

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Headlines we hope to write in 1992

As the tumultuous year of 1991 comes to a close, it's time to think about what we would like to report on in 1992. Many of the momentous national and international events that occurred last year left their own marks on people here. Dozens of area residents went off to a happily brief war in the Persian Gulf; many Back Mountain families were relieved that friends and relatives in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were finally free of communist totalitarianism; some undoubtedly suffered financial reverses because of a stagnant economy.

But our thoughts are directed close to home. So, here are a few headlines we hope to publish next year.

Dallas board, teachers reach reasonable contract

After nearly a year of intermittent negotiating, the Dallas School District and its teachers are still far apart in their demands and expectations. The teachers' union is clearly delighted with the recommendations of a fact-finder, which are to give the teachers an average 8.75 percent raise in each year of a four-year contract. The board rightly rejected that suggestion, realizing that such a commitment was unfair to taxpayers who have suffered from a recessionary economy.

A compromise is in order, with most of the movement coming from the teachers' side.

Old pub torn down

The dangerous eyesore that was once a fine restaurant and lastly the Hearstone Pub has remained standing for too long. Feeble attempts by Dallas Borough's former solicitor to force the owners to remove the dilapidated structure have been to no avail, and the Borough's hand-to-mouth financial status has denied it the resources to simply condemn and demolish it. We hope a new borough council and solicitor can get some results.

PennDOT, towns work to add traffic lights on Route 309

Route 309 through the Back Mountain was already a deadly highway before it was connected to Interstate 81 in November. Increased traffic — especially more trucks — will only compound the danger. Despite the clear logic that improvements to the highway in Wilkes-Barre directly affect traffic flow here, PennDOT continues to say that the cost of installing necessary traffic signals must be borne by local municipalities. We hope PennDOT will accept its share of the responsibility for making Route 309 safer.

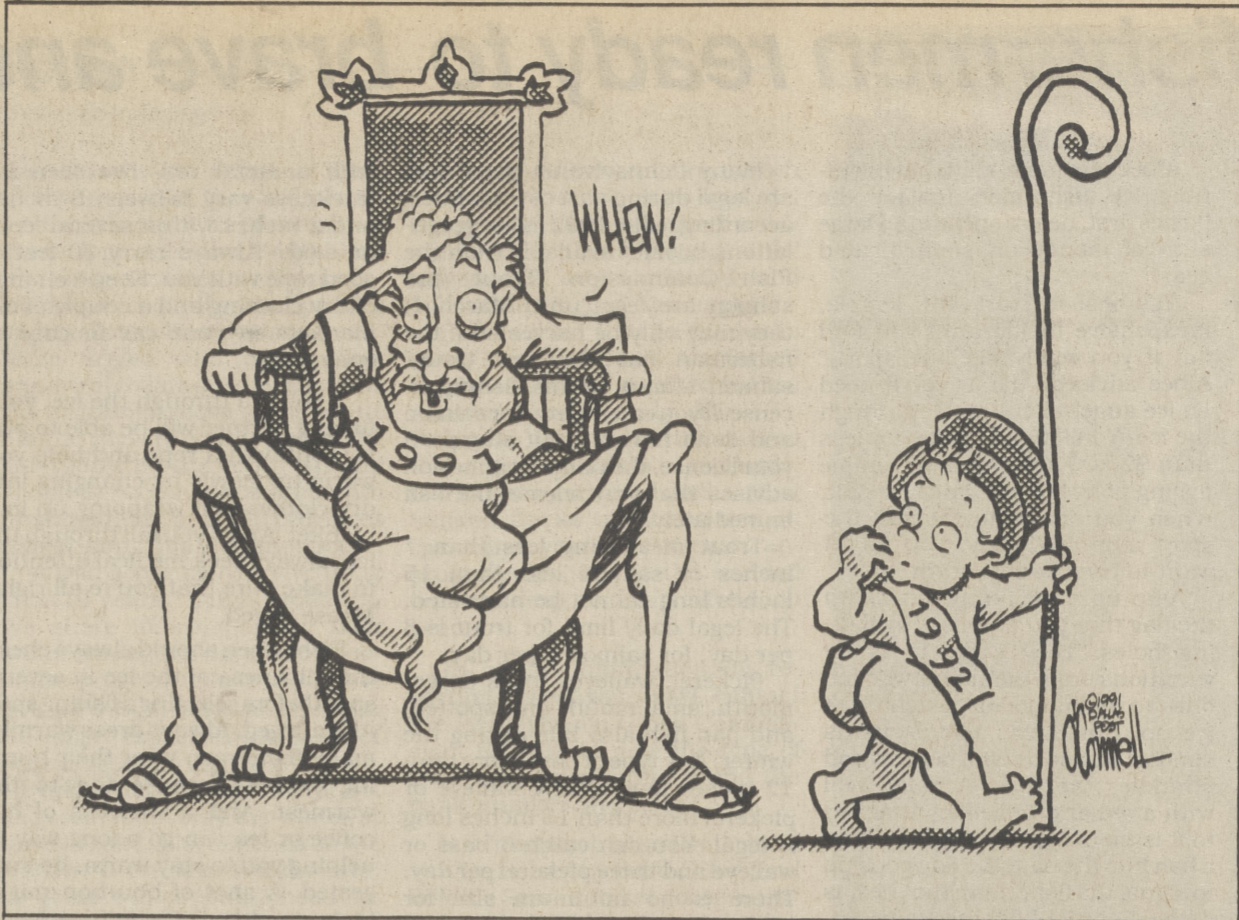
Developer plans commercial park in Back Mountain

