

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

PA, Back Mountain are recycling leaders

The state of Pennsylvania, not noted as a national leader in most ways, has an enviable record in at least one area—the use of recycled material and the promotion of recycling in its communities. And the Back Mountain is among the leaders within the state.

In a press release published in last week's *Post*, the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) pointed out that the three towns for which it administers trash and recyclables collection achieved a goal set for 1997 of having 25 percent of all household waste recyclable.

That figure was exceeded this past June, just two years after the trash and recycling plan was implemented. Two of the participating communities—Dallas and Kingston townships—were required by state law to institute recycling by September, 1991. The third, Dallas Borough, decided to join up because the program meant lower costs for the majority of its residents, and officials there suspected it would be only a matter of time before state mandates reached communities its size.

Statewide, more than 700 cities, towns and boroughs have recycling programs and state and local governments are actively promoting the purchase of products made from recycled material. In addition, the state is working to encourage the growth of industries that can turn old items into new ones—a critical shortage now that so much recycled material is available. The glut of some items is so huge that they have no value with the result that companies which pick up the stuff must pay to get rid of it instead of earning money that would offset pickup costs.

It is important that private industry see the potential in using recycled rather than virgin materials, and you can help. The more demand there is for products made from recyclables, the more attractive it will become for companies to invest in the plants and equipment that reclaim old cans, paper and plastics. Look for products that are made with recycled material, and purchase them when you can. That may take a little sacrifice on your part right now, as recycled items are frequently more expensive than new ones. But that is true mostly because the sales volume is relatively low, and economies of scale aren't being realized. When they are, prices will come down, recycling will become even more attractive, and trash service will cost less as haulers compete for contracts to pick up bags at our curbsides.

Publisher's notebook

We're proud of awards, and grateful

Things got a little heady in our office a couple of months ago, when we were notified that the staff of The Dallas Post had been recognized for excellence by the National Newspaper Association, of which the newspaper is a member. We weren't allowed to publicize the awards until this week, when they will be presented at the association's annual meeting in Cincinnati.

Editorial cartoonist Jim O'Connell won first place for the best original cartoon, competing with daily and weekly cartoonists of all sizes from throughout the United States. The *Post* also was voted the third best newspaper of its size in the nation.

While we're careful not to become overly excited when we win awards—or disappointed when we don't—these are particularly satisfying. The National Newspaper Association is composed of 4,159 member daily and weekly newspapers from all 50 states, ranging in size from *The Wall Street Journal* to tiny weeklies with only a couple of hundred subscribers. Established in 1885, it is the largest and oldest newspaper trade association in the nation. And, experience tells us that only the best papers spend the time and money to enter such a rigorous competition.

From the first time we saw Jim O'Connell's work, many of us have believed that his talent, wit and insight would eventually lead to major success as an editorial cartoonist. But the competition is tough, and few practitioners get a shot at the big time. We hope this award helps him in his quest.

The *Post's* third-place finish in general excellence is a feather in the cap of everyone who works here. All aspects of the newspaper are taken into account, from news coverage and headline writing to ad makeup. We are honored to be in the company of America's finest community newspapers.

Most of all, we are grateful to the readers and advertisers who make it possible to publish a newspaper we and the Back Mountain can be proud of. It is their support and inspiration that are the true honors for The Dallas Post.

Ron Bartizek

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

The Dallas Post

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

Ronald A. Bartizek
Editor and Publisher

Charlotte E. Bartizek
Associate Publisher

Peggy Young
Advertising Acct. Exec.

Grace R. Dove
Reporter

Paul Rismiller
Production Manager

Olga Kostrobala
Classified/typesetting

Jill Urbanas
Office Manager

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

PEACE
IN THE
MIDDLE EAST



J.W.J.

Housing, for those who don't need it

By J.W. JOHNSON

Longtime readers of this column may remember that its author finds Federal meddling in housing subsidies, construction, etc., to be a parasitical phenomenon at best.

And now the bleeding hearts who promote such programs are trying to force another one down our throats.

Or are they...because the latest such program is not one to help the poor.

Perpaps, it's to help the middle class?

The wealthy?

Or to help some politically positioned fat cat developer stuck with some houses, and who now needs a federal program into which the sale of said houses can be shoehorned?

Perhaps some and/or all of the above.

Several mortgage brokers have been complaining lately about the multitude of phone calls they've received following a press release announcing the following:

"Knoll Affordable Rural Housing Program"

Must all homes now be built on a hill?

Hardly. But there's about as much logic between requiring that houses be built on a knoll, and the Pennsylvania State Treasurer, Catherine Baker Knoll, sponsoring a housing program; more specifically, acting as the pass through agent for \$15 million from the federal Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA).

And so as not to bore you with the bureaucratic mush which explains the program, suffