

Only Yesterday

60 Years Ago - May 19, 1933 RATS INVADE CREEK IN SHAVERTOWN

Starting with a charter membership of 29 and without a church building, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Shavertown celebrated its 8th anniversary last Sunday with a membership of 136 persons. In large measure the growth of the congregation has been due to the leadership and work of Rev. G. Elston Ruff.

Shavertown is praying for another Pied Piper of Hamelin to rid that community of rodents whose nocturnal forays are a source of concern to citizens living in the vicinity of Toby's Creek. Shavertown Improvement Association appealed to the Luzerne County Farm Bureau to help them out by conducting an extermination campaign throughout the community.

Dallas Borough Alumni Association has made plans to establish a scholarship in 1935 which will be used to help some worthy student who might because of lack of finances to attend school. It is expected the scholarship will be valued at \$50.

You could get - Pillsbury Flour, 24 1/2 lb. bag, 79¢; potatoes, full 15 lb. peck, 39¢; sugar, 10 lbs., 44¢; lard, 2 lbs., 17¢.

50 Years Ago - May 14, 1943 BMT HORSE SHOW CANCELLED BY WAR

The All-Back Mountain Memorial Day Observance and Horse Show which has scored a success the past few years at Lehman, will not be held this year because of the war, according to an announcement made by the general committee.

Dallas is one of four communities in the 6th Legislative District which will receive auxiliary fire fighting equipment paid for by the Federal government and supplied through the Civilian Defense set-up in Harrisburg.

Fourteen teachers in Dallas Borough schools will enjoy increased salaries next year because of passage on the last day of the Legislature session of the bill increasing teachers' salaries in Pennsylvania.

"Hitler's Children" with Tim Holt and Bonita Granville, now playing at Shaver Theatre.

40 Years Ago - May 15, 1953 THREE HIGH SCHOOLS TO CONSOLIDATE

Verne Groff whose adventure taking him from the counter of his father's grocery and meat business in Ohio to Hollywood where he worked as an extra in Hollywood, to Dallas to establish the Dallas Outdoor Theatre, will be the Chairman of New Goods Committee of the 1953 Library Auction.

All Back Mountain residents are invited to attend the ceremonies Wednesday incident to the formal acceptance of First National Bank of Dallas by Miners National Bank of Wilkes-Barre.

The County Board of Education is working toward a high school which would accommodate students in the Back Mountain, in a one building program instead of a possible four. Aim is not only economy of construction but broadening of curriculum. Dallas-Franklin, Lake-Noxen, Dallas Borough-Kingston Township would be districts immediately affected. Lehman-Jackson, committed to a jointure and already starting a building program, would not at present be affected.

30 Years Ago - May 16, 1963 BMT BOYS' BASEBALL STARTS FUND DRIVE

Open House will be held at Dallas Senior High School featuring a School Exhibit and a Track and Field Program, May 22 on the football field. Parents and friends are cordially invited to attend. Dr. Robert Bodycomb president.

ing at Dallas Area School Board meeting, stated members of the board stood solidly behind the administration of Dr. Robert Mellman for the fine job he is doing and George McCutcheon, guidance counselor who has performed outstanding service to all students and given tremendous public service in creating and guiding the activities of the Dallas Kiwanis Key Club which has won state and national recognition.

Back Mountain Baseball for Boys will start their candy bar sale, continuing the drive to maintain the finest facilities available for the Little League. With the proceeds of a candy sale, Baseball for Boys hopes to clear enough to pay off the new building now being constructed.

Mrs. Mildred T. Hicks, "Mrs. Pillar to Post" following a tradition of 10 years standing will give the invocation Saturday at Nittany Lion Inn, when members of the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association join with PNPA members at an annual luncheon, a feature of the PNPA Convention at State College.

20 Years Ago - May 17, 1973 K.T. NAMES STANLEY AS FIRST MANAGER

Michael J. Stanley was appointed the first Township Manager by Kingston Township Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting. Mr. Stanley is secretary to the board and office manager. The board approved an ordinance creating the office prior to Mr. Stanley's appointment.

Editorial staff of Greenstreet News Co. took three statewide prizes in the 1972 Better Newspaper Contest. Pat Cancro took first place for his picture series "100 Miles National Event". Also honored for second place, were former Dallas Post staff photographer, Scott Saffian and J.R. Freeman, managing editor, who took second place on his news series local, county or state government.

Land Trust will host guest speaker May 20

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust will host guest speaker Christopher T. Herrman, executive director of the North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy in Williamsport, at a public meeting Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at Hayfield House at the Penn State-Lehman campus.