Now that access to Interstate 81 has been improved, the Back Mountain has become even more attractive as a place to live and work. But the region lacks a well-planned, attractively built commercial or light industrial area that would attract good-paying employers. Creating one now could assure more good jobs right here and would expand the tax base.

Municipalities join to produce unified planning

As the Back Mountain continues to develop, it becomes ever clearer that the region could benefit from coordinated, forward-thinking planning, zoning and building regulations and consistent enforcement of them. For the most part, developers have been conscientious, but that may not always be the case. More important, regional planning could direct development in the most productive, least damaging way, preserving and enhancing the Back Mountain's attractiveness.

So, there you have it; five headlines that we hope to be able to write in 1992. Have a good new year.



Happy New Year from The Dallas Post

J.W.J.

Getting one's priorities straight

By J.W. JOHNSON

It all seemed so simple then. So right. So perfect. So much the epitome of the American dream.

The year was 1970, some 21 years ago. I was into my third of four years of active duty with the United States Air Force.

My president was secretly bombing Cambodia. My commanding officer was about to lose his life in the crash of a B-52 bomber. I was busy as a vehicle mechanic making sure our bomber pilots got to their planes so they could destroy millions of acres of vegetation and nearly a million people in Southeast Asia.

It was all in a day's work. For the nation. And for the young airman who was about to learn what was really important in life.

Credit. Credit was what was really important in life. Your word as evidenced in your desire and follow through in paying your bills. If a man had credit...good credit, he was a long way toward success in this society.

Thus spake Technical Sergeant Darryl Clay, a born and bred Texan who had decided that this Pennsylvania Yankee had a lot to learn about the financial ways of the world.

TSgt. Clay first of all explained that he was about to retire from the Air Force...at the age of 38...collect a full pension from Uncle Sam, and then go to work at his own "fillin' station, jest outside uh Lubbock," he said.

So the first thing I needed to do was stay 20 years in the Air Force.

TSgt. Clay and I were definitely listening to different radio stations. I didn't tell him so, however, as his intentions were honorable if not avuncular.

But the most important thing a man could do was "establish hisself a credit record" And you could do this, according to TSgt. Clay, with the most wonderful invention ever to emerge from the fevered minds of those who lay awake nights trying to figure out new and different ways to part us fools from our

money:

The credit card.

The ubiquitous, plastic marvel.

A doorway to love, peace on the planet, and a year's supply of whatever you wanted...whether you needed it or not.

We were standing in the mess hall line when this conversation took place. Sgt. Clay had taken out his Mastercard to show me this plastic marvel.

I can still see it to this day. Shiny. Grey. Beckoning.

