

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Traffic light funds are best news in years

Everyone who drives on Route 309 will be glad to learn that more traffic lights finally will be installed on the highway in the Back Mountain, and another will be added on Route 415. Funding, previously thought to be the sole responsibility of local municipalities, will come through the state from federal highway improvement monies. That's because the new signals will be added as part of a general improvement project that may include additional turning lanes and barriers, all designed to make this now dangerous road safer.

This welcome news comes because of a cooperative effort mounted by State Representative Phyllis Mundy, State Senator Charles Lemmond, local municipal officials and the Back Mountain Citizens' Council. The money to install lights always was available, but only if they were included in a larger road development project, and if a local traffic management committee was established. That occurred last year when the Citizens' Council formed such a group and asked state officials to take a closer look at problems on Route 309.

The signals — which probably will be installed on Route 309 at its intersections with Hillside Road, Franklin Street and Main Street (next to Mark II Restaurant), and at the intersection of Route 415 and Center Hill Road — will help to slow cars and trucks that now routinely roll through at more than 50 miles per hour. That's too fast on this congested roadway with its crazy quilt of side roads and driveways. If all the lights along the highway can be coordinated, they will be an even better restraint on speeders.

A coordinated effort of citizens and two levels of government was needed to finally realize this goal. This is a fine example of how effective regional cooperation can be; we hope its success is repeated in many other ways.

Can Perot live up to expectations?

Could anyone?

His supporters are waiting for Perot, and so are the faithful in the two major political parties. If Ross Perot's independent challenge for the Presidency has done nothing else, it has demonstrated forcefully just how disappointed a large block of the American public is with established politicians who seem far more interested in raising money and protecting their flanks than in seeking imaginative, effective solutions to the problems facing the nation. But is that a result of individual failings or of a system gone stale?

One remarkable aspect of Perot's high standing is that it comes despite most people's limited knowledge of the candidate or his philosophy. When 35 percent of voters polled say they would support Perot, it's clear that many, if not most, of them are supporting someone they know little about and who has thus far declined to say specifically what he would offer in the way of plans or programs. Even at this early date, that should give the established candidates pause.

More troubling is the thought that many people are looking for a savior instead of the head of the administrative branch of a tripartite government. Under our system, the President exercises limited — though substantial — power, and his best efforts can be easily blocked by a recalcitrant Congress. But that's how it's supposed to work; balanced forces opposing one another so that none has enough power to enforce its will over the others.

If the message of the Perot candidacy is that we are ready to embrace new leaders who are unafraid to tell us the truth about our national needs, his unprecedented run will have been a service to America, win or lose. But if it is that a fickle populace is willing to try anything except facing up to its responsibilities individually and as a society, we will have wasted valuable time and effort. We shall see.

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 a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. The Post does not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar, but will call if we think editing might change the meaning.

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Nearly New shop changes hours

The "Nearly New" Kids Shop, which is a service project of the Trucksville United Methodist Women, has announced a change in the hours of operation. Beginning Saturday, June 6, the shop will be open from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday.

As an extension of the ongoing "Campaign for Children", "Nearly New" Kids Shop offers a fine selection of used clothing from infant to

size 14 at a very reasonable price. A special "2 for the price of 1" Sale will begin on June 6. Included in the sale will be all the Fall and Winter items, especially coats, jackets and snowsuits.

The shop is located in the Memorial Room (Church Basement) of the Trucksville United Methodist Church, Church Road. All proceeds will be donated to the Back Mountain Food Bank.



Open wide for spring

Photo by Charlotte Bartzek

A. Case for Conservation

Ozone depletion: A really tough problem

By ALENE N. CASE

Over the past several months, I have tried to adhere to two guiding principles when writing these columns. First, the topic should be something not generally covered by the mass media. And second, the reader should discover that he/she can actually do something to help solve the problem. This article will break both of those rules.

Ozone has been in the news a great deal over the past decade or two. Perhaps you have found these discussions confusing because there are really two different problems associated with this gas: there is too much in most cities and there is too little up in the stratosphere. Both problems are caused directly by human activities. I used to joke that if we could somehow pump the ozone from the cities up into the stratosphere we could solve both problems at once.

