

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Prison guards, prison's neighbors deserve more security

As several recent incidents indicate, all is not well at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas, better known around here as Chase prison.

Last week on Monday one guard at the facility was severely beaten by an inmate, who, after knocking the guard unconscious made his way to a control panel that unlocks other cells. Fortunately other inmates didn't take the opportunity to create a larger problem...this time.

Then, last Wednesday, two guards were injured when they broke up a fight between a guard and an inmate. All this happened in the same week that a trial of three inmates charged in a riot last summer was taking place.

Guards, alarmed at the growing violence inside the prison's walls, are asking that staffing be beefed up so that two guards can man each post at all times, instead of the lone guard that is now often the case. That seems like a sensible suggestion, and one the state administration should move quickly to adopt.

Guards aren't the only people concerned about the situation. People who live near the prison are equally fearful that a full-scale riot could erupt there, in part because inmates who are so inclined might sense that the staff is inadequate to contain them.

With 30 percent more prisoners than it was designed to hold, Chase prison is an even more dangerous place than it was intended to be. Guards, neighbors, even prisoners deserve to know that everything possible is being done to maintain security at the highest level. It doesn't sound like that is the case now, but it should be.

Good government is not a spectator sport

Under the fierce glare of television lights and photographers' flashbulbs, it seems that everyone's attention is focused on the new President's every move. At least that's what the national media would have us believe. How will he handle the issue of gays in the military? Who will he nominate for Attorney General, and why? Should Hillary have real power in the administration, or would we prefer that she maintain the shadow role we're used to?

Those are all legitimate questions, and they should be asked and responded to. But they can also be distractions from the real work of government, and of citizens.

Spending our days hovering over the President won't solve America's problems or point the way to a brighter future. Instead, we can take a look at ourselves, our workplaces, our communities and our nation, seeking improvements we can make to our society.

In some cases, the good of the community and the nation will take precedence over personal gain or comfort. For instance, higher taxes on gasoline will leave everyone a little poorer in the short run, but could cut the deficit and spur more efficient use of resources in the future. In a similar vein, volunteering some time to a local organization will mean less time spent in relaxation or family pursuits. But the good that results can more than offset the sacrifice.

In short, we would be much better off if we spent less time waiting to see what our government will do for us and more time acting on our own behalf. That seems an odd admonition in a land that has long prided itself on the independence and initiative of its populace. But, more and more, it seems we are becoming a nation of spectators to our own lives and livelihoods; reactors instead of actors; whiners who are quick to complain when our particular government handout is threatened.

Or perhaps it's just a perception. Maybe all the clamor in the news is really the work of paid lobbyists whose job security is threatened if things change too much, or people act too responsibly. If that's the case, it makes sense to monitor the organizations that claim to speak for you and to let them know that most Americans don't place their own narrow interest ahead of that of their friends, neighbors and children.

Would you like to write a column?

The Dallas Post attempts to publish a wide range of opinion and information. We welcome material from local authors with expertise in or an opinion about a particular issue. If you would like to submit an item for publication, send it to The Dallas Post at P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 45 Main Road, Dallas Township (across from Offset Paperback). Be sure to include an address and phone number where you can be reached. If you want the material back, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The Dallas Post

Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
Telephone: 717-675-5211

<p>Ronald A. Bartzek Editor and Publisher</p> <p>Peggy Young Advertising Acct. Exec.</p> <p>Paul Rismiller Production Manager</p>	<p>Charlotte E. Bartzek Associate Publisher</p> <p>Grace R. Dove Reporter</p> <p>Olga Kostrobala Classified/typesetting</p> <p>Jean Hillard Office Manager</p>
--	--

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION



Huntsville dam in winter

Photo by Charlotte Bartzek

A. Case for Conservation

Abuse of environment can bring national tragedy

By ALENE N. CASE

It is a snowy, rather peaceful day in northeastern Pennsylvania. My thoughts turn to news reports of violence here and abroad, and I wonder why. Why do people become so desperate that they feel they cannot live unless they kill another? Sometimes insanity is the explanation - a deranged person opens fire in a crowded restaurant or a despotic head-of-state terrorizes the nations nearby. But, there are certainly many other reasons for warfare.

