



## Reporter's notebook

### Native Americans aided U.S. independence

Sunday, July 4, is Independence Day.

We all know the story: on this date in 1776, thirteen colonies declared their independence from an unjust king, fired "the shot heard round the world," and grew up to be a major world power two centuries later.

But few people know of the American Revolution's unsung heroes, a group of Lenape warriors recruited by General George Washington to fight on the side of the colonists.

In return, Washington promised them their own state, in the area where the state lines of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware come together, after the war was won.

As was their way, the Lenape kept their word. Contrary to their tradition of peace, they fought against the British.

Maybe it's better that they didn't get their state after all; today it's mostly oil refineries, polluted tidal flats and row houses.

This was the first, but certainly not the last war in which Native Americans fought for their country.

The Cherokee sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War. Folklore has it that the Rebel Yell was actually a Cherokee war cry.

Citizens of many Native American tribes volunteered to join the Allies in Europe during World War I, although a law at that time exempted them from the draft.

If it hadn't been for Native Americans, the course of World War II in the Pacific theater would have been much different.

The Japanese had broken every code used by the United States in the Pacific. U.S. forces had retreated from the Philippines. My uncle was one of many who never returned.

Things didn't look too promising, until a group of Navajo men in the Signal Corps, later known as the Navajo Code Talkers, came up with an unbreakable code based on their indigenous language, used successfully for the rest of the war in the Pacific.

The Japanese didn't speak Navajo.

Remember the famous statue of "The Raising of the Flag at Iwo Jima" in Washington, DC, commemorating United States forces taking Mount Surubachi? Footage of the actual flag-raising has been immortalized in the *Victory at Sea* television series.

The man holding the flag is a Pima Indian.

In the European theater, young men were recruited for the Army

right from the reservation schools, to be used in reconnaissance on the front lines. Their unit was called the "Thunderbird Brigade."

Native Americans have served with pride in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada and the Persian Gulf, as well as with many Reserve units across the country.

Too often my Native brothers and sisters have been stereotyped as sworn enemies of the Seventh Cavalry, indifferent misfits or radicals, with too little attention paid to the many contributions which we also have made to protect the independence of this country.

We have the same motivation as anyone else: to preserve our home and our heritage. And to work within the system so that one day, all people shall truly be treated equally.

The flag which I'll fly July Fourth looks like yours, except that it has a Native American on it. And in addition to your heroes, I'll honor mine: Teedyuschung, Taminendi, Queen Anne, Chief Joseph, Geronimo, Sitting Bull and Shikellamy. And Grandfather Jake Swamp, Dennis Banks, Fletcher Painted Turtle, Uncle Ray, who never came home, and Dad, who did.

By Grace R. Dove

## Library news

### Many kids join summer reading program

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library held its last meeting of the season on Monday, June 21 in the reference room at the library. The membership to date includes 215 members with \$1,965 collected in dues for the book shelf books. Members voted to purchase Mary Higgins Clark new book, "Till We Meet Again" with their excess funds, from the contingency fund.

The program included 'show and tell' items from June McCloskey, a tiny Oriental antique china doll which she had received from her grandmother; Inga Goldsmith showed a wood carved genuine chimney sweep from Denmark, which she is very fond of; Mary Panaway told of her daughter in England who belongs to the Bronte Society and called her very early one morning last week to tell her that her dog, Sophie, came in 2nd place in the look-alike contest to find the closest match to "Keeper", the Bronte mutt. She also received the most intelligent award.

The once a year meeting in Howarth of the Bronte Society is attended by people from all over the world. Elda Oleson told of her friend who was visiting in Maine on Cranberry Island and was attending an art exhibit and noticed the city of Dallas, Pa. on paintings. Excited to see the name of Sue Hand on the paintings, she exclaimed, 'I know someone from Dallas!' The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Monday, September 20.

"Together is Better...Let's Read!", the summer reading program, began at the library on Monday, June 21 with more than 100 children joining the first day. Many of the children have taken the opportunity to design a butterfly and place it on the childrens room window. The program is on-going through the summer until the final party in August. Children aged 4 through 12 may sign up for the program at any time and they will receive a special balloon and a reading schedule. The program is being supported by McDonald's Family Restaurants and developed by the American Library Association. Certificates will be awarded to participants who read 12 books by the party in August.

New Memory Books at the library: "Making The Turn", a year inside the PGA Senior Tour by Frank Beard was presented by Villa Roma Restaurant in memory of George Appel. From the first page, the author destroys the myth that the SeniorTour, for players 50 years of age and older, is more recreation than competition. It is competitive and cut-throat. James Beard's "Simple Foods" includes 40 cooking lessons by America's greatest cook. Loosely organized under headings, "Beard's Basics", "Preparing and Cooking A to Z", and "Holiday Specials" these essays cover a wide range of topics.

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## Only Yesterday

### 60 Years Ago - July 7, 1933 TROLLEY FARES TO VALLEY MAY GO DOWN

A committee from Shavertown Improvement Association has arranged with township supervisors for all those unable to pay their 1932 and previous years' personal taxes to work out their taxes on the roads. All eligible are requested to register at once.

Plans are now under formation by an interested group of citizens to secure reductions in trolley fare to Trucksville, Shavertown and Dallas through conferences with officials of Wilkes-Barre Railway Co. Spokesmen for the citizens contend that the company would secure more business and that more local persons would use the trolley instead of thumbing their way to and from Wilkes-Barre daily.

You could get - Corn Flakes pkg., 6¢; tin of Prince Albert Tobacco, 11¢; chocolate pudding, 3 pkgs., 19¢; Hellman's Mayonnaise, pint jar 33¢

### 50 Years Ago - July 2, 1943 BORO COMMITTEE TO DESIGN HONOR ROLL

Fire caused by defective wiring seriously damaged two classrooms and threatened destruction of Lake Township High School, Saturday afternoon. The Garinger and Lerch boys who were playing near the building were attracted by a peculiar copper tint of some of the classroom windows, notified Mrs. Ray Garinger who called the Daniel C. Roberts Fire Co.

Burgess H.A. Smith, general chairman of the Dallas Borough Honor Roll Association named a committee to assist in selecting the style best suited for the community, a place for its location and to raise funds to purchase and maintain the memorial during and after the war.

Harry Lee Smith, former advertising manager of *The Dallas Post* and now field director for American Red Cross has arrived in Africa with another group of Red Cross workers to augment the staff already there, in an announcement made public this week by National headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Combination Rodeo, square dance and greased pig race at the Lehman Horse Show grounds opens the 19th annual horse show. This outstanding social event is combining with the auction to make July Back Mountain Month.

### 40 Years Ago - July 3, 1953 DROUGHT HITS AREA: DON'T WATER LAWNS

Daytime sprinkling of lawns and flower gardens is banned until further notice according to an announcement by the PUC in Harrisburg. With a drought well underway, Les Warhola, manager of Dallas-Shavertown Water Co. urges that all consumers heed the warning.

Andrew J. Sordoni Jr., president of Commonwealth Telephone Company has announced the appointment of Myron S. Baker as Assistant Vice President and General Manager of the Company.

A pure bred registered heifer calf from Hill Top Farm herd at Sweet Valley has been donated by Alfred Bronson, Back Mountain Funeral Director to the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.

Dickens fans will be interested in knowing that a Royal Doulton plate depicting favorite characters from his works and a portrait of Charles Dickens will be offered at the Back Mountain Library Auction.

### 30 Years Ago - July 3, 1963 DEFUNCT NOXEN TANNERY TO BE SOLD

Armour Leather Company officials in Chicago, confirmed Monday that their Noxen tannery was under negotiations for sale and

expressed hope that sale would be concluded soon. Noxen tannery is Armour's only such plant closed and still unsold.

Tickets for the Auction Smorgasbord on the opening day of the Library Auction from 5-7 are available at Gate of Heaven parking grounds the night of the dinner. Adults \$1.50, children under 6 free.

"Hud" starring Paul Newman and Melvyn Douglas now playing at Dallas Family Drive-In.

### 20 Years Ago - July 5, 1973 FLOOD ANNIVERSARY HELD AT COLLEGE

Nearly 250 flood evacuees returned to the campus at College Misericordia on the anniversary of the evacuation of the West Bank of the Susquehanna during Hurricane Agnes. The evacuees were guests of Sr. Miriam Teresa, RSM, president and represented a portion of the nearly 1500 flood victims who stayed on the campus most of last summer.

Approval of an Appalachian Grant of \$538,395 to assist West Side Area Vocational-Technical School in Kingston in the expansion and notification of 11 shops was announced by Gov. Milton Shapp.

The three-day, 29th annual Lehman Horse Show ended July 1, a big success. Officials report the affair began with the best opening night in the long-running event's history and that trend continued throughout the show.

## Area resident appointed to PSU administrative staff

Ina Lubin, Director of Continuing Education at Penn State Wilkes-Barre has announced the appointment of Tricia Considine to the Administrative staff at the campus. Mrs. Considine will coordinate graduate credit offerings, several non-credit certificates, the Women's Conference and the Poetry Festival.

In addition, Mrs. Considine, who will continue to be an instructor in Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Summer Youth Camp previously taught for The Apple Tree Primary School and also served in a managerial role for two area day care centers. She and her husband, Jack have three children and reside in Dallas.



TRICIA CONSIDINE

Coming next week in The Dallas Post  
**47th Back Mountain Library Auction Special Section**  
On sale Wednesday, July 7

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