

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Census points to more growth here

As the 1990 census figures verify, the Back Mountain is the most affluent region of Luzerne County. That's good news for many people, like those who own businesses or real estate, and should bode well for the future.

The Back Mountain is likely to see more development now that the figures are out. Census data has been eagerly awaited by business people far and wide. They'll pore over the statistics in search of new locations for stores and services, and some will find this area attractive. That could mean more jobs for the people who will build stores and work in them, and a wider selection of products and services for buyers.

In many similar areas, the arrival of high-income new residents has squeezed out those of less financial means as housing costs and taxes rise. The Back Mountain hasn't been immune to that consequence, but maintains a diversity of old and new residents, wealthy and less so, and the facilities to serve them. Certainly, for most people the benefits of growth far outweigh the costs of stagnation.

The census points out that Back Mountain communities have the means to maintain and enhance the quality of life of their residents. And there are projects to be tackled, such as providing more playing fields for children in soccer and baseball programs, something that could be partly addressed by constructing a joint recreation park while there's still land available on which to do so.

Plan now to exhibit at, attend the fair

So, you grow great squash. Maybe you're real handy with a palette and brushes. Or, you think your sheep are the best round. Well, your time has come.

Premium guides for the Luzerne County Fair are being distributed this week, and in them you'll find dozens of categories — from cooking to cows — to suit every taste and talent. This year's fair, which will be held from September 9-13 at the fairgrounds in Lehman, will offer exhibitors and visitors like a kaleidoscope of choices and pleasures.

The fair is loads of fun; more important, it reminds us of our agricultural heritage and the virtues and rewards of working with our hands as well as our minds. Join in if you can, and attend in September for a sampling of all the Back Mountain has to offer.

Change comes from us, not candidates

If there's a lesson in the unrealized presidential candidacy of Ross Perot, it may be this: If you want to change American politics, you'll have more success working for change within a party than by simply championing an untried independent.

From the start, the Perot movement — and it was a movement more than a campaign — was based on the premise that there was a man who could be trusted and who could get things done. The latter was demonstrated by Perot's incredible success in business. He couldn't have done that, people said, unless he was a man of action and conviction.

Trustworthiness is another matter, and perhaps Perot's supporters were naive to think that, having been burned by past candidates, they had found the one honest man they were seeking.

Someone who feels betrayed by "politicians" has two options: choose carefully and then force candidates to be more accountable for their promises, or find someone who can be trusted implicitly. The first choice may bring only limited success but the second will inevitably lead to disappointment and frustration.

Ross Perot's aborted bid to be president had some real value, not the least of which was to awaken the political establishment to voters' disgust with politics as usual. But Perot was not the first or only potential candidate to do so; in his own peculiar way, Jerry Brown ran as an independent within the Democratic party, and found a devoted following. Brown actually raised more specific issues and offered more detailed solutions than did Perot.

It is a mistake to entrust any candidate with too much of our hope. Real political change comes from involvement and commitment along with acceptance of the reality that no one has all the answers, or even very many of them. If it's difficult for even two people to agree most of the time, imagine how hard it is to turn millions of citizens in the same direction.

Strong, innovative leaders are critical to our progress, but so are masses of good people who will take the time to learn about issues and the candidates' approach to them. If he has spurred more Americans to do that and to cast a reasoned vote on November 3, the movement for Ross Perot will not have been in vain.

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. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.



Tasty, beautiful chives

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

A. Case for Conservation

What I would do with a million dollars

By ALENE N. CASE

Everyone has occasionally fantasized about what it would be like to become suddenly very rich. Since I have no rich uncles and have never bought a lottery ticket, such a possibility is extremely remote. But, the fantasy remains.

Would I buy a new Mercedes? Maybe two? Would I build a mansion with an indoor pool? Would I outfit myself with all those designer clothes that look so attractive on the models? All these and many other options sound very nice, but they just aren't me.

No, I have something else in mind: LAND.

The next time a prime piece of forest goes up for sale - you know, the piece with a brook flowing through the middle of it - I would love to be able to walk into the realtor's office and pay for it in cash. Then I'd put up one or two nice bird houses and pronounce it "developed."

Or, perhaps I'd buy a tired old farm and take most of it out of production. The hilly, rocky areas would be planted in trees. Some

acreage might be converted to a Christmas tree farm so that future taxes could be paid from the proceeds. I would post the land, but welcome those who wished to come without a gun to hike, picnic, fish, or otherwise enjoy that part of nature.