He will speak about one of the Conservancy's major public education projects, to inform landowners in certain land resource areas of their options in preserving their land.

Incorporated in 1990, the North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy services 14 of the 16 counties in the watershed of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River,

which joins the main branch at Sunbury.

Since its inception, the Conservancy has completed four major conservation projects:

- Acquiring 176 acres of land fronting on Pine Creek to act as a buffer zone with existing public lands surrounding it on three sides. Containing several spring-fed streams and wetlands, the acreage was sold a year later to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

- Acquiring a streamside conservation easement in Penn's Creek Valley, one of Union County's four priority preservation areas.

- Completion of a 250-acre wildflower preserve in Cameron County, which stretches from a creek bank all the way to a moun-

taintop and contains several different ecosystems.

- Establishment of a Conservation Registry, which recognizes and encourages landowners' ongoing sound land stewardship methods, on Nipponese Spring, Pennsylvania's largest limestone spring, near Jersey Shore.

Before joining the staff of the North Central Conservancy, Herrman coordinated public relations and volunteers at the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadd's Ford, PA, where he later was named land manager.

A graduate of Juniata College, Herrman is a member of the national Land Trust Council, past president of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and director of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

A. Case for conservation

Why is the Susquehanna River green?

By ALENE N. CASE

This morning as I drove my husband to work, my eyes confirmed what my mind had suspected: the Susquehanna River has been overfed. It was the color of pea soup! It is especially green this year because heavy runoff has washed an unusual amount of soil into our waterways. And now, this soup is headed straight for the Chesapeake Bay where it is most unwelcome.

What makes the river green? Why is this a big problem for the Bay? Is it also a problem in lakes and streams? And, what can we do about this situation?

One of the first things we learned in biology class was that all living beings need food. We also learned that if organisms acquire food beyond that which would sustain them, they tend to multiply. But, we may not have learned that all food is not created equal. Or, at least, all food is not equally available. Plants are generally able to get plenty of carbon dioxide, water, and various trace elements from the soil, water, or air in which they grow. Phosphorus and nitrogen tend to be more difficult to procure and are, therefore, called "limiting nutrients."

When plants can get all the nitrogen and phosphorus they need, they grow and multiply like crazy. Sometimes all this growth is not a good thing. That is especially true in aquatic habitats.

Consider the effects of uncontrolled growth of algae in a lake. Algae are very important parts of any aquatic system. These cells convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen in the presence of sunlight. Then, they become food for tiny animals which become food for fish and other larger animals, and so on. So, you'd think that if some algae are good, then a lot should be better. Not so.

One of the first noticeable problems in an overfed lake is the appearance of mats of cyanobacteria (formerly called blue-green algae). These mats tend to float on the surface, shading out algae and rooted plants that normally live somewhat below the surface. Cyanobacteria do photosynthesize, but most animals find them distasteful. Therefore, they do not tend to support the food web of the lake in the same way that other algae would.

As these mats of cyanobacteria die, they sink to the bottom where they are decomposed by other bacteria. This process requires a great deal of oxygen. Thus, the bottom of the lake often has too little oxygen to support the fish that make their homes there. Lack of oxygen is particularly a problem for small fish, so the lake ceases to be a good nursery for game fish.

Another consequence of oxygen depletion is not as noticeable.

