

## Eddie Turchin undergoes surgery Sept. 30

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Back Mountain resident Eddie Turchin, who successfully fought cancer and related health problems to become an Eagle Scout and graduate last June from Lake-Lehman High School, faces perhaps the greatest battle of his life today (September 30).

Surgeons at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital will reconstruct a section of Eddie's carotid artery, where it branches into a "y," in a complicated, life-threatening operation, according to his mother, Mrs. Bonnie Turchin.

Routine tests in June had detected an aneurism, a sort of balloon, in this major blood vessel.

Admitted Monday, September 28, Eddie underwent more diagnostic tests the following day.

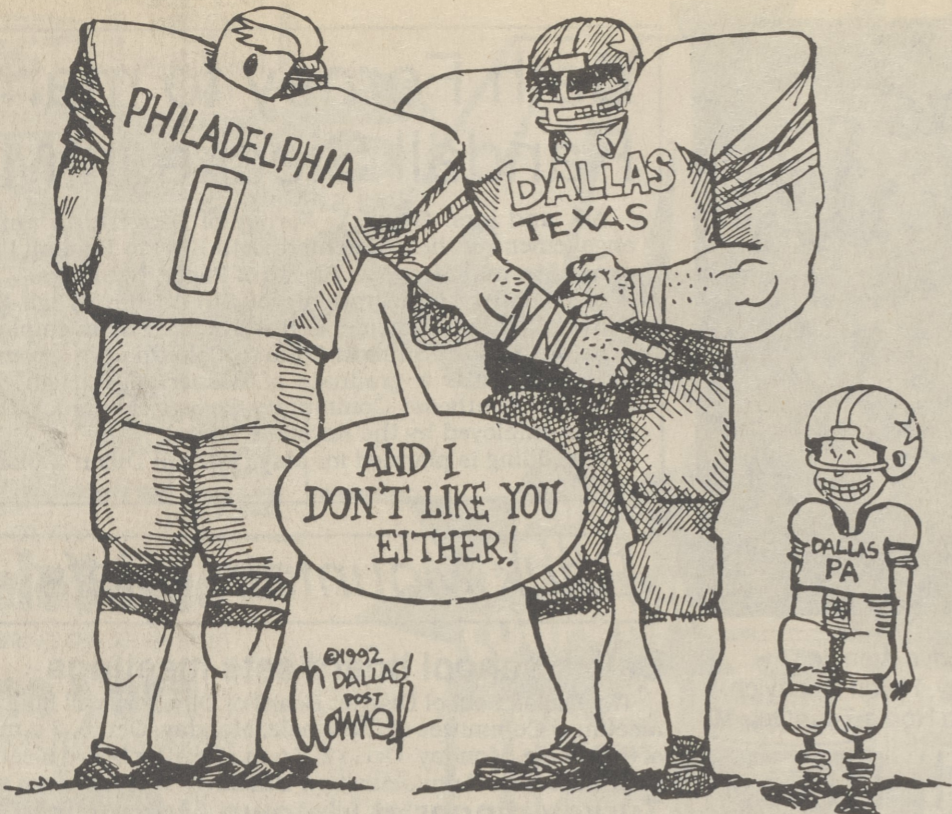
When he was eight years old, doctors had found a malignant tumor the size of a walnut on Eddie's pituitary gland. A four-hour operation and 30 heavy doses of radiation stopped the tumor's growth, but Eddie has had to take several kinds of medication to prevent seizures and correct a hormonal problem for many years.

The Turchin family is request-

ing prayers from the community for Eddie while he is in the hospital.

"Eddie is very optimistic about the operation," Mrs. Turchin said. "He keeps telling me not to worry, that he's been through this before and can do it again. His faith and our friends' prayers have been keeping us going."

Friends wishing to send greeting cards to Eddie while he is in the hospital may address them to: Eddie Turchin, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Civic Center Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19104.



## Girl Scout Fall Roundup

Girl Scouts from several Back Mountain troops participated in a Fall Roundup September 27 at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.

Activities included a hay ride, horse rides, apple bob, face painting, pumpkin painting and a scarecrow contest.

Photos by  
Charlotte Bartizek



**DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE** - Caitlin Kaminski of Harveys Lake took her turn at a pumpkin.



**IN THE THICK OF IT** - Amy and Sarah Pegarella of Troop 929, Shavertown got right into it.

J.W.J.

## Congressman's simple answers, part 2

By J.W. JOHNSON

Last week's column reported the first part of Congressman Joseph McDade's latest questionnaire, along with this writer's responses to those questions. The balance of the questions and responses follows:

1. Do you support emergency funding measures to assist farmers who are hard hit by drought and natural disasters?

—Cycles of drought and adequate rainfall are part of the natural order and should not have superimposed upon it the heavy hand of government. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, however, are capricious and unpredictable; some government assistance to farmers and others probably makes long-term economic sense.

2. Older Americans now lose one of their Social Security benefits if they work and earn above a certain amount. Do you support eliminating this restriction on earned income?

—Absolutely not.... Social Security, along with the rest of Washington largess, has come to be viewed as something other than what it was intended to be.

Social Security was intended to be a supplemental insurance program, funded by current workers for the benefit of retired workers. It was not meant to be the primary pension program for retired workers.

Likewise, it was never meant to support the multitude of additional claims of its resources such as disability and dependent income.

Not only should SS recipients continue to have reduced benefits if they earn beyond a certain amount of money, SS recipients who earn passive income from investments should also receive reduced SS benefits.

In other words, SS benefits

should be 'means tested', and those who can afford to live without SS benefits should not receive benefits at all.

