

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Another traffic death, still no lights

Pardon us if we sound like a broken record, but isn't it time something was done about traffic control on Route 309? And we're not complaining that local officials aren't trying; it's just that the state seems to ignore the death and destruction that take place here with unsettling regularity.

As if to reinforce the point that most of the increased traffic doesn't begin or end here, neither the latest victim of a fatal accident nor the occupants of the car that collided with his were from the Back Mountain. Like so many others, that collision occurred in Shavertown, a few hundred yards south of the Center Street intersection.

State Representative Phyllis Mundy has added her voice to those calling on the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to take responsibility for safety on this highway, which she aptly characterized as a "mini-interstate." It has become even more so since being connected directly with Interstate 81 last fall, and this summer promises to be the bloodiest on record as trucks and vacationers vie for position.

We understand that the state must be careful in allotting scarce funds; it's hard to understand, though, how a deathtrap like this one isn't on the top of the priority list.

Health care reform will be good for us

Perhaps no issue has excited the public imagination in the last 20 years as much as has the possibility of basic health care being made available to every person in the United States. On the face of it, the debate is over how such a plan can be implemented. But there are still formidable forces working against access to health care for all.

There are so many good arguments in favor of universal health care that it is sometimes hard to understand why it has taken so long for the American public and its leaders to begin a serious discussion about it. Some will recall that Harry Truman proposed such a plan in the early 1950's, but was rebuffed, and the idea never surfaced again until recently.

To borrow a phrase, you don't have to be a brain surgeon to see that our present system — under which the very poor and the very rich are assured access while everyone else must choose between health care and other necessities — is not only expensive, it damages our society in subtle, but important, ways. A few are:

■ **COST** — Opponents of a national health care scheme argue that involving the government always means less for more. But the experience of every other advanced nation tells us just the opposite, and not only because there's plenty of waste in our free market system. We all will save money when medical care is freely available because preventing disease is more efficient than treating it. The value of pre-natal care alone should be obvious to anyone who cares to examine the issue with unbiased eyes. A well-planned health care system that includes regular checkups and promotes healthy behavior will bring the greatest savings.

■ **FREEDOM** — Because affordable health insurance is now almost universally connected to a job, many Americans pass up important career opportunities when they mean either losing insurance coverage, or having to pass a physical exam to get it at their new company. As anyone who has suffered an illness knows, it is very expensive to switch insurance carriers, provided you can get coverage at all.