I now have one just like it. So do millions of other Americans. However, it's indiscriminate use has lured many into the fantasy land of 'pay for it tomorrow' when many people can't afford it today.

And hasn't easy credit fostered other misguided notions about what we can and should expect from our government? From ourselves?

"We in America suffer from a great delusion," former (and made by Watergate famous) U.S. Senator Sam Ervin once said. "We think we can pass a law and everything will be cured."

The attitude noted by Ervin includes just about everyone. Laborer, government employees, electronics technicians, grocery store clerks...the list could go on forever. And of immeasurable length seems to be the list of special benefits wanted by virtually everyone from the 'government.'

So a law is passed, a bureaucracy formed, and regulations promulgated until the bureaucracy now numbers more than 3,000,000 in Washington alone, with a corresponding Federal tax bite.

We are floundering in regulations we don't understand, taxes we cannot afford, but more importantly, moving forward with a 'help-me-government' attitude, an attitude which is causing the death of self-respect, a character trait which, more than any other, made this country great.

Every time we ask the government for help instead of doing it ourselves we lose self respect and gain more governmental control

over our lives.

Recall the Pilgrims. What guarantees did they have? They provided food, shelter, transportation and other necessities for themselves...or they did not survive. And it's because of their survival, and their example, that this country was preserved for future generations.

It would be ludicrous to advocate a return to pure survival; it is also no doubt true that self respect is more difficult to comprehend—and/or to see the need for maintaining—when humans are once, twice and three times removed from an immediate survival threat.

But that does not mean the knight should hang up his armor for lack of dragons to slay.

Instead of self-respect, the predominant character traits in America today are, to name a few:

—demanding more money for less work.

—putting immediate security above self respect.

—and generations of welfare recipients now with no grasp of the notion of taking care of one's self, that idea having been supplanted by the myth of 'entitlements.'

It's true that in an age (New York City excepted) where survival is not paramount, self respect becomes more an idealistic symbol, than a realistic response. But what better symbol to pass along and insure future generations?

Another attitude arising from the 'entitlement' mentality is, in fact, the lure of easy credit.

Hardly a week goes by when I do not receive a solicitation from some far away bank wanting me to send for its credit card. The solicitation begins by noting my "excellent credit rating", or words to that effect.

And how do you suppose that I got that excellent rating? By not succumbing to the lure of easy credit in the first place. By paying my bills on time and, when feasible, paying cash. It certainly wasn't by using plastic.

As it is with perfection, easy credit isn't really easy; it's an illusion.

Letter

Thanks supporters of Taxpayers' Assoc. candidates

Editor: On behalf of the Back Mountain Residents and Taxpayers Association, I would like to extend my gratitude to those voters who were able and did cast a vote for the write-in candidates. Despite the blatant hampering of the voters, the candidates did well at the polls. Thank you for your effort, and please remember that change does not occur rapidly.

Jackie Zukosky Wyoming

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Jan. 1, 1932
AUTO INSPECTION WILL BECOME STRICTER

Auto inspection to be more rigid, heavy fines and loss of rating for inspection stations lax in duty is clearly shown in a letter received this week by James Oliver, announcing appointment of his garage as one of the official inspection stations throughout the state. Similar letters were sent out by Bureau of Motor Vehicles of Pennsylvania to other duly authorized stations.

Benjamin G. Eynon, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles issued a final reminder, that the use of 1931 license plates after midnight December 31, is against the law.

In Rural League play, Shavertown defeated Beaumont, 49-16; Lehman over Dallas, 21-18. Trucksville will travel to Orange where they will play the team there at the community hall.

Street Scene with Sylvia's Sidney now playing at Himmler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 2, 1942

ADMIRAL HAROLD STOCK HONORED BY HARVEYS LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSN.

Mrs. A.R. Dungey, Lake Street, won the first prize for the most beautifully decorated Christmas doorway sponsored by Wyoming Valley Garden Club in the Dallas Area.

Admiral Harold R. Stock, Wyoming Valley native, Chief of U.S. Naval Operations was honored at the first annual dinner dance of Harveys Lake Protective Association in the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Sterling, Monday night.

