

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Slow down the boats

Finally, someone is suggesting limits on the speed at which boats operate on Harveys Lake. Broached initially by councilman Ed Kelly, the idea at the moment is to require boats to travel at "no-wake" speed after dusk. But the plan should go much further.

The first requirement when proposing any new law is to establish the need for it. In this case, that task is easy; just ask nearly any responsible boater what their experience on Harveys Lake has been, especially in summer when weekend warriors put in their speedboat, load it up with beer and power out for a day of fun, sun and harassment. Given the lack of regulations—about the only one that exists now is no wake within 100 feet of shore—and the shortage of enforcement, it's nearly impossible to stop reckless boaters from creating havoc on the water.

Therein lies the second part of the problem; if new rules are enacted, who is to enforce them? Right now it's the PA Fish Commission, which is understaffed and underpowered. If Harveys Lake wants to slow down boats, it will have to make a commitment to follow through with enough manpower and horsepower to do so.

Speed laws, maybe even power limits, make sense for Harveys Lake. It is a congested waterway, surrounded by homes and docks. But it also is popular for fishing and sailing, two activities that are made unnecessarily dangerous by speeding, irresponsible boat drivers.

Much of the danger and discomfort on Harveys Lake could be alleviated if a stronger, more consistent enforcement presence was on the water with existing regulations. But a speed limit would give the authorities even more leverage with which to make the lake a safer and more enjoyable place to spend a sunny day.

### A day for honor

May 31 is Memorial Day, the holiday set aside to honor and remember the men and women in the armed forces who have died fighting to preserve the security and freedom of their fellow citizens—that's you and me. This year, Memorial Day comes at a time when the mission of our military is in question, as is the appropriate response of all of us to senseless aggression around the world.

In Bosnia, in Cambodia, in the Middle East, hatred and destruction have not disappeared just because the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union has come to an end. Conflicts that previously would hardly have gained our attention now take center stage, and despots are emboldened now that the old security interests of the superpowers seem irrelevant.

At the same time, humanitarian efforts like the recent mission in Somalia have given men and women trained in war the chance to help assure the most fundamental human needs, and they have responded with the same skill and dedication once reserved for conflict.

None of this diminishes the sacrifice made in defense of liberty by men and women through the years. If the mission is a bit confused, the heroics aren't, and those who died so that we can continue to live in the world's most open society deserve to always be remembered for their courage, conviction and selflessness.

### Election lessons

The message from last week's primary election is similar to the one sent by voters in November; they want change, up to a point.

The biggest shock—at least to established politicians—was the dual win by county judge candidate Michael Conahan over Joseph Musto. With the Democratic endorsement in his pocket and a brother in the Statehouse, Musto seemed destined to continue the Wyoming Valley's heritage of political nepotism. But it was not to be. Conahan, who even by his location in Hazleton would have been considered an underdog, put an aggressive campaign before an electorate who may finally have tired of the same old names and pulled off wins on both the Democratic and Republican ballots, assuring his election in November.

Here in the Back Mountain, the message was similar if not as strident. Candidates from taxpayer groups triumphed in both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts, and Harveys Lake Democrats elected two new faces to go along with veteran Ed Kelly on council. In Jackson Township, the late Jack Bombick was the lone name on the Republican ticket for supervisor. The party now will name a new candidate to face Robert Hazletine in November.

But not all the newcomers fared well. Clarence Michael's unusual challenge to Leonard Kozick in the Dallas Township tax collector race fizzled as he drew only about one-fourth of the vote. And endorsed candidates took several county races as handily as they had in years past.

What to make of Jim Tupper's landslide victory in the race to replace retiring District Justice Earl Gregory? Maybe the answer is simply that an active police chief carries too much baggage to be elected to much of anything. That could be especially true given the recent stepped-up activity on Route 309.

One clear lesson from the school board races is that many taxpayers are frightened that the cost of education will exceed their ability to pay. That means school boards must either slim down their budgets or find a better way to raise the money they need, or tensions between teachers, parents and the public will continue to rise.