But, then again, how about buying stretch of beach or a barrier island? No condo here! Just a place to pitch a tent among the tufts of sea grass. Mostly, this place would belong to the fiddler crabs, sandpipers, and sea turtles who frequented these dunes long before people thought of ownership.

I interrupt my reverie to read an article entitled "Why American Songbirds Are Vanishing" by John Terborgh in the May issue of *Scientific American*. A wide variety of traditional explanations for the decrease are shown to be unsatisfactory. Terborgh concludes that many of these migratory birds are decreasing in numbers because of problems in their breeding ranges - not necessarily their wintering ranges. This means that we in North America are at fault; we cannot blame our neighbors to the

south for this one.

Specifically, it seems that many small birds such as warblers and vireos are losing their eggs and hatchlings to predators and parasites that thrive in our urban and suburban areas. Cowbirds are the most notorious parasites. They lay their eggs in another bird's nest. Then when the eggs hatch, the baby cowbird, being larger, gets most of the food and the other babies starve. Cowbirds are a problem all over the eastern United States except in particularly large tracts of forest such as the Great Smokies or the Adirondacks.

Neither Terborgh nor I would recommend wholesale shooting of cowbirds. So, I am brought back to the issue of land. Perhaps I have been thinking too small. Why not use my windfall to purchase as many acres as possible adjacent to one of these large forests? I shall find some tired farmland which should be returned to forest or a forest that is being threatened by ill-planned development. Either way, the expanse of forest would be expanded or preserved. And, the songbirds and I would prosper.

The economic viewpoint

Groups champion business cooperation

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Two lesser known agencies in Northeastern Pennsylvania are becoming more well known as champions of labor management cooperation. They are the Scranton/Lackawanna Labor Management Committee which began its operations in 1977 and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area Labor Management Council which began officially in 1990.

These two organizations utilizing funds from Milrite, a state agency responsible for improving labor management relations among government, management and labor are managed by a Board of Directors consisting of labor, management, and community representation and staffed by professional executive directors.

The Scranton/Lackawanna Labor Management Committee started as a Committee of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP) but incorporated in the early 1980s to become an independent organization. It raises funds through a subscription drive involving contributions by organizations, public and private, who believe in the goal of improving labor management relations in Lackawanna County.

Similarly styled, the Wilkes-Barre Area organization includes membership dues from the same types of organizations. Because of its newness there is a strong emphasis on educational programs to inform the community of the benefits of cooperative labor management and the council.

The Scranton/Lackawanna Labor Management Committee has focused on the formation of in-plant labor management committees which have proven to be extremely successful in many in-

stances as both private sector and public sector governmental organizations have become involved in these types of initiatives. One of the newest ventures is the sponsorship of a series of continuing education seminars at the University of Scranton which will feature presentations by labor management specialists on the role of the labor management committee and the variety of functions being carried out by the non-profit corporation.

The Executive Director of the Scranton/Lackawanna Labor Management Committee is Danny O'Rourke, a former staff member of EDCNP and a well respected leader in the growing field of labor management committees throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Executive Director of the Wilkes-Barre Area Labor Management Council is Penny Schwarz, a native of the region who formally led the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. in Hazleton for many years. She is encouraging labor and management to work together for economic advancement and development for this important community in Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

Several reasons stand out as to the importance of these organizations in the growth and development of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Among these reasons are the following:

- To change the image of poor labor management relations to a realistic picture of the current status of labor management relations.
- To publicize and promote workshops and seminars showing the importance of cooperative labor management relations.
- To emphasize the important role cooperative labor management

plays in economic development globally, nationally, within the State, region, and local community.

- To focus attention on ways in which labor management relations can be a year round program designed to be an effective process for the betterment and quality of life of the jurisdiction served.

- These objectives are reached by carrying out an annual work program tied closely to the goals of Milrite. Milrite provides funding support for many local labor management committees.

- Some of the work program elements of a typical labor management committee might include the following:

- Establish work site labor management committees.
- Sponsor education seminars on a variety of topics pertinent to labor-management concerns and interests.

- Develop an awards recognition program to acknowledge businesses, labor organizations and individuals for accomplishments in promoting cooperative labor management.

- Publish material which provides an opportunity to relate labor management cooperative programs to economic development goals.
- Publish a labor-management newsletter.