Engaged - Jean Elizabeth Zimmerman to Donald Bougal Deans. Wed - Ruth Evans to H.V. Lyne, Jessie Grose to William Moss.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 4, 1952

BACK MOUNTAIN RESIDENTS TREK TO HARRISBURG FOR STATE FARM SHOW

Scores of Back Mountain residents will attend the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Jan. 14-18 in a setting provided to demonstrate the educational value of the show.

Rev. Frederick W. Mook Jr., resigned from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown to accept a call to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Phoenixville.

Ralph Sands and I.R. Elston were sworn in as new Supervisors of Kingston Township on New Year's Day.

New Plymouth for 1952 will go on display here and throughout the U.S. today, both Howard's Cars and L.L. Richardson have announced.

Master Sgt. Charles W. Remphrey, Dallas was recently presented the Bronze Star Medal, at an Airlift Base in Japan.

30 Years Ago Jan. 4, 1962

GLORIA THOMAS OF SHAVERTOWN APPOINTED CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

Gloria Thomas, Shavertown lawyer was appointed as Chief Probation Officer for Luzerne County.

Grace Cave, Robert Moore and Wilbur Davis reelected to their second terms were sworn into office by Mayor Thomas Morgan at the annual reorganization meeting of Borough Council Tuesday night.

Dallas Outdoor Theatre sold to Richard A. Fox, owner of Fox Drive-in Theatres, headquartered in Reading.

Engaged - Margery Stookey to John G. Stephenson.

Wed - Maxine Long to William Roberts; Marie B. Sherwood to Wayne T. Troxell.

In Church League play, East Dallas dumped Shavertown 49-43; Huntville defeated Harveys Lake 67-55; Prince of Peace over St. Therese's 49-28.

Library news

Extra craft books are available

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has a rotating collection of craft books borrowed from the Osterhout Library which are available for our patrons to borrow and return to our library for a three week period. Some of the titles from this collection include: "Quilts of Illusion" by Laura Fisher; "The Complete Book of Rock Tumbling" by Christopher Hyde and Richard Matthews; "Floral Patterns for Stenciling" by Susan Britton and Jackie Looney; "Free-Form Bargello" by Gigs Stevens; "Old House Woodwork Restoration" by Ed Johnson; "Country Needlework" by Margaret Boyles; and "You Can Learn Lettering and Calligraphy" by Gail and Christopher Lawther. The collection includes many additional titles.

The library circulated 7,606 books during November; 4,126 adult titles and 3,480 juvenile. Book Club circulated 247 books

and there were 60 new books added to the collection. New borrowers totaled 133 and re-registrations were 441. Interlibrary loan had 33 transactions.

A new large printbook, donated by the Dallas Lions Club, is Barbara Taylor Bradford's latest, "Remember". Some brand new children's books include "The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen" by Lloyd Alexander; a masterful tale about the interplay of self-doubt and courage, pride and love that will echo with truths to young travelers in any land.

"The Burning Room" by Paul Fleischman, a Newbery medalist, is a novel of echoing births and deaths. When this room is used, the lives of those within it and without often take a sudden turning. It shows the eternal cycle of birth, courtship, birth and death.

"Rats on the Roof and Other Stories" by James Maeshall, a Caldecott Honor winner, is a book that will dance its way into your

heart with the author's wittiest and most wonderful book yet—sure to tickle the fancy of young and old alike.

"Wanted: Mud Blossom" by Betsy Byars is the story of Pap Blossom's loyal dog, who has never been in so much trouble before. The school hamster Junior brought home for the weekend is missing, and all the evidence points right to Mud.

"Window" by Jeannie Baker tells of a mother and baby as they look through a window at a view of wilderness and sky as far as the eye can see. The boy grows and the scene changes. Illustrated with amazing collage constructions; "Window" is a wordless picture book.

"American Tall Tales" by Mary Pope Osborne includes a collection of tall-tale characters such as Davy Crockett, Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill, John Henry, Paul Bunyan, Stormalong, Mose, Sally Ann Thunder, Ann Whirlwind and Febold Feboldson.

THE DALLAS POST
Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
Telephone: 717-675-5211

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AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION