

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Regional thinking garnered highway improvements

Finally! Thanks to the combined effort of local officials, volunteers, State Representative Phyllis Mundy and the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT), travel on routes 309 and 415 will soon be safer. At least three — and probably four — additional signals are to be added at dangerous intersections, slowing traffic and making turns off of or onto the highways less hair raising.

The key spots — Route 309 and Hillside Road, Route 309 and Main Street (near Mark II Restaurant), and Route 415 at Center Hill Road — are notorious for the frequency and severity of accidents that occur at them. Equally important, long stretches of roadway without stop lights presently allow motorists to move at speeds well above the posted limits as they whiz past frustrated drivers trying to enter or exit into countless driveways and parking lots.

Along with the lights, PennDOT is planning other work that will make travel safer and smoother, such as adding a right turn lane on Route 309 at Hildebrandt Road. All the work will cause temporary disruption that will be well worth the permanent improvements.

The resolution of this problem is a perfect example of the effectiveness of regional thinking by residents and officials in the Back Mountain. In order to make their case, community leaders and the Back Mountain Citizens' Council, with a helping hand from Representative Mundy, formed a Transportation Management Association through which to lobby for state and federal funding to pay for the lights. Their contention that increased traffic and speed in the Back Mountain was caused by the connection of Route 309 to the Cross Valley Expressway carried the day.

There are countless other opportunities for that kind of cooperation to produce benefits for the people who live in the Back Mountain. One would be the development of a regional recreation area large enough to provide playing fields for baseball and soccer leagues, courts and game rooms, and perhaps even with an indoor swimming pool that could be used by schools and the general public.

A growing, family-centered region like this could put such a facility to good use, but building one is beyond the financial capacity of any single community. The Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs encourages regional projects, and it's a good bet that if several municipalities drew up such a plan, the state would provide much of the money.

We hope that regional thinking doesn't stop with the installation of traffic lights. On the contrary, we hope people are encouraged and energized by that success, and that it leads to more ideas that can benefit the entire region.

Don't let DAMA non-payers off hook

It's unfortunate that some Back Mountain residents think they can ignore the law and force everyone else to pay their bills. But that's exactly what the 843 delinquent customers of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority's (DAMA) trash removal program are doing.

After losing a protest against the universal garbage and recycling program that was put in place in mid-1991, some of these folks have decided to take the law into their own hands by refusing to pay DAMA. Instead, they have continued to contract separately for trash removal, in violation of ordinances adopted by Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township.

By not participating in the mandated program, the refuseniks are not only creating a revenue shortfall, they are jeopardizing their communities' compliance with state recycling requirements. Those rules were the major reason the program was instituted in the first place.

Even if they genuinely believe their rights have been violated, the non-payers have it backwards. The law is clear; they should pay their bills now and take legal action to get their money back, not stick the rest of us with their bills.

As for the municipalities involved, it's their responsibility to collect these debts, not simply take money from elsewhere in their budgets to cover them. They owe that to the vast majority of their citizens who pay their taxes and act responsibly.

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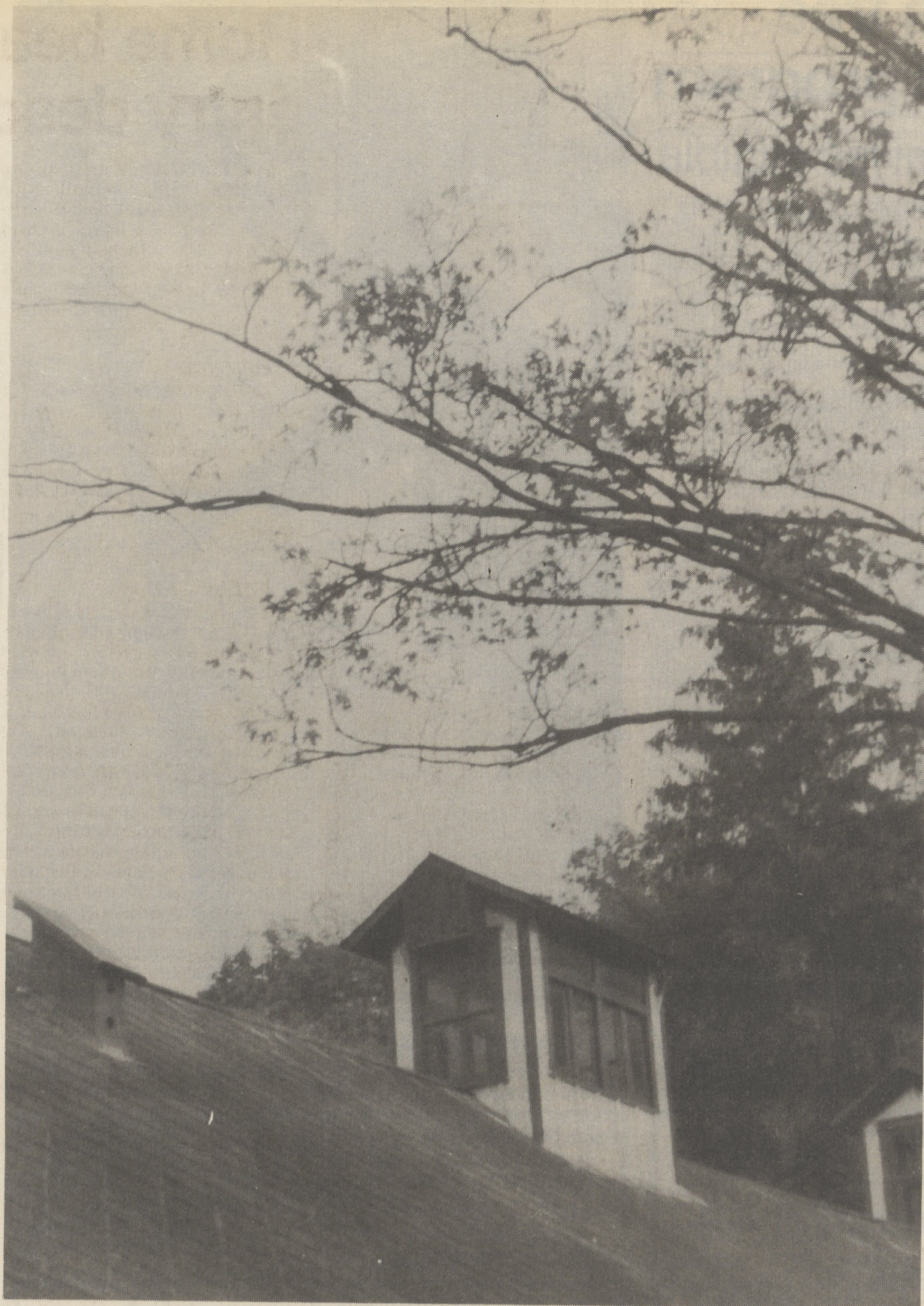
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