- To serve as a neutral third party facilitator in the community in the workplace.

- For further information, contact can be made with the following:

- Greater Wilkes-Barre Area Labor Management Council, 1155 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640 or Scranton/Lackawanna Labor Management Committee, IBEW Building, 431 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

Only Yesterday

60 Years Ago - July 22, 1932 THE NATION WRESTLES WITH PROHIBITION

Though Prohibitionists made steady gains during the week, forces favoring repeal of the 18th Amendment retained their lead in the Dallas Post poll. Hoover and Curtis, Republican candidates, lost their lead in the presidential poll and saw Roosevelt and Garner supporters pile up a majority of 24 votes.

George J. LeTiecq and his son of Wilkes-Barre narrowly escaped drowning when a stiff breeze upset a sailboat in the middle of Harveys Lake. They were rescued by Robert Rosenbluth, son of Atty. S.M. Rosenbluth of Wilkes-Barre and two men in a rowboat whose names could not be learned, also gave aid.

You could get - Gold Medal flour, 24 1/2 lb. bag 69¢; potatoes 15-lb. peck, 23¢; Ivory Soap, four cakes 19¢; Wheaties, 2 pkgs., 25¢.

"The Sunset Trail" starring Ken Maynard, now playing at the Himmeler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - July 24, 1942 FARMERS ASKED TO HEAT WITH WOOD

On Saturday, Aug. 8, Shavertown Volunteer Firemen will stage their 12th annual Field Day assisted by members of the Woman's Auxiliary who will serve a roast beef supper in the auditorium of the hose house.

Gertrude Wilson, sister of Walter "Cease" Wilson had a long visit with Ann Bernatitus an Exeter Navy nurse, who was among the last to leave Bataan. Miss Bernatitus could not give her any information on her missing in action brother.

James E. Walker, chairman of the Pa. State War Board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that farm people in Pennsylvania who have woodlands available should give thought to heating by wood this winter. Plenty of fuels are available but transportation is the bottleneck which may cause shortages in some areas.

The first game in a 5-game play-off series between Shavertown and Tally-Ho, first half winners, softball teams will be played on July 28 on the Tally-Ho grounds at Dallas Township High School.

40 Years Ago - July 25, 1952 FLASH FLOOD DROWNS THREE AT SNAKE RUN

Mrs. Ben Johnson and her two children drowned in Trucksville's worst tragedy when the spot where Snake Run swollen with a flash flood cut a new channel early Tuesday, morning isolating them and closing their only avenue of escape to the plank bridge.

Dial telephone service became a reality in Dallas and the Back Mountain Monday night when Andrew J. Sordoni Sr. board chairman of Commonwealth Telephone and State Secretary of Commerce made the cut-over to automatic service in a brief ceremony.

Wed - Doris Spencer to Sgt. Harold Meadway; Margaret Ann Morgan to Albert Coates; J. Rita Birbeck to Robert Pilger.

Fifty good cooks entered a baking contest at Trucksville Fireman's Fair with entries ranging from bread to brownies. Winner of the blue ribbon for outstanding entry was Mrs. Burdette Crane of Carverton with her chiffon cake.

30 Years Ago - July 26, 1962 MIGRANT WORKERS HEAD TO AREA FOR TOMATO HARVEST

Sheldon T. Evans owner of Evans Drug Store has purchased a parcel of land along Memorial Highway, Shavertown on Daisy Still, Bridgeport, Conn. Part of the land now leased by Back Mountain Lumber and Coal Co. for lumber storage sheds.

Hundreds of migrant workers will become temporary residents of the Back Mountain when the tomato harvest starts in August, lasting until the first frost of October, when the migrant families return to South Carolina and Florida.

20 Years Ago - July 27, 1972 BACK MOUNTAIN AWASH IN MOBILE HOME CONTROVERSY

Controversy is brewing in Dallas which threatens to turn the Back Mountain community into a powder keg on top of which are sitting flood victims, long-time neighbors and government officials. In 1959 Dallas Borough passed an ordinance prohibiting mobile homes in the borough. President Judge Brominski declared that zoning regulations throughout the county are suspended during the state of emergency. Did he mean "all" zoning regulations or zoning regulations for flood victims only?

Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction's Ham 'n Yegg Club membership dues in 1972 totaled a whopping \$2,105 according to Mrs. William G. Moss, chairman.

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Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
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Telephone: 717-675-5211

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