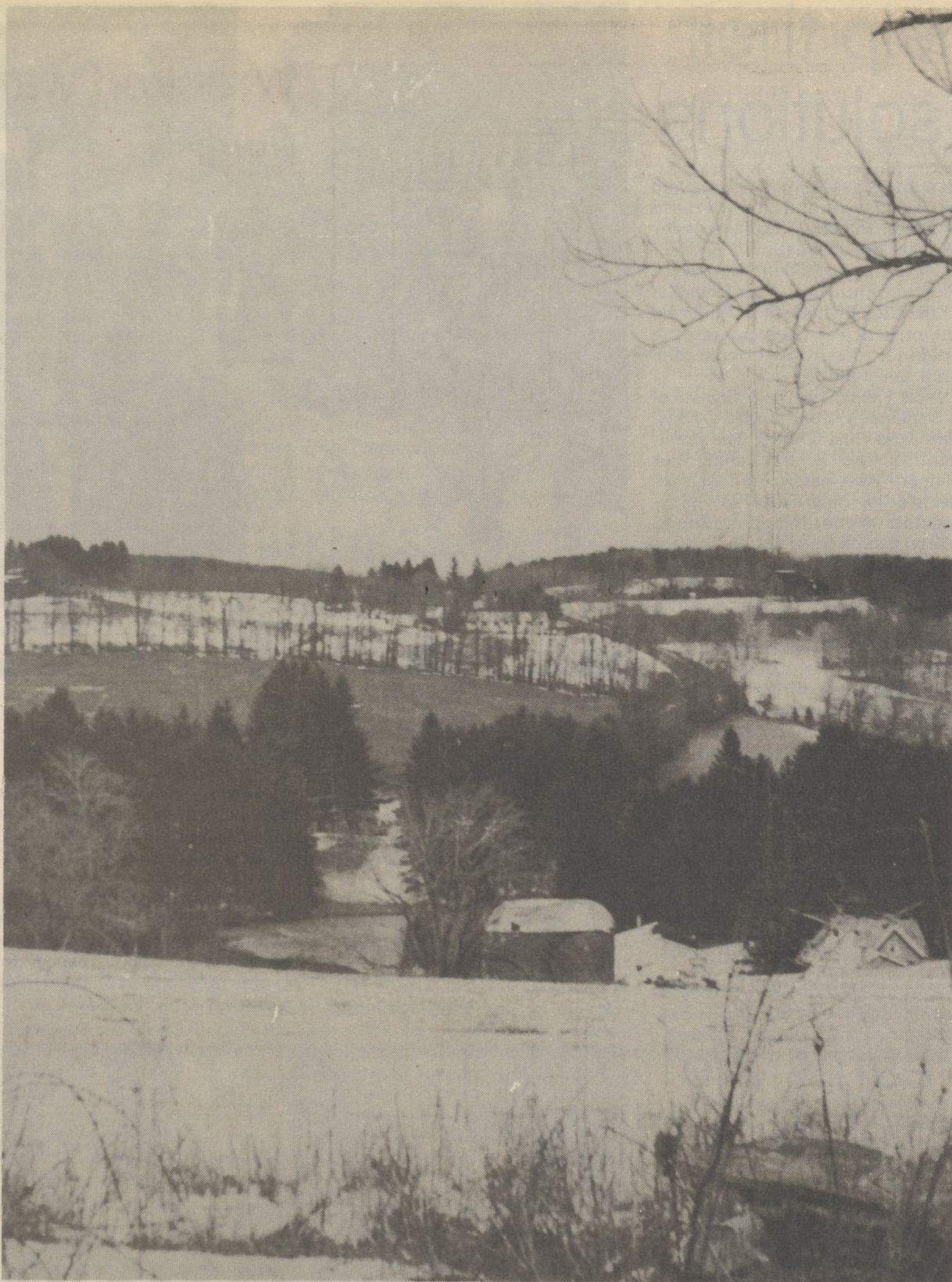
■ **FEAR** — Ours is the only modern nation in which citizens can lose everything they own if they become ill. Like the risk of nuclear war, that nagging fear quietly pummels our subconscious with the vision of having nothing to show for a lifetime of effort, and worse, impoverishing the children we so lovingly brought into the world and raised. This is perhaps the saddest commentary on a misguided interpretation of our national spirit that says independence is always more important than compassion.

Americans expend an inordinate amount of time, energy and money on health care, and as long as we do our citizens and our nation cannot claim to enjoy a high standard of living. As we approach the 21st century, it's time to free ourselves from the puritanical notion that in a wealthy, civilized society illness is a penalty for which an individual and his family must be made to pay.

Cherry blossoms will brighten up our day

What a wonderful idea it was to plant cherry trees alongside Route 415 as it approaches Harveys Lake. The spring blossoms we'll soon see there will brighten the day for everyone who travels this road.

The trees also will be a reminder that there's more to the stewardship of a municipal government than balancing the liquid fuels fund checkbook. We hope more citizens, supervisors, councilmen and other officials will recognize that making a community more attractive enhances the experience of living there.



North from Valley View Road

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

A. Case for conservation

The magic life of mangrove trees

By ALENE N. CASE

Perhaps you took the family to a warmer clime this winter, or perhaps you plan a trip to the Keys over Easter break. If so, you may be acquainted with a type of vegetation which I have only read about in books and tried to imagine. To the south and west of Florida there is an area called the Ten Thousand Islands. These islands are not only covered with mangrove forests, they were created (and are still being created) by mangrove trees! One author has predicted that eventually the entire area will become low-lying land attached to the peninsula of Florida.

But, let's not get ahead of ourselves. What exactly is a mangrove? First, we need to understand what it is not. Mangrove does not refer to a specific family of trees such as pines or maples. There are three different families represented in the mangrove forests in the Caribbean and as many as eight families world-wide. Within those, there are many species.