Dental hygienists attend meeting

Members of the Luzerne Dental Hygienists' Association recently attended the 69th Annual Session of the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association held in Reading, PA. In attendance were Mary Ankenbrand of Pittston; Jane Balavage of Harveys Lake; Laura Pohonche of Tunkhannock; Lisa Rowley of Shickshinny; and Marina Yarasavage of Tunkhannock. Jane Balavage and Marina Yarasavage represented LDHA as delegates to the PDHA House of Delegates. Laura Pohonche was installed as trustee to the PDHA Board of Trustees and Lisa Rowley

was elected to PDHA's Nominations Committee. The next PDHA Annual Session will be held in November 1993 and will be hosted by the Montgomery-Bucks Dental Hygienists' Association.

The Luzerne Dental Hygienists' Association is the professional association which represents dental hygienists in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Membership is open to all dental hygienists in the following counties: Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming.



Before the storms

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

Letters

Involvement needed for better schools

Editor:
During National Education week, it seems like an opportune time for parents, teachers, students and community members to reflect on what is happening in our schools. Education has been a hot topic in this election year, and with negotiations reopening in Dallas in January of 1993, it seems as if school related issues will be very much in the public eye. Because of my involvement with the Dallas Parent Teacher Support Group, I feel this is a fitting time to remind parents that we need to keep abreast on school issues and stay

informed about school programs and activities. Our group meets monthly, and during the past several meetings we have developed a system of communicating with administration, faculty and school board members. Each month we pose timely questions concerning curriculum, school activities, and school policies which are responded to by school representatives.

In my opinion it is not enough to sit back and assume things are okay at school. Parents need to get involved and find out how our

schools work and how policy decisions are made. In the spirit of enhancing greater communication between home and school, let me take this opportunity to invite anyone interested in school related issues to attend our upcoming Parent Teacher Support Group meeting on Wednesday, December 2, at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. Greater participation by informed parents is a positive step in improving our schools and taking part in the educational process of our children.

Pamela M. Langdon

Library news

New books help with Alzheimer's disease

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received valuable information on Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders donated by the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The donation was made possible through funding provided by the Luzerne County Federation of Women's Clubs.

The books include "Alzheimer Care Program Guide: Senior Companions, an action program." The Respite Care Manual, which includes the importance of respite care, day care overview, the philosophy, program and activities and In-Home respite care program development.

The special notebook includes the disease fact sheet, disease statistics and the current newsletter. It also includes copies, protected in plastic, of the many pamphlets available. These pamphlets may be found in our vertical file and can be taken out of the library. Some subjects of the pamphlet include: services you may need; Communicating with the patient; Standing by you: family support groups; Caregiving at home; Legal consideration; financial and health care benefits; and the younger patient. There is also a Caregiver Kit, which contains 5 pamphlets, 8 audio cassettes and 5 video cassettes.

Some subjects on the cassettes are: Safety first; Meeting daily challenges; Managing difficult behavior; Communicating and Caring for the caregiver. The audios contain How to develop a public relations program; principles and guidelines of specialized care; and

developing association models and approaches. The slogan of the Alzheimer's Association is, "Someone to Stand by You". We are indeed grateful for this wonderful addition to our library shelves and happy to share all the information with our patrons.

