allen, editor of The Post during the mid-1970's, said persistence was one of Mrs. Denmon's strongest traits. "If her goal was a story about the school board, she knew that time was on her side," he recalled. He also mentioned the many times Mrs. Denmon and her husband had helped out neighbors who fell on hard times.

"She and Andy quietly helped people in need when they owned a service station. There would be times when people had car problems and they would help out," Allen said.

Among Mrs. Denmon's many duties, she handled some advertising accounts. One of them was her lifelong friend Pauline Roth of Oscar Roth Jewelers in Dallas. "Now when the door opens and Tooties doesn't enter, it's going to feel strange," she said.

Mrs. Denmon reported on Dallas Borough for most of her career at The Post, recalled mayor Paul

Post to establish memorial fund

The Dallas Post will establish a memorial fund in the name of Charlot M. Denmon, who died Saturday, September 28. Mrs. Denmon worked at The Post in variety of roles for 20 years before her death.

"We haven't yet decided exactly how the fund will be used," said Ron Bartizek, The Post's publisher, "but we're sure it will have something to do with young people, since Tooties was so interested in the schools and sports."

Donations to the Charlot M. Denmon Memorial Fund will be kept in an account at First Eastern Bank in Dallas. Anyone wishing to contribute may send donations to the bank or to The Dallas Post, in care of the fund.

LaBar. "It seems like she's been a pillar there," he said. "I would see her every week, and her visits were always welcome." LaBar and his wife, who was a schoolmate of Mrs. Denmon's had spent Thursday evening with her over dinner at Grotto Pizza. He recalled an evening of wide-ranging discussion that lasted for several hours.

One of Mrs. Denmon's favorite diversions was bowling, and she participated in the Ladie's Country League at the Back Mountain Bowl for more than a quarter century. For a good number of those years, she was an officer of the league, serving as president at the time of her death.

Libby Cyphers bowled with her for 23 of those years, and she remembers Mrs. Denmon as a hard-working member of the league. "She was a leader; she always knew just what to do. The rest of us looked to her for direction," Mrs. Cyphers recalled as she recounted how Mrs. Denmon planned the members' trips to tournaments throughout the state. "It was never too much for her; at one time 40 to 50 girls would go," she said, "and she had to arrange hotel rooms and other details."

"I always bowled with her and shared a room," Mrs. Cyphers said. "I'm really going to miss her."

Mrs. Denmon's favorite coverage area was the schools, including athletics. Her dedication to the students was based on a desire to

see young people receive the recognition they deserved for their accomplishments. An example of her commitment is a story told recently by Mark Moran, a photographer for the Sunday Independent and former co-worker of Mrs. Denmon's at The Post.

Moran recalled a Lake-Lehman football game a few years ago, played in a cold, drenching rain. As he was waiting to take photos, Moran saw Mrs. Denmon walking to her position on the sidelines, camera in hand, in a formal dress and high heels. He listened in astonishment as she explained that she had been at a wedding reception but left to come take photos at the game because she wanted to be sure they appeared in the next issue of The Post.

In addition to her work at the newspaper, Mrs. Denmon was active in several local organizations. Along with her late husband, Andrew, she was known as a friend to children throughout the area, often bringing gifts at holidays and birthdays. She also was a lover of animals, keeping two toy poodles at home and assisting the SPCA whenever possible.

Mrs. Denmon is survived by two sons, Warren E., Fairfax, Virginia, and Andrew R. Jr., Dallas; sisters Ruth Quinn, White Haven; Doris Mallin, Harrisburg; a brother, Robert C. Monk, Shavertown, and two grandchildren. Her obituary appears on page 11.

Gasoline

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until it comes up in somebody's well."

What came up in the well of a private home on Market Street near the Lake Lehman Junior High in August was benzene, a component of gasoline and a carcinogen.

Later, during the week of September 16, residents of a mobile home park reported that the water tasted like there was something wrong with it. A test showed that the common well shared by the park residents was also tainted with benzene.

"You can detect very low levels of gasoline by smell," said Carmon. "The problem is that a small amount of gas can contaminate a lot of water. It could have taken only a few gallons."

J.R. Sperl, a resident of the mobile home park said that he didn't notice anything wrong with the water until it was shut off by DER on Sept. 19. The water was turned back on the next day so it could be used for showers and washing clothes - though DER recommended that the washes and showers be with cold water and the area be ventilated to prevent a buildup of gasoline fumes.

Another resident of the park said that something seemed wrong with the water for a while, but they always attributed it to the pipes.

The water at the park is crystal clear, but smells and tastes a little bit like plastic.

Dr. Robert Clement, who lives next to the home with the contaminated well, said that he's having his water tested, but he hasn't had any problems with his 385-foot-deep well yet.

According to DER, the contaminated homeowner's well was about 125 feet deep.

The source of the contamination is believed to be the Sunoco Station on Route 118 owned by George Maculloch. A hole was discovered in one of the station's tanks in October of 1990. The tank was promptly replaced, and a ground water study at the time showed no contamination, said

Carmon. The gas cannot have come from the tanks at the former Stolarik Service Station (now the Gunn Brothers Garage) because the gas found tainting the water was unleaded gasoline, which was never used at the Stolarik's.

The contamination may have been in the ground long before the leak in the gas tank was discovered, however.

"This contamination may be years old," said Carmon. "Ground water moves very, very slowly—a matter of inches per year. Fast-moving ground water may move a foot or two a year. I think people have this idea of groundwater as a fast-moving underground river."

It's almost like a glacier. There are different layers of it, which generally follow the contour of the land."

"The drought may have accelerated the contamination by pulling the water table down," said Carmon. "If there was no drought the problem might not have surfaced for another year or two."

At the Lake Lehman Junior High School and the nearby Maple Hill Nursing Home, MTBE, a gasoline additive used to prevent engine knock, has been discovered in the water. According to DER, the level of MTBE at the school was 28 parts per billion, and the level at the nursing home was 12 parts per billion - both below the acceptable level of 40 parts per billion. An additional test has been taken at both locations but the results were not available Tuesday.

Robert Roberts, principal of the Junior High, said that the school hasn't had any complaints or unusual outbreaks of illness from the 400 students there.

"Its not looked at as dangerous as benzene," said Carmon of MTBE. "But it's not something you want to have in drinking water. When people normally talk about gasoline, it's a whole chemical. Normally gas will float on water, but the MBTE will go into solution with water."

That being water soluble, it may

come quicker than the organics like benzene."

Without admitting any fault in the matter, Maculloch is providing bottled water to the residents with contaminated wells, to the Junior High School and to the nursing home. He is also paying for drilling new wells at the home and mobile home park.

Tuesday the students at the Junior High were still using bottled water to drink.

"We have the cooperation of the station owner," said Carmon. "If we had to take legal action it would have been drawn out and we wouldn't have had the work done which we've already had done."

"Mr. Maculloch is to be commended," added Carmon. "We realize that this is a major expense."

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