The term mangrove denotes a lifestyle rather than a genetic relationship. This lifestyle is one of the most difficult that any plant could have. They must live in salty water that changes level with the tides. They are buffeted by hurricanes. And they grow in mud that contains little or no oxygen. The ways in which these diverse plants have adapted to this extreme environ-

ment make them truly amazing.

Mangrove forests occur only in tropical climates where there is a heavy cloud cover. High rainfall amounts and a lack of ice are important factors in their distribution. Mangroves line much of the coast in the tropics, including along estuaries where fresh water from rivers enter the sea. Wide ranges in salt content present another stress to many of these plants.

Like desert plants, trees that live in salt water must prevent dehydration. Therefore, all mangroves have very waxy leaves to help them retain water. Some also have special membranes to keep salt out of their root cells. Researcher's surmise that living in a cloud area also helps because less water evaporates in such steamy environs.

The roots of mangroves have evolved unique responses to the lack of oxygen they experience. Some have hollow tubes through which air is pumped down into the mud. Others have roots that dangle down from the trunk and branches and "breathe" above the water level. Still other species have complex root systems that not only take in oxygen but also stabilize the tree as the tides move up and down, in and out. The red mangrove of Florida looks much like a house built up on stilts because its roots hold the tree above the high tide level.

One special adaptation sepa-

rates mangroves from all other trees: they retain their seeds until full germination. The "baby trees" get water and nutrients from the parent plant until they are about 6-12 inches long. At the time they are released, they have small leaves and a long arrow-shaped root. If the tide is out, the small tree hits the soft mud and begins to grow on its own in the shadow of the "mother". If the tide is high, the small tree floats on the water until it lands on a suitable spot and begins to grow. They can float for as long as a year and still be viable.

The ability to colonize new areas, the extensive root systems, and the heavy leaves all contribute to the mangroves' usefulness in holding and creating new soil. The roots tend to trap sand and other debris which would otherwise be washed out to the deeper ocean. As much as 3-5 tons of leaves may fall in an acre of mangrove swamp in one year. These leaves contribute to the soil as well as feeding a wide diversity of other organisms. After the mangroves have built up the soil, other species of trees move into the area.

These very special swamps are at risk in most parts of the world because they happen to be very inhospitable places for humans. Other animals, however, call them home. And some of these animals are quite important to us. I am thinking particularly of the shrimp which most of us enjoy eating at

Library news

Library will sponsor art auction May 15

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has announced a special Kick Off event for the 46th annual library auction. An art exhibition and art auction will be held at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas on Friday, May 15. The preview will be 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and the auction will be held at 8:30. Admission is \$12.50 per person and advance ticket purchases are preferred. Tickets will be available at the library. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese. There will be a door prize given also.

The program will feature art in all media including works by artists such as Delacroix, Neiman, Chagall, B. Wood, Miro, Boulanger and many others. All proceeds will benefit the Back Mountain Memorial Library. This is the major kick off celebration for the 46th annual auction to be held Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 9,

10, 11 and 12. General chairman is Connie Scott.

The book booth will be chaired by Bennie Matchett and her committee and the library will accept donations of books for the booth, with the exception of text books, at any time when the library is open. The Odds and Ends booth will again be chaired by Sybil Pelton, Mary George and Jean Grimes with the Women of Dallas Kiwanis and they will gladly receive donations for the booth, also delivered to the library. A celebrity auction will be held as an added feature with many special items to be auctioned off.

New books at the library: "Box Socials" by W.P. Kinsella is set in the small towns, ball fields, barns and bedrooms of Alberta, Canada and populated by some of the quirkiest, rowdiest, hottest-blooded folks in fiction. The story paints a brilliantly comic, full-color portrait of North American life in the 1940's. It is the story of how

Truckbox Al McClintock, a small-town greaser whose claim to fame was hitting a baseball clean across the Pembina River, almost got a tryout with the genuine St. Louis Cardinals. The book is full of the crackle of down-home folk tales. It is donated by Back Mountain Bridge Club.