New books at the library: "Inadmissible Evidence" by Philip Friedman is an extraordinarily effective, ingenious, engrossing and gripping novel. A prosecutor finds that the trial of a lifetime is full of unexpected hazards that will test his courtroom skills to the extreme and make him confront his most deeply felt assumptions about his life and the law. He is assigned to retry millionaire and community

hero Roberto Morales for the brutal rape/ murder of his mistress. As he searches for a way out of the prosecutor's bind, it is only at the last minute that he discovers the route to the truth. And is 'Inadmissible Evidence'.

A recent Book Club purchase: "Mating" by Norman Rush is the winner of the 1991 National Book Award. This is a major novel, a comedy of manners on the grandest scale. It revolves around two Americans on the loose (one of them on the prowl) in developing Africa. She is an anthropologist, a woman men are drawn to, and he is a fit, late-forties utopian (considered by even his most critical colleagues to be both brilliant and charismatic).

About the opinion pages

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms. Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page. Cartoons are the opinion of the cartoonist and columns are the opinion of the author. Neither necessarily reflects the viewpoint of The Post.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published subject to the following guidelines. Letters must not exceed 500 words. Except in unusual circumstances, no writer may have more than one letter published during a 30 day period. Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer. The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter and to edit letters as necessary without distorting their meaning.

In addition to letters to the editor, we welcome longer pieces that may be run as columns. The author or the subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be our prime consideration when selecting material for publication.

To submit an item for publication, send it to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612, or bring it to our office.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 18, 1932
LAING FIRE CO. PLANS TO HELP NEEDY

Henry M. Laing Fire Co. plans this year to repeat the charity work, which was so successful last year. This organization will endeavor to help needy families of the community. Not only food stuffs and clothes will be distributed but old toys which the firemen will repair will be provided for poor children.

Prof. I. Meyers, of Notre Dame University well known authority in English Literature presented a series of lectures at College Misericordia this week. He gave a resume of Milton his life and works, discoursed on Mexico and Hamlet and the Disillusionment of Youth.

You could get - Lard, 3 lbs. 19¢; pumpkin, 3 lg. cans, 25¢; 2 lb. Fruit Cake in decorated tin, 85¢.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 20, 1942
LOCAL PIGEON WINS 200 MILE RACE

\$3,000 was pledged for a Community Center Back of the Mountain which the war has delayed but has not stopped, Dr. F. Budd Schooley, prime mover in the project announced. Contributions and pledges are coming in, totally unsolicited and the association is working to have everything in readiness for action when the war ends.

Dairy Maid, a pure scion hen pigeon from the loft of Nesbitt Garinger came in first in the 200-mile annual Armistice Race from Winchester, Va. Total elapsed time was three hours and 58 minutes. Garinger received a handsome trophy awarded by the Wilkes-Barre Club.

Dallas Township High School athletic authorities are making preparations to handle a capacity crowd for its annual football classic with Kingston Township High School on Thanksgiving Day. Dallas Township team enters the contest as underdogs.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1952
COMMUNITY RESCUE SQUAD DISCUSSED

Thieves broke into Evans Drug Store, Shavertown sometime after midnight Wednesday and stole a considerable amount of merchandise, including 10 pocket watches, pocket knives and other miscellaneous items. Entrance was gained through the front door where a hole was broken in the heavy plate glass large enough to admit the body of a man.

Organization of a Community Rescue Squad trained in first aid and equipped with its own ambulance and all first aid and rescue facilities to act in emergencies was discussed at a well attended meeting Wednesday night at the Shavertown House. It is hoped that residents of all parts of the Back Mountain Region will join hands to support it.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 20, 1962
SNOWSTORM DOWNS ELECTRIC WIRES

According to police the Dallas Borough traffic light system will not be functioning until some time next week. The parts replacing those burned out by a falling wire last week during a snow storm will not be shipped from New York until Friday.

The "Mississippi Riviera" minstrel will be presented by Gate of Heaven Parent Teacher Guild in the Gate of Heaven School auditorium Sunday and Monday. A number of specialties and songs by the minstrel cast will be presented in addition to minstrel songs, jokes, characters and costuming.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1972
PETITION ASKS FOR LIGHT AT 309-415 INTERSECTION

Supervisors from Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township were requested by DAMA at its regular monthly meeting to approve an extension of the present sewer system to enable the new elementary relocatable school on Hildebrandt Road to discharge into the system. The single block extension would be through Grandview Terrace and would require 500 feet of pipe. This would complete sewage connections in that area and pick up six more properties that were not tied in before.

A petition is currently being circulated by members of the public affairs committee of Dallas Junior Women's Club advocates the placement of a traffic light at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415, Dallas. In addition the committee hopes to have a sign posted several hundred yards from the intersection which will read, "Route 309-Keep Right."