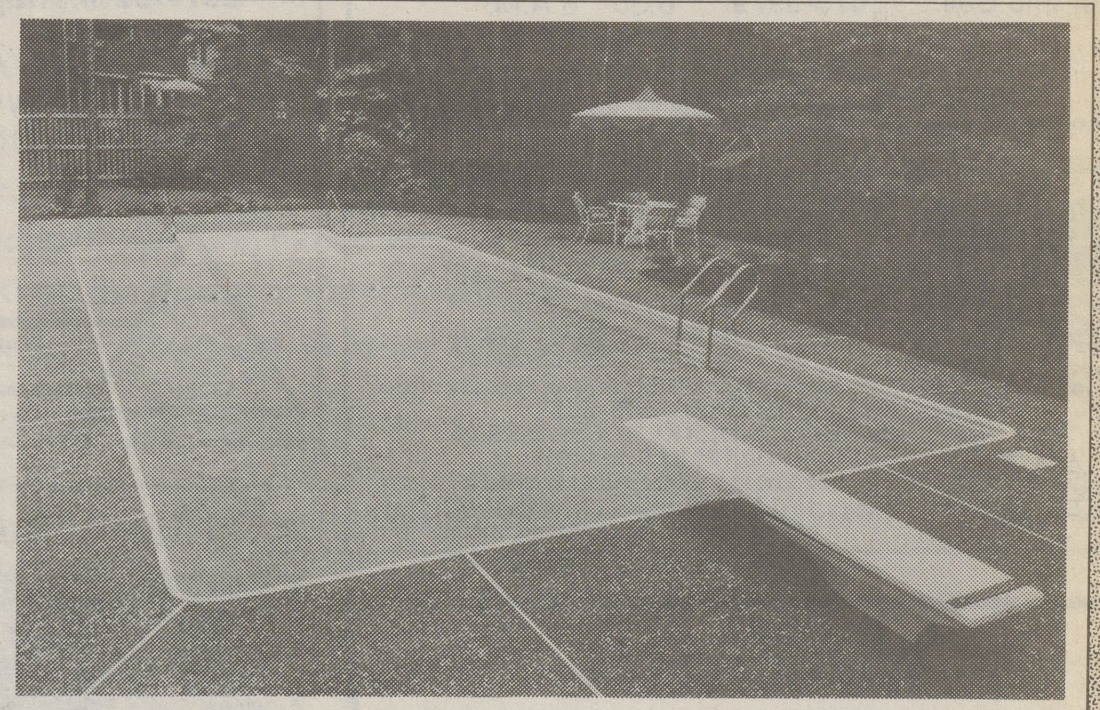
Phosphorus which had been bound to the sediments - or muck - in the bottom of the lake is released and returned to the water. That, of course, causes more growth and leads to even lower oxygen levels.

The Chesapeake Bay reacts in similar ways to the overproduction of algae. But, there are some important differences. The heavy sediment load from the rivers is a problem in itself - nutrients not withstanding. This sediment physically covers bottom-dwelling creatures like oysters and smothers them. The oyster beds were once efficient "vacuum cleaners" for the Bay, but their role has been steadily reduced as they have been overwhelmed by upstream sediment and by overharvesting.

Another major difference is that nitrogen is the limiting nutrient in the Bay—not phosphorus as in lakes. Therefore, the laws limiting phosphorus in detergents have not been effective in solving the problems of the bay as they have in fresh water bodies. We obviously need to look at all types of fertilizer additions to the system in order to make a difference.

Nutrient enrichment of our water is not only a problem we all share. It is a problem we can all help solve. In my next column, I will provide specific instructions and helpful hints on how we can keep excess nutrients out of our waterways. Please stay tuned!

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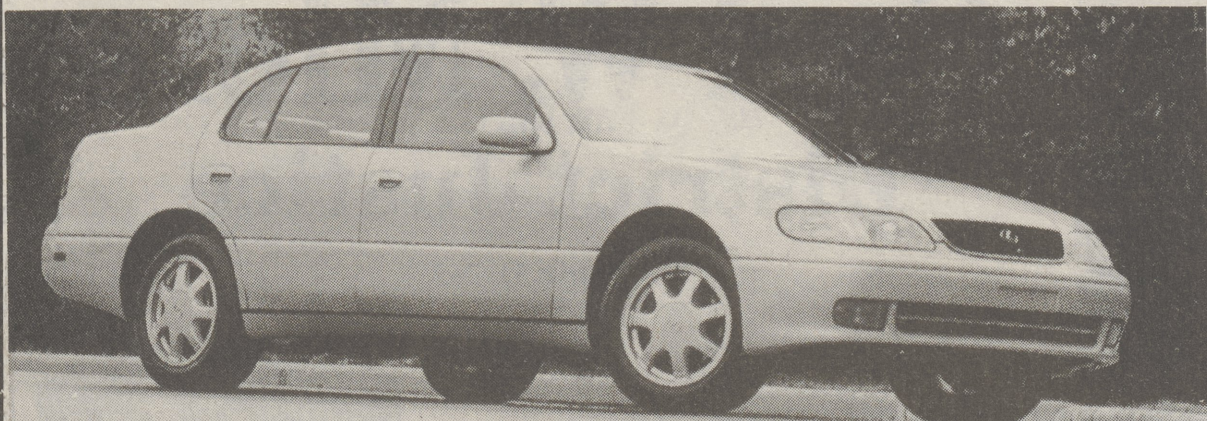
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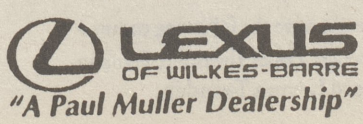
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