"Trial By Fire" by Harold Coyle is donated by the Dallas Federated Women's Club. The book combines military strategy, mastery of modern military technology, a surefire sense of political and diplomatic reality with a hefty dose of good old-fashioned storytelling. In this masterly and superbly paced new novel, the United States is caught by surprise as a Mexican revolution suddenly destabilizes the almost 2000 mile-long undefended border between the two countries. While the controversial invasion is debated, the United States Army must win quickly what could become a long, bloody war. This is a compelling novel.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Apr. 1, 1932
AREA IS BURIED AFTER A SNOW STORM

One of the worst snow storms this area has experienced in years continued on Monday night destroying communication lines and paralyzing traffic for two days.

In his efforts to get an educational square deal for rural schools and boys and girls on the farms, Dr. James N. Rule, State Superintendent of Public Instruction is making a tour of the State obtaining first hand information on actual conditions in the outlying school districts.

Dr. John J. Casey is aspiring for a seat in Congress as a successor to his father the late Hon. John J. Casey, who served six terms in the House of Representative, 12th District.

"Pardon Us", with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy now playing at the Himmler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - Apr. 3, 1942
SUSPECTED SPY QUESTIONED

Tei Takahashi, Japanese house-boy of Mrs. John Conyngham, Hayfield Farms was taken into custody by 2 FBI men on suspicion of spy activity. A thorough search of his living quarters at Hayfield revealed a short-wave radio, powerful camera, maps and pictures of the Wyoming Valley. All these were confiscated by the G-Men.

Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Poad of Demunds Road, received word that their son Lt. Keats Poad has been reported missing in action since March 3 in the Far Eastern Theatre.

Boys' basketball team, second year champions of the Back Mountain League and the girls team a close second in the fight for championships will be guests of honor at the annual banquet in the borough high school Wednesday night.

40 Years Ago - Apr. 4, 1952

RICHARD DISQUE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW FUNERAL HOME

Harris S. Haycox was unanimously elected to fill the term of the late Timothy LaBar at a meeting of Dallas Borough Council held at the Library Annex.

Donors who regularly appeal to the Dallas Borough School answer to the appeal of Red Cross for blood, are urged to bring another respective donor on Wednesday.

Dallas Rotary Club named Clarence Swire of Sweet Valley, Student of the Month at Lake-Noxen School.

Richard Disque has broken ground for his funeral home on Memorial Highway at Center Hill Road. It is hoped the structure will be completed by the middle of summer.

30 Years Ago - Apr. 5, 1962

BACK MOUNTAIN LUMBER OPENS

Mrs. Donald Meade, Trucksville, was Giant Market's lucky winner Thursday, taking home \$300 in groceries in the five minute shopping spree.

Dallas Lions will visit every home in the Dallas Area selling light bulbs at discount prices. Every cent of profit will go toward a worthwhile community project.

Wyoming National Bank and Back Mountain Lumber and Coal held Grand Openings when they moved into their new buildings on Main Highway, Shavertown, directly across from the Back Mountain Shopping Center.

Wed - Wilma Mae Weidner to Willard R. Lansberry.

Prize winning Lake-Lehman Band will hold their spring concert April 13 and 14 in the Lehman gymnasium. John Miliaskas is band director.

20 Years Ago - Apr. 6, 1972

HL MAYOR SQUASHES MOVE TO ABOLISH PLANNING COMMISSION

A move to abolish the Harveys Lake Planning Commission has been thwarted, if only temporarily by Mayor William J. Connolly's veto of two ordinances which had been approved unanimously by the community's borough council last month.

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy, Dallas, will head a six-week seminar in Egypt this summer for the Wilkes College Education Department. The 15 persons who will participate in the seminar are representatives of state colleges and universities.

Engaged - Former math teacher at Dallas Junior High School Charlene Jaye Ripa to Francis James Arruda.

School children are no longer required to have Smallpox vaccination in Pennsylvania schools, the state's medical society said this week because more children have been dying from complications from the vaccine than from the disease itself.

THE DALLAS POST

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

Ronald A. Bartizek
Editor and Publisher

Charlotte E. Bartizek
Associate Publisher

Peggy Young
Advertising Acct. Exec.

Eric Foster
Reporter

Paul Rismiller
Production Manager

Grace R. Dove
Reporter

Olga Kostrobala
Classified/typesetting

Jean Hillard
Office Manager

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION