

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Harveys Lake officials must take aggressive action

Harveys Lake Borough and its police department are in the spotlight, and will continue to be there if Luzerne County District Attorney Peter Paul Olszewski has his way. Olszewski is pushing to widen a probe of the borough that began with charges that Assistant Police Chief Ronald Spock accepted a bribe.

Rumors of illicit conduct by police and public officials in Harveys Lake have made the rounds for years. It now appears that the DA wants to find out if any of them are true. But so far, borough officials have treated the matter lightly; that isn't good enough.

Spock's defense lawyer doesn't deny that Spock accepted a television from the friend of a man who was arrested for drunken driving, or that Spock announced that fact to his fellow officers. But he claims that taking the TV and dropping charges aren't linked; that the charges were withdrawn before the television arrived at the station.

That argument seems tenuous at best, but even if it is judged true, why are Harveys Lake officials so quiet about the case? By failing to condemn this act — whether or not it's technically found to be bribery — officials give the impression that such conduct may be acceptable as long as you don't get caught.

It may be a long, hot summer in Harveys Lake. One way to cool it down would be for officials to take a firm stance on all improper conduct by public officials and employees, and not wait for the District Attorney to take the lead.

Let's teach needed skills in school

It's easy to find people who think America's schools fall short of expectations in one way or another, while some defenders point to the number of international students who attend our universities as proof of their high quality. That is true, but it's also a reminder that, as in our health care system, those who can afford the best can get it, while others may have to settle for a much inferior product.

As candidates and parents slog through an election season in which education is a hot topic, here are a few suggestions different from the standard rhetoric about what our classrooms (and parents) should accomplish.

FINANCIAL LITERACY. Too many Americans are incompetent in basic reading and math; many more are financial illiterates, and that costs them and our society dearly. How many of your friends and neighbors know the advantages and disadvantages of long and short term mortgages? How many can figure out whether leasing or buying a new car is in their best interest? Do you know the difference between common and preferred stock, and bonds, and which is the best investment for you? Where do you find out? Too many of us are like the man who thought his checking account couldn't be overdrawn because he still had checks left to write.

In addition to seeing that every child knows basic math, our secondary schools should teach the practical aspects of everyday financial matters, and the rewards of discipline and responsibility. If more of us knew them, there would be less wasted spending and more investment in our nation.

CIVICS. Judging by the low level of in politics among the youngest potential voters, it's easy to draw the conclusion that they didn't hear much in school to inspire them. That's a shameful situation in the world's most open society. Political life should offer exciting possibilities to young people, and it is important that they grow up understanding both how our system works and how it can be changed when necessary.

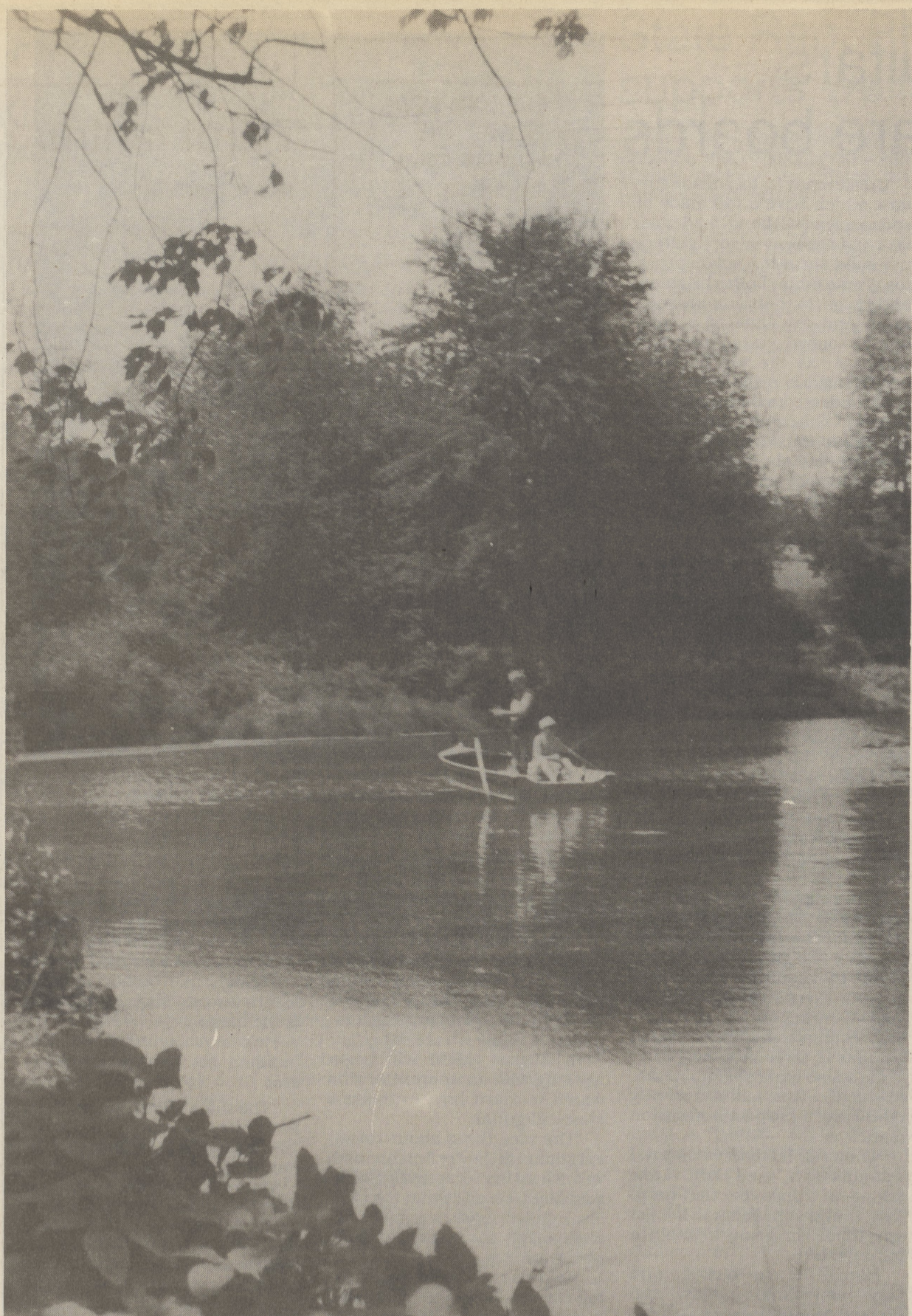
The young aren't the only ones to be faulted on this point; when was the last time you attended a meeting of a local government body?

It's convenient to say that these aren't subjects to be taught in school, they should be learned at home from caring parents. But the truth is that many parents now and in the past haven't been competent or taken the time to instruct their children in them. That leaves us with two options; continue to let some children grow up without important, basic knowledge or try to give all young people the opportunity to prepare for life on their own.

As we hurtle toward the 21st century, too many of our citizens are ill-prepared for a world that will punish those who lack the knowledge and discipline to keep up with rapid change. In fairness to ourselves and each other, we must try to help.

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.



On a Back Mountain pond

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

Letters

Library Auction says thanks for coverage

Editor,
The many organizers of the 46th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction wish to thank you for telling the story of this year's Auction which was a great success.

With your support we raised the much-needed dollars for our li-

brary to buy new books and periodicals, support library staff salaries and programs and maintain the health of our facility.

The Dallas Post and the many people who bartered and bought at this year's Auction helped keep the vital mission of the Back Mountain Library alive and well in

the face of reduced state funding. Many thanks to you and your readers.

Connie Scott
Chairperson
Bill Jones
Co-chairperson
Chris Miller
Public Relations

A. Case for Conservation

Yes, children can learn about science

By ALENE N. CASE

In this complex technological culture, parents and teachers have often assumed that they just couldn't teach science to the children in their care. The problem here is not with the complexity or the technology; it is the focus on the word "teach." Generally, when one person teaches something to someone else, that person must first know a great deal about the subject. Therefore, if we don't know much about science, how can we possibly teach it?

It has been my experience that small children do not need to be taught science. They merely need to be exposed to it in a variety of ways and then their natural curiosity takes over. In fact, actively teaching science can (and often does) take the fun out of the learning process. It is our duty as parents to see that our children maintain the "sense of wonder" that Rachel Carson celebrated in her lovely book of that title.

Learning about the world is an instinct present in all healthy babies. So, let the wee ones explore, keeping truly dangerous objects out of their reach. Take them outside in all kinds of weather. Of course, if it is snowy and cold the outing will be shorter than when it is warm and sunny. But, the sheer joy of an 18-month-old feeling snow for the first time cannot be equalled by any amount of TV viewing. My older son used to beg to go out in the rain so that he could play in the downspout, often clad only in jacket, diaper and boots.

As children get older they begin to ask questions - lots and lots of questions. Even the best parents

run out of answers eventually, but it is important not to squelch this curiosity by also running out of patience. Remember the motto of my high school science teacher who always insisted that "there is no such thing as a stupid question." Helping the child find the answer can be more effective than simply telling her/him what you know.

This is a good time to introduce your children to the local library. Buy them books and toys that are informative as well as fun. There are many new books on nature and ecology for readers of all ages. A special favorite of our family is a beautifully illustrated tale with the unlikely title *Fish Is Fish* by Leo Lionni. We also found that encyclopedias and dictionaries make ideal picture books because the answer to "what's that?" is printed right next to the picture.

Find out if one of your neighbors is a "walking encyclopedia" who doesn't mind talking to kids. When my sister and I had questions that our father couldn't answer, we went to ask his business partner because he knew "all the whys."

Take the children with you when you travel. Visit museums, parks, zoos and aquaria. Take nature trails that are marked with names of the plants or visit botanical gardens. Encourage the children to attend a good summer camp where counselors are trained to help them learn about the natural world. These travels and outings do not need to be done in fair weather. A beach or lake can be most exciting and interesting in the winter or during a storm. Wild flowers are especially beautiful when spring rains drip off their petals.

Most of all, follow the child's lead and encourage specific interests. Many scientists started out as collectors. Perhaps your child gets excited by dinosaurs or wolves or butterflies or rocks. Even a baseball card collection can help them learn the basic scientific principles of sorting by category and using statistics. Guidebooks on all sorts of creatures and habitats are available at libraries and bookstores. Use them.

Finally, don't protect your children from the realities of environmental problems and issues. If you are concerned about something talk about it with them. Let them get involved in feeding the birds, recycling, tree planting, or writing letters to legislators. Help with school outings and encourage the teachers to take the children outside to experience the "real world."

The great naturalist Aldo Leopold once wrote the following thought-provoking paragraph as he recalled his youth: "When I call to mind my earliest impressions, I wonder whether the process ordinarily referred to as growing up is not actually a process of growing down; whether experience, so much touted among adults as the thing children lack, is not actually a progressive dilution of the essentials by the trivialities of living. This much at least is sure: my earliest impressions of wildlife and its pursuit retain a vivid sharpness of form, color and atmosphere that half a century of professional wildlife experience has failed to obliterate or to improve upon."

So, let's allow our kids to have these experiences, and in the process we might all learn something exciting.

Only Yesterday

60 Years Ago - Aug. 5, 1932
F.D.R. WINS POST PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Gov. Franklin Delano Roosevelt of New York, Democratic candidate for the Presidency this Fall and his running mate John Garner, vice presidential candidate are winners in the Post's presidential poll which ended yesterday. Forces favoring repeal of the 18th Amendment continued to pile up votes to win the four week poll with a number twice as big as the volume of votes cast by Prohibitionists.

Dallas residents who are unable to pay their personal tax will be given an opportunity to work out this tax through employment on the borough streets according to arrangements made by Dallas Borough Council. This move on the part of council should not be construed as a permanent plan but will be a temporary assistance for those who prove that they are financially unable to pay their personal taxes.

Kingston Township baseball team was handed a bad beating at the hands of the leagues' leading Beaumont team on the local school grounds by a score 20-4.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 7, 1942
RATIONING BOARD WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR BACK MOUNTAIN

A rationing board for the whole Back Mountain will be established in Dallas it was learned on reliable authority this week. Establishment here will remove the necessity for frequent inconvenient trips to Wyoming and Shickshinny on the part of local residents and greatly speed-up allotment of tires, sugar and gasoline for those who are entitled to them.

With all types of road surfacing material frozen by the government, Mathers Construction Co. has closed operations for the duration and sent its trucks and road working machinery out on Army and Navy work and found jobs for all of its former employees in other industries.

Ray Henner, one of the best known poultry men in the Dallas Area and former head of the vocational-agricultural department at the government vocational school in Baltimore, Md., will head the newly established vocational agricultural department at Lafayette Township schools. He will interview parents and students to determine what courses are needed, outline his course of study and organize the department for actual work in September.

You could get - Nabisco Shredded Wheat 11¢ a pkg.; Gold Seal flour, 24 lb. bag, 79¢; 2 lg. loaves of Supreme bread, 17¢; home grown sweet corn, 25¢ doz.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 8, 1952
DALLAS BOROUGH ENDS RENT CONTROL

Rent control in Dallas Borough is a thing of the past. Expressing opinion that no substantial shortage of housing exists locally, Dallas Borough Council at its meeting refused to request extension of the Federal Rent Stabilization law here.

Appointment of A.O. Perry, Chicago, as general manager of Commonwealth Telephone Co. is announced by Andrew J. Sordoni Sr., Chairman of Commonwealth Board of Directors. Perry who has been closely associated with the telephone industry will assume his new position in September.

Regional Red Cross Blood Center last week issued an urgent plea for blood donors of all blood groups. But especially for donors of Type O, positive and negative. This type is sent directly to Korea where over 200,000 pints have already been received.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 9, 1962
BACK MTN. IN LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS

Back Mountain Little League All Stars meet Williamsport Friday in a semi-final game for the State Little League Championship.

Postponed opening of Lake Lehman schools will affect not only high school students but elementary pupils according to Lester E. Squier, supervising principal of the five way jointure. First possible date for occupation of the new Junior-Senior High School is given as September 24. The 13 lost school

days will necessarily be made up by curtailed vacations throughout the year.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 10, 1972
DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPECTS 700 NEW STUDENTS

An additional 700 children are expected to attend Dallas School District schools this year it was reported to the Board of Directors at a special meeting August 1. Majority of children lived in flood areas and presently are living in trailers at Frances Slocum State Park, and relatives and friends in the local area.

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