Beauty in bloom

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

### A. Case for conservation

## How you can save the Chesapeake Bay

By ALENE N. CASE

This is the promised second installment of a discussion of the problem of overfertilization of our waterways. As you may remember, excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus create difficulties for all kinds of plants and animals in local lakes and in the Chesapeake Bay. Large mats of certain algae and cyanobacteria (the accepted term for blue-green algae) shade out other algae and plants that generally live in shallow water. Fish, especially young ones, are deprived of their customary food and shelter. But, the most serious difficulty stems from the decay of large numbers of short-lived plants. That decay consumes much of the oxygen in the bottom of the lake or bay. Then, the fish and other organisms which live there cannot breathe and often die.

In 1987, the Chesapeake Bay Program set the goal of a 40% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Bay by the year 2000. As a signatory to that plan, Pennsylvania is legally bound to reduce its own output of these nutrients by 40%. This goal has been reaffirmed in 1993 as DER assesses its progress to date and makes plans for the next five years.

One of the first actions our state government took to achieve this goal was the elimination of phosphate from most detergents in 1990. I recently attended a hearing on this program and discovered that some senior DER officials were under the impression that they had included all detergents in that legislation. Not so. Please stop reading for a minute and go check the box containing your dishwasher detergent. Most likely, it will state that the contents are 7% or more phosphate. There are two or three brands that do not contain phosphate but they must be ordered from catalogs or bought from company representatives. In other words, they are difficult to obtain, and most people continue to use high phosphate detergents to wash their dishes.

This example illustrates well a most important point—the problem of excess nutrients is one that we can all help to solve. Cleaning our dishes by hand instead of using the dishwasher is only one small step in cleaning the Chesapeake Bay. But, if we combine that with lots of other small steps, the 40% goal can be reached before the year 2000.

Have you assumed that it

doesn't matter what we use in our houses because the sewage treatment plant would somehow take care of it? Unfortunately, when it comes to nutrients, that is rarely the case. It is most difficult to remove nitrate from wastewater, and phosphate is only removed in the best treatment facilities. It is more cost-effective to reduce the amount of these nutrients that enter the waste stream in the first place than to try to remove them later.

There are several ways in which most households can reduce their nutrient output. (1) Use only phosphate-free detergents and read all labels on laundry additives and cleaning solutions. (2) Never use a garbage disposal. Food wastes should be composted or included with the garbage that goes to the landfill. (3) Do not put fertilizer solutions down the drain.

Scientists have recently confirmed that the Chesapeake Bay is a nitrogen-limited system. That means that phosphorus reductions are great for the freshwater lakes and streams that flow into the Bay, but nitrate reductions are most important for the Bay itself.

Both phosphates and nitrates are found in most fertilizers. Therefore, we need to try to keep fertilizer out of our waterways and, ultimately, out of the Bay. Pennsylvania has a program to help farmers develop and implement plans to reduce the amount of these nutrients that wash off their

land. But, the rest of us use more fertilizer per acre than the farmers do. We should also be paying close attention to the amount, type, and manner of application of this fertilizer.

There are several ways households can reduce the amount of fertilizer used. (1) Mix clover into your lawn. Clover is able to "fix" nitrogen from the air and make it available to the grass. Clover is killed by herbicides—so weed killer should never be used on a lawn. (2) Buy a mulching mower or cut the grass frequently so that clippings do not need to be removed. This retains the nutrients that are already present in your lawn and makes fertilizer less necessary. (3) Try to use natural fertilizers that release nutrients slowly and do not tend to be washed into a nearby stream with the next thunderstorm. (4) Remember that fertilizing in the middle of the summer when grasses are naturally dormant—i.e. brown—can hurt your lawn. (5) Use compost, manure, and other natural fertilizers in your garden and around shrubbery or flowers. (6) Never use a liquid fertilizer when it is threatening rain.

If each of us pays closer attention to the ways in which our everyday activities might affect the Bay, I am sure we can help to clean up this valuable resource. You can learn more about this from the Chesapeake Regional Information Service by calling 1-800-662-CRIS.



### May 5 Old Photo is identified

Thanks to Ann Jordan of Dallas and also Fran Cowett, Dallas who called in the identity of our "lovely ladies" photo. The ladies are indeed all past presidents of the now disbanded Dallas Senior Women's Club. The club has been out of existence since 1980. The ladies expressed how surprised they were to see the photo and how it brought back memories of what the club ladies did together for the community and their friendships over the years. The ladies are, from left: Ann Jordan, Eleanor M. Shea, Mary Weir, Helen Parker, Evelyn Eck, Betty Dixon, Lettie Culver, Fran Cowett.

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - June 2, 1933 DALLAS HOMEOWNERS WANT LOWER TAXES

Dallas Borough Taxpayers Association has secured the signature of more than 150 property owners in the borough asking for a reduction in taxes from the school board, borough council and poor board. Spokesman for the association say that with the exception of real estate plot owners this number represents 75% of the property owners in the borough.

Bids will be opened on June 16 by the State Highway Department for paving a stretch at Harveys Lake. It is also reported by the district superintendent that the hard-surfacing of roads from West Nanticoke to Lake Silkworth, Idetown to Carpenter's Road at Harveys Lake and from Pikes Creek to Red Rock will be completed before September 1.

You could get - Corn, 4 cans, 29¢; Super Suds, 2 lg. pkgs., 25¢; salt, 3 bags, 10¢; Ginger Snaps, 2 lbs., 25¢.

#### 50 Years Ago - May 28, 1943 AREA POULTRY PLANT STARTS OPERATIONS

North Star Farms poultry dressing plant, the new industry recently established in Shavertown, went into production this week with more than 2,000 birds being slaughtered, dressed and packed daily.

A certified check for \$135 received from the sale of scrap will be turned over to Russell Case, chairman of Air Raid Wardens in the south district of Dallas Township on Tuesday night. The funds will be used to purchase first aid equipment, helmets, night sticks, whistles and other supplies that will help the wardens in their work.

Twenty five Girl Scouts of the Dallas District chosen to participate in the Victory Garden contest, sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Stores of Wilkes-Barre are busy these days planting the seeds and the plants given by the store. Competition is keen as the store is offering valuable money awards for the best gardens.

#### 40 Years Ago - May 29, 1953 K.T. AMBULANCE GETS NEW EQUIPMENT

Traditional Memorial Day Parade and exercises will be held in Dallas Borough starting tomorrow at 10 a.m. Under the direction of Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion, parade units will form at Dallas Borough School, march to the Borough Honor Roll where Rev. Francis Kane of Gate of Heaven Church will give the memorial prayer, wreaths will be placed by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and then proceed to Warden Cemetery.

All members of Kingston Township Ambulance Corps are urged to attend the meeting of the association at the Shavertown Fire House. There will be a demonstration of the new oxygen equipment recently purchased for inclusion on the ambulance. All members in the corps will be instructed in its use by an expert.

"The Stooge" with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis now playing at Himmler Theatre.

#### 30 Years Ago - May 29, 1963 CAR, TV UP FOR GRABS AT LIBRARY AUCTION

Back Mountain Baseball for Boys will open its 13th season Saturday at the Little-League Field in Dallas Township. Over 330 boys will be in uniform on opening day. These 330 boys make up 20 teams, eight in major league; six in minor league and six in teeners.

At a meeting of the Library Board, general chairman Robert Fleming outlined plans to date with expectation of a highly successful result, July 11, 12 and 13. Several large items, including a color TV set will be auctioned off and again the Auction will offer a car.

You could get - Semi boneless hams fully cooked, 55¢ lb.; turkeys, 10-12 lb. avg, 36¢ lb.; cantaloupes 39¢ ea.; bananas, 12¢ lb.; 5¢ candy bars, carton of 24, 89¢.

#### 20 Years Ago - May 31, 1973 LEHMAN SCHOOL BUDGET TOPS \$2 MIL

Lake-Lehman School Directors recently approved a tentative budget for the fiscal year which will boost the district's tax millage rate of 40 to 42 to provide funds for expenditures totaling \$2,142,711. Last year Lake-Lehman reduced its mill rate by four mills.

Wedding Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hoover, Idetown, 55 years; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. Hughes, North Lake, Sweet Valley, 50 years.

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