

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Citizens' Council makes a difference

A small group of conscientious people is making a big impression on the Back Mountain. The Back Mountain Citizens' Council held its annual meeting last week, electing officers and directors, and charting a course for coming years.

The Council was formed only three years ago, but already has helped guide local communities and state agencies to improvements that will last a lifetime. Their most visible contribution came with the formation of a traffic management association, an organization that was the catalyst for getting additional traffic lights ordered for routes 309 and 415. The state Department of Transportation will begin that project later this year.

The Citizens' Council also has sponsored a home beautification contest to honor property owners who fix up existing homes, worked with state and local officials on possible consolidation of local police forces, and produced a zoning map for the entire area.

Not resting on its laurels, the group has set some goals for the future. One is to create and administer a land trust under which significant parcels of open land can be protected from development. Another is to encourage more cooperation among the Back Mountain's communities, whether in the form of a Council of Governments or in a less formal manner.

Perhaps the Citizens' Council's most important function has been to demonstrate that regional thinking and planning are necessary if the Back Mountain is to make the most of its resources. Only by working together can the people and communities of the region prepare for a future of prosperity while preserving the charms that attracted so many people here in the first place.

### Keep teacher contract talks on high plane

Negotiations are beginning on a salary schedule for teachers in the Dallas School District for the 1993-94 school year. "So soon?" you ask. Yes, because the last agreement, which was settled in March, 1992, was retroactive to September 1, 1991, and set salary levels only for the first two years of the three-year pact.

After a bruising negotiation period leading to the agreement last year, the teachers' union accepted an increase in salaries of about five percent for each of the two years that end August 31, 1993. After that, the district and teachers will have a contract, but without a salary scale for 1993-94, unless they can settle before that date.

It's a safe bet that both sides would prefer to avoid the rancor that characterized the last contract negotiation period. So would the majority of taxpayers in the district, though not at the expense of a fair agreement. It is incumbent on all those involved and observing to keep the talks on a reasonable and respectful level, in both substance and tone.

Above all, we must be mindful of the students who are the most important part of the educational system. It would be a disservice to them if their education was disrupted, or if they are given the message that the "real" world is a place full of histrionics and selfishness and little else.

### 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.

### Sewer main construction may tie up local traffic

Due to the installation of a new 18" sewer main by DAMA, there will be traffic delays starting Monday, Jan. 25, and continue through the next couple of weeks. The area most effected will be Main and Union Streets in Luzerne

between the Luzerne Exit of the Cross Valley Expressway and the intersection of Evans and Union Streets. In order to avoid delays, motorists are urged to bypass this area if at all possible.



Still standing after all these years

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

### Publisher's notebook

#### Zoë's woës

Perhaps if Zoe Baird, the candidate for Attorney General of the United States, had better answered questions about her hiring of illegal aliens she might not have had to withdraw from consideration.

In case you missed it, senators quizzed Ms. Baird about her hiring of illegal aliens to care for her child and taxi her back and forth to a \$500,000 a year job. Herewith, then, are hypothetical answers to some questions that might have been asked of the erstwhile 40-year-old lawyer/homemaker. You guess the questions. Answers appear upside down, below. No peeking!

1. "Well, I guess I could have done that. But would you give up half a million bucks a year to stay home with someone who drools?"

2. "Of course, we did. But we figured undocumented aliens would work cheaper. Besides, all the Americans looked like criminals."

3. "That's a big part of my job, and I did it very well. Gosh, if lawyers couldn't find ways to evade the law, half of us would be out of work."

4. "I thought briefly that it might. But I knew I was white, well-connected and a woman, so I figured I could get away with it."

5. "You could look at it that way. On the other hand, we spent the extra money on stuff and that creates jobs, too."

6. "I know some people will see it that way, but they just don't understand the problems facing someone who makes more money in an hour than most people do in a week."

7. "I expect he'd be strung from the rafters."

8. "Well, I figured I'd at least get the Trekkies."

Questions to the answers: 1) Did you ever consider staying home with your child? 2) Did you try to find American citizens to do the job? 3) How frequently have you advised clients to evade "technical" violations of law? 4) When you hired the Peruvians, did you think that doing so might damage your chances of getting a job like this? 5) Didn't hiring illegal aliens mean some American citizens didn't have a job? 6) Doesn't breaking the law disqualify you from being considered for Attorney General? 7) What do you think would happen if we found out that a white male candidate for the job had done the same thing? 8) Did you think any group of Americans would support someone who hired aliens?

### Letters

#### Utilities cutting trees excessively, he says

Editor: Recently we saw on the TV news the understandable reluctance of the people of Sarajevo to cut down the trees lining their streets despite their terrible need for firewood during their siege. Yet with no pressing need, we let limbs and

trees be cut along our streets in the Back Mountain in the name of protecting electric wires. Certainly some trimming is necessary, but not the massive cuts now being done, e.g., along Lehigh Street in Trucksville. Minimal cutting should be the goal.

Trees, unutilized, lend beauty to our streets and roads. Though easily forgotten, they add to our quality of life. Let's keep this distinctive feature of the Back Mountain scene.

Samuel Merrill

#### California student seeks info on this area

Editor: I am a fifth grade student at Truman Benedict School in San Clemente, CA. I have chosen your state, Pennsylvania, to write a state report on. I chose your state because I think it is very interesting, my grandma was born there, and

you have two really good hockey teams.

I was hoping that some of the readers of your newspaper would be interested in sending any information they think would be valuable to my report. This could be letters, postcards, pictures, maps, stories from readers, past

pamphlets, etc. I look forward to learning more about your wonderful state from your readers and would be very appreciative.

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#### Stamp club will hold collectors' course

The Wyoming Valley Stamp Club in cooperation with the NE Philatelic Society of Scranton will conduct a Stamp Course, the buying and selling of stamps and philatelic material, on Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA.

This will provide an opportunity for the beginning and intermediate collector to obtain material at an affordable price, for all material will be offered by members of the clubs. This will include U.S. and

foreign stamps and covers. The clubs are interested in purchasing accumulations and collections of stamps and will evaluate material for those interested.

Members will also take the time to discuss stamp collecting as a hobby, answer questions on Philately (the collection and study of stamps, revenues, covers, postal cards, etc.) and discuss resources

which may help any collector.

The Wyoming Valley club meets at 7:30 on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA on Northampton Street. The Scranton club meets at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison and Olive Streets, Scranton on the first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Membership is encouraged and visitors are welcome.

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - Feb. 3, 1933 CASTLE INN LEASED TO BEAR CREEK MAN

The Castle Inn has been leased to Gene Gabriel of Bear Creek for a long term, it was announced this week. Mr. Gabriel assumed charge of the Inn Feb. 1, and has moved his family here. Mrs. Elizabeth Blewett, who managed the Castle Inn for a number of years since its opening has moved to Sandor Apartments in Wilkes-Barre.

Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. are planning two fundraisers for the next two months. A Box Social will be held during February and a card party to be held in the hose house rooms, March 19.

Motor vehicle operators who have not received a renewal application for 1933 should notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at once, H. Richard Stuckel, director said today.

You could get - Rice, 3 lbs. 10¢; Gold Seal eggs, 23¢ doz.; peaches, 10¢ lb.; potatoes, 15 lb. peck, 15¢.

#### 50 Years Ago - Jan. 29, 1943 NO RELIEF SEEN FOR GAS SHORTAGE

Outlook for improved conditions in the eastern gasoline shortage is not optimistic. Regional Headquarters of the OPA this week warned the Dallas War Price & Rationing Board. At the same time OPA ordered the local board to review all previously issued B & C rations. "All rations to non-eligible drivers" the order said, "must be revoked."

Serving less than a week of his appointment as leader of Dallas High School Band, David Smith, graduate of West Chester State Teachers College has been called into U.S. Army service. Previously rejected by his draft board there was no certainty that he would not be called again when Dallas Borough School Board appointed him to fill the vacancy caused by the induction of Robert Henderson.

#### 40 Years Ago - Jan. 30, 1953 BLOOD DONATIONS TO HONOR DR. SCHOOLEY

Back Mountain residents are preparing for a Blood Donor Day on Monday to set an all-time record with organizations, churches, business houses and private individuals rallying to Sherman Schooley's memory, a doctor who gave his all for patients and who died because he did not spare himself on their behalf.

Construction of two-hard surfaced parking lots for Gate of Heaven Church and school were discussed at the meeting of Gate of Heaven Holy Name Society. On completion they will accommodate 200 autos eliminating much of the congestion on Machell Avenue during church services.

Lehman-Jackson schools in the midst of a chicken pox and gripe epidemic reported 124 students absent Tuesday. Dallas-Franklin reports no unusual absences; Lake-Noxen had 30 absences Monday, only 22 on Tuesday with no contagious children's diseases apparent.

#### 30 Years Ago - Jan. 31, 1963 DALLAS POST ADS PRINTED NATIONALLY

Lines of cars were immobilized due to snow on the Dallas-Luzerne Highway Wednesday night from big bend to Center Street Shavertown and many motorists were more than 3 hours negotiating the five miles between the valley and Back Mountain. Finally at 6:30 out of the sub-zero night the state crew assigned to the highway cindered the road and traffic resumed its flow.

It was recently discovered in a past issue of Metro's Monthly Journal of Advertising News and Lineage Building Ideas, that two ads that appeared in The Dallas Post had been picked up and sent out to Metro's Plus Business readers across the country. This is the third time Post ads have been reproduced for advertising personnel from coast to coast.

"Roman Holiday" starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn now playing at Luzerne Theatre.

#### 20 Years Ago - Feb. 1, 1973 BANK ALARM CHECK STARTLES RESIDENTS

Several patrons at Elby's Restaurant last Wednesday were startled to see a burly mustached young man facing First National Bank of Eastern Pa. with a shot gun in the crook of his arm. Unbeknownst to the flustered diners at Elby's the young man, a Dallas resident had been deputized a few minutes earlier by Dallas Borough Police Chief Ray Titus to assist in checking out a bank alarm.

Acme Markets Inc., Philadelphia announced record sales and an operating profit for the 13 week quarter index Dec. 30, 1972, following two quarters of unprofitable operation.

## The Dallas Post

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