3. Do you favor requiring manufacturers to use recycled materials in products, even if it raises prices for consumers?

—In the first place, the only way that using recycled materials will raise consumer prices is if manufacturers want to price gouge.

Fact is, prices in all but a few cases, should drop if recycled materials are used, because it almost universally costs less to use a recycled material than it does to obtain and use a raw material.

Secondly, government shouldn't be in the business of requiring manufacturers to use any particular kind of product. Instead, tax incentives should be used to encourage the use of recycled materials.

4. Is current U.S. policy adequate in dealing with global warming.

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Undecided

—Joe, how many of your constituents truthfully know enough about energy efficient heating of their own homes, much less be able to formulate an opinion with all the charges and countercharges flying around about global warming. Definitely, undecided Joe.

5. Do you support greater school choice among:

- a) Public schools
- b) Public and private schools
- c) Oppose school choice.

—Interesting question, Joe, although it is really several questions. One encourages parents to shop among the various public schools; the second pits private schools against public schools; the third choice is to oppose choice.

To shop among public schools,

we would have to change how schools are funded or everyone would want to send their children to schools located in areas where real estates values and corresponding taxes were highest.

To shop between public and private schools raises the question of the separation of church and state as many private schools are church run; and therefore should not be supported by public tax dollars.

To have no choice at all...well, that was a dumb option, Joe.

6. Cuts in defense spending should be used

- a) To reduce the federal deficit
- b) For domestic social programs
- c) Undecided

—You've really set up an untenable argument here, Joe. If we say reduce the federal deficit, then we're labeled as being social unresponsive. If we say use the savings for domestic social programs then we're labeled as fiscally irresponsible.

How about some of both, Joe? Or would that make too much sense?

7. What is the greatest problem facing our region today?

- a) The Economy
- b) Health Care
- c) Education
- d) Infrastructure (roads, sewers, etc.)
- e) Environmental problems
- f) Crime and drug abuse
- g) Other

—None of the issues cited above can be separated from the economy. Therefore, the economy is the number one problem facing our region.

Second would have to be environmental problems as the region is becoming a dumping ground for the waste of others, followed by education, health care, crime and drug abuse and our infrastructure.

## Library news

### Book Club will get crafty in October

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is happy to welcome Martha Neeler of Ashley to the library as the new librarian. Martha began her duties on Saturday, Sept. 12 and we are pleased to have her as a member of our library staff.

The Book Club met in the reference room for its first meeting of the Fall season with a special program presented by Carol King of Dallas which included slides and material from her recent trip to Italy.

Mary Lou Swingle, secretary, has arranged for a special craft project to be held at the October meeting. The members will work on counted cross-stitch mats for birthdays or Christmas, which can then be made into a greeting card. The October meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19 at 1:30 at the library.

A faithful patron of the library for many years told me some

distressing news the other day. He said that he read a statistical report which advised that only 3% of all Americans have their own library cards. I think this is very sad; as, where else can you find so much information on so many subjects and so much pleasure reading of novels, as in your local library.

We have just received an order of 1,000 new library cards, that are now available for patrons to receive. Come into the library, sign a registration card and within a week, you can return to the library for your own personal library card to carry with you. Your library card is free! Come and get it!

New books at the library: "Rules of Encounter" by William P. Kennedy is a spellbinding novel that proves there are rules that govern the encounters of ships at sea and rules that govern the encounters of men and women. But, in 1915, when the British liner Lusitania becomes the target of German submarines, suddenly

all the rules are broken.

One naval officer must choose between the country he is sworn to serve and the woman he loves.

"Just Killing Time" by Derek Van Arman takes you into the gruesomely chilling 'you are there' depths of the most harrowing serial killer in fiction. This is suspense at its peak—a thriller so superbly constructed that not until its heartstopping climax will you know who wins, who loses, who dies. A pair of serial killers leave a bloody swatch of rape and butchered young women across the South. It is sweeping in scope.

"Very Old Bones" by William Kennedy is the author's most assured, most mature, and most accomplished of all his works. Again, we enter the turbulent world of the Phelans. The time is 1958 and the narrator, Orson Purcell, the unacknowledged bastard son of Peter Phelan, is helping his putative father deliver his will, in person, to his family.

### Less is More

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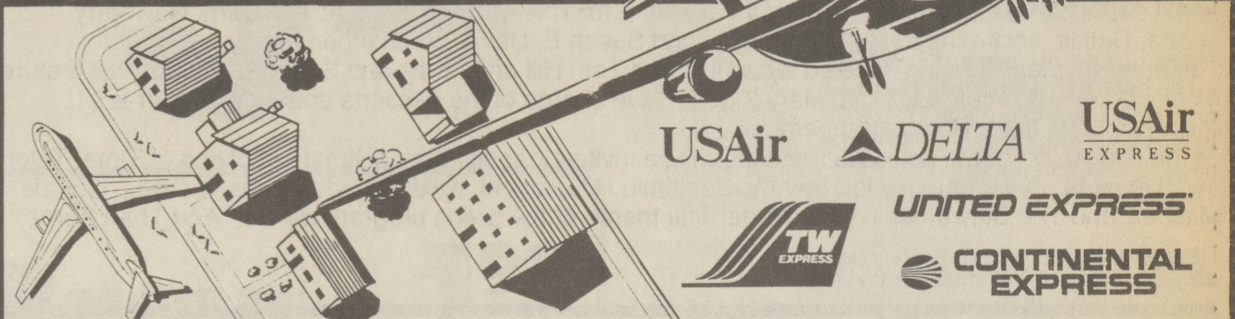
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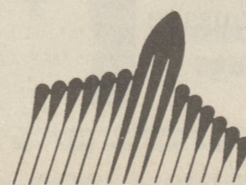
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