In an article in the most recent issue of *Scientific American*, the authors contend that environmental changes contribute to the violent conflicts in our world and are likely to create more havoc in the future. It reminded me of an article a friend handed me almost ten years ago. The author of the article tried to show that the conflict in the Middle East was a

war over water. It made some sense, but at the time I dismissed it as a rather simplistic view of the situation. Now, it merits a closer look.

The Arab residents of the West Bank are not allowed to drill as many wells or use as much water as the Israeli settlers. Why? Because Israel is trying to protect its groundwater supply which largely originates under the West Bank. As a result, the Arab farmers are not able to make a living because of the lack of irrigation water. They have either taken day jobs in Israel or have become unemployed. How would you feel if your livelihood were threatened by neighbors who were allowed to use four times as much of a limited resource as you?

What happened to the "land of milk and honey" as described by Moses? Where are the fine cedars of Lebanon? Has the climate changed in the few thousand years

since the days of Solomon? Apparently not. According to a study by W.C. Lowdermilk in 1939, the conditions for successful agriculture and forestry would still be present if it were not for poor farming and grazing habits in the past. "Here, erosion had done its worst. If the soils had remained, even though the cities were destroyed and the populations dispersed, the area might be re-peopled again and the cities rebuilt. But now that the soils are gone, all is gone."

The situation in Haiti is a modern example of such devastation. The news reports about Haitian refugees depict political, social, and economic problems. They rarely show the root cause of these difficulties - the Haitian society cannot recover because Haiti can no longer feed its people. The trees of this paradise have been cut and the soils have washed into the sea. That makes agricul-

ture impossible and also destroys the near-shore fishery. If you cannot grow anything and you cannot catch fish and you have no money to buy food, you can either starve or move. There are no other options.

The history of human change of the environment is as old as civilization. But, now that we can study and understand the reasons for our impact on the world, we have the responsibility to reconsider our behavior. As the human population continues to grow, the competition for natural resources will become more and more fierce. Battles will not only be waged for petroleum, for agricultural resources, and for outlets to the sea. They will be waged because of advancing deserts, flooded cities, and toxic waste dumps. Care of our environment is no longer a luxury - it has become a matter of personal, national, and global security.

Library news

Library receives donation of books on audio tape

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received a donation of audio cassettes in memory of Delbert Lane given by his wife of Shickshinny. These audios are in excellent condition and are a welcome addition to our audio shelves.

Some of the authors and titles include: Robert Ludlum - *The Scarlatti Inheritance*; *The Icarus Agenda*; *The Osterman Weekend*; and *Trevayne*. John Hakes - *Heaven and Hell*; *California Gold*. Tom Clancy - *The Hunt for Red October*; *Clear and Present Danger*. James Michener - *Hawaii*; *Texas*; *Space*; *Legacy and Journey*. Agatha Christie - *Four and Twenty Blackbirds*; *The Blue Ge-*

ranium; Joan Hickson as Miss Marple investigates; and Poirot investigates. James Herriot - *The Lord God Made Them All*. Louis L'Amour - *Keep 'Travlin'*, *Riderr Man* and *Big Medicine*; *Down the Pogonip Trail*; *McNelly Knows a Ranger*; *Unguarded Moment*; and *Riding For the Brand*.

We are very grateful for these audios, as our library patrons really enjoy them and are always looking for new titles to enjoy. Our audio collection of cassettes keeps growing.

The library has all the Federal tax forms available for take out, along with some of the State forms. Many of the Federal forms of a special type are in a looseleaf notebook supplied by the IRS, which can be photocopied and

used for the tax return. The regular forms are available on the patron hand out table and the special forms can be obtained at the information desk in the library.

New books at the library: *Refinements of Love*, a novel about Clover and Henry Adams written by Sarah Booth Conroy is rooted in history and filled with mystery and elegance and powerful fascination. Neither history nor Henry Adams ever revealed the truth about the strange death in 1885 of Adam's wife, Clover, in their home on Lafayette Square, within walking distance of the White House. Clover Adam's death from poison was a notorious Washington scandal. This book comes up

with an astonishing theory regarding the mysterious death.