I will save the ozone component of photochemical smog for a subsequent article. It is the "ozone hole" high above the Arctic and Antarctic areas that is most threatening to all life on this planet at this time. What is it? How did it get there? And what can be done about it?

In some respects, ozone depletion is a very straightforward problem. We know what causes it and we can be sure of several of the

consequences. It all began quite innocently with the search for an inert refrigerant-one that would not explode or otherwise cause harm to those who worked with it. Chlorofluorocarbons appeared to be the perfect invention. These compounds, better known as CFCs or Freons, were stable, odorless, nonflammable, nontoxic, and noncorrosive. They could be used in air conditioners, refrigerators and aerosol cans. They were also used in cleaning electronic parts and in manufacturing styrofoam.

But, in 1974 scientists discovered that the CFCs that are so stable in the lower atmosphere begin to break down when they are exposed to ultraviolet radiation approximately 10 miles above the Earth's surface. The chlorine atoms that are released begin to change ozone into oxygen gas. It wouldn't be so bad if one chlorine atom damaged one ozone molecule. Unfortunately, one chlorine atom can gobble up 100,000 ozone molecules in PacMan fashion.

OK, you say, let's just find something else to use and stop releasing CFCs. It is not so simple. Less than 10% of the CFCs released into the troposphere have made it into the stratosphere. If we stopped all CFC releases today, it would take about 100 years for the atmosphere to cleanse itself. Meanwhile, we will experience increases in skin cancer, cataracts and smog.

Even more devastating will be the decreases in productivity in the oceans and on land. The Icecolors '90 cruise documented a 6-12% reduction in algal productivity under the ozone hole in the Antarctic. As the hole becomes larger, this decrease could affect fisheries, marine mammals, and even global warming (since less carbon will be fixed by plants). We can protect ourselves by wearing sunscreen and sunglasses. But, we obviously cannot smear sunscreen on all the plants in our gardens or on the algae in the sea.

Since the ozone layer is indispensable, we had better figure out a solution to this problem. If it were as easy as recycling all Freon when appliances were serviced, I would insist that you do that. It might help in the long run, but we need a correction now.

Technology has gotten us into this mess so I suggest that technology get us out. The world's best scientists and engineers should be put to work on this problem, much as they were in the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb. They should have any resources that they need to accomplish the desired result. The only thing that we as citizens can do is to make sure that our leaders recognize the severity of this problem and address it immediately. Otherwise, we will all suffer.

Library news

Ham'n Yegggers provide auction seed money

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Ham'n Yegg Club is one of the outstanding facets of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. The 46th annual auction will be held July 9 through the 12th at the library. The Ham'n Yegg Club donations become the seed money for the auction. The letters announcing the Club and the auction are in the mail with information about the 1992 auction and a return envelope for a monetary donation to the library.

An explanation about "Ham'n Yegg Club" is: some years ago, Mrs. T.M.B. Hicks and William Moss came up with the idea of inviting all professional men to contribute a ham to be auctioned off over the block. This proved to be not very practical because there was not enough refrigeration to store all the hams, so they solved the problem by asking for a check in the amount of \$10 or more in lieu of the hams. This proved to be

so successful that other area residents were included in the request to become members in the select group of people supporting the library. Newcomers to our area, as well as the old-timers of the Back Mountain are invited each year to contribute to the Ham'n Yegg Club, however, in 1983, the amount of \$10 was increased to \$25 to cover increasing expenses. This is a continuing financial endeavor and contributes to the overall library auction net figure.

The Book Club met at the library on May 18 for the regular meeting. Treasurer announced there were 217 members for 1992 to date with \$1,910 collected in dues to purchase books for the Book Club shelf in the library. The program consisted of a "Show and Tell" by the members with very interesting items and their particular meaning to the owners. Pouring at the tea table were Gene

and Mary Lou Swingle. The June meeting will be held on Monday, June 15 at 1:30 in the reference room at the library.