A Walk Through Wales by Anthony Bailey is for readers who are simply curious about Welshness today; a book to be informed and enchanted by. The story is for lovers of the elements at their most exhilarating, for enthusiasts of the small-of-scale (whether in mountains or railways). The author took a long walk in Wales; he shouldered his backpack one spring day and set out from south to north to look at the land and talk to people. As is his way, in the course of enjoying the terrain and encountering native Welsh and incoming English, he discovered a past country, too-out of which hymns, poems and legend still reverberate.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 24, 1933 AREA MAN SEES F.D.R. SHOOTING ATTEMPT

B.P. Stroh, manager of the local office of Commonwealth Telephone Co., who had been spending several weeks in Florida writes that he was on the firing line in Miami the night Giuseppe Zangara took pot shots at President-elect Roosevelt and ended up wounding five others.

Several upsets marked the basketball games Friday night. Lehman toppled Dallas from the Conference leadership into a tie with Kingston Township; Laketon bowed to Dallas Township; Kingston defeated Beaumont.

You could get - Bread, 20-oz. loaf 5¢; Bacon, 1 lb., 11¢; pineapple, 2 lg. cans 25¢; butter 2 lbs. 43¢.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 19, 1943 WORKERS STRIKE AT NOXEN TANNERY

Staff Sgt. Harold T. Kepner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kepner of Dallas, was reported missing in action this week in the air war over the Southwest Pacific.

In an effort to break up all-night parking which has interfered with snow removal on residential streets, Kingston Township Supervisors have instructed police officers to arrest all citizens who persist in the practice. Demanding restoration of a

guaranteed 40-hour minimum work week, recently curtailed because of a shortage of hides, 255 employees members of the Fur & Leather Workers' Union went on strike Wednesday morning at the Armour Leather Co. plant in Noxen.

"Desperate Journey" starring Errol Flynn, Ronald Reagan, and Nancy Coleman now playing at the Shaver Theatre.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 20, 1953 LOCAL WOMAN PERFORMS ON BROADWAY

Edith Adams Enke, former Davis Street, Trucksville girl is opening next Wednesday in the new musical comedy, "Wonderful Town" at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway. She appears under the stage name, Edith Adams.

Back Mountain area housewives are filling their freezers by taking full advantage of tumbling beef prices, according to retailers. It all started two weeks ago when steaks took a nose dive from a record 99¢ and \$1.09 a lb. to 89 and 79¢ and in some instances 69¢.

The 7th Annual Library Auction has been set for July 10-11, by the Executive Board at their meeting held at the library. The third annual Library Dinner will be held during the latter part of May at Irem Temple Country Club. Students over 12 years of age

including college students will be admitted to Himmler Theatre for 25¢ tax included on Mondays and Tuesdays. Other prices remain the same. Children under 6, free; 6-12, 14¢ and adults 40¢.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 21, 1963 J.R. DAVIS FIRE CO. HONORS J.S. CAVE

Jonathan R. Davis Fire Co. elected officers for 1963 at its annual installation dinner and paid tribute to J. Sheldon Cave, a man who has been instrumental in the organization since its inception. Cave founder and first president was presented with a wallet size silver plated life membership card and a plaque.

Amidst a large gathering of friends, parishioners, business and civic leaders, Rev. France A. Kane, pastor of Gate of Heaven and Dean of Gate of Heaven School, received the Community Service Award for 1963 given annually by the Back Mountain Protective Association.

Two perennial rivals Dallas and Lake-Lehman met on the wrestling mats last Thursday with the Knights winners 29-16.

In basketball, the Dallas Mounts sailed to an easy victory over the Lake-Lehman Knights 86-42 in the newly finished Lake-Lehman gym.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 22, 1973 MOTHER DONATES KIDNEY TO DAUGHTER

Back Mountain Enduro Riders Motorcycle Club recently presented Sandy Daubert with a check for \$500 toward her medical expenses. Sandy returned to Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia with her mom where she was to undergo surgery this week. Mrs. Daubert has donated a kidney to replace the diseased kidney, which was removed in January.

The 1973 edition of the Festival of Music sponsored by Dallas Kiwanis Club is entering its initial and most important phase, the recruitment of talent. Applicants selected will appear in our one public presentation April 14 in the Wilkes College for Performing Arts.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jewell of Parrish Street, Dallas, were guests of honor at Irem Country Club on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Spring Special: brand new 1973 Dodge Charger, 8 cylinder, automatic, power steering, disc brakes, electronic ignition system, now \$2995, at Scranton Dodge.

Do you want a photo that has appeared in The Post?

We can make a copy:
5x7-\$5, 8x10-\$10