New books at the library: "The Evening Star" by Larry McMurtry is the stunning sequel to one of the most beloved novels of our time: "Terms of Endearment". The novel is at once loving and comic, but always bittersweet with the unexpected turns and failures of life. The story updates us on the memorable character, Aurora Greenway, along with her family, friends and lovers, in this richly imagined and satisfying tale. A warm and feeling story.

"Turtle Moon" by Alice Hoffman transports the reader to Verity, Florida, a place where anything can happen during the month of May, when migrating sea turtles come to town, mistaking the glow of the streetlights for the moon. Lucy Rosen and her 12-year-old

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - May 27, 1932 AMERICAN STORES OPENS BRANCH AT HARVEYS LAKE

American Stores Co., has opened a new and up-to-date branch store with all equipment and services to care for the residents of Harveys Lake and vicinity this summer. Daniel Richard formerly of the Dallas store will be in charge of the Harveys Lake branch.

Field day for students of Kingston Township schools will be held tomorrow on Shavertown school grounds. Climax of the program will be a baseball game between Lake Township High School and Kingston Township High School.

In Rural League play Fernbrook and Beaumont meet at Conley's Park, Luzerne. The diamond to be used is a new one for Fernbrook and is rated as one of the finest in the valley.

50 Years Ago - May 29, 1942 DALLAS TWP. GRADUATES 44, LEHMAN 41 STUDENTS

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 will hold Memorial Day services at Warden Cemetery tomorrow at 9 a.m. The Post will also conduct services at Huntsville Cemetery today at 7:30.

A graduating class of 41, largest in the history of the school, will participate in Commencement exercises Wednesday at the Lehman Township High School auditorium.

Wed - Mary Eipper to James J. Knecht.

Dallas Township High School graduating class of 44 will be awarded diplomas Tuesday in the school auditorium. No announcement of a Valedictorian or Salutarian has been made as the averages of Margaret Brzyski, Rhoda Eddinger and Dale Warmouth are practically identical. All three honor students will give addresses at the exercises.

40 Years Ago - May 30, 1952 \$1,500 DONATED TO PURCHASE NEW FIRE TRUCK

Advance gifts of \$1,500 toward the purchase of a new fire engine for Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company were announced at their meeting. Next week general solicitation of the public will be made with the Fire Company divided into teams making a house to house canvass.

Grounds were broken for the new Jackson Township Fire House at Chase Monday evening. Centrally located for best all-around service to the township, the proposed \$30,000 building measuring 102'x48' will be erected on land donated by Harold Bertram.

Engaged - Catherine Lukasavage to Raymond I. Mulligan.

"He Ran All the Way Home" starring John Garfield and Shelley Winters now playing at Sandy Beach Drive-In Theatre.

30 Years Ago - May 31, 1962 300 BOYS PARTICIPATE IN LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING CEREMONIES

Three hundred boys will take part in the opening ceremonies for Back Mountain Baseball Saturday at the Little League Field in Dallas Township. There will be three 2-inning games when all teams in the Major League will have the opportunity to perform.

Mary Kern, a former Idetown girl now Sr. Mary Augustine is doing magnificent work for retarded children at the Benedictine School for Exceptional Children in Denton, Md.

Gallon pins were awarded to three members, William Wright, Robert Addison and Mrs. Elwood Swingle, of the Back Mountain community following the April 27 bloodmobile donation, bringing the number of one-gallon donors in the Wyoming Valley Red Cross Area to 1526.

Nineteen Girl Scout troops and their leaders of the Dallas district will make lollipops again for the candy booth of the Back Mountain Library Auction. The scouts made 1214 last year.

20 Years Ago - June 1, 1972 LUZERNE COUNTY HIT BY GYPSY MOTHS

The destructive gypsy moth has arrived in Luzerne County according to DER. Pesticide spraying to combat moth destruction of trees is being conducted by a Plant Protection and Quarantine Program of the Department of Agriculture.

Leslie Burket and George Weaver outstanding boy and girl in the 8th grade of Dallas Junior High School were awarded the American Legion School Award during an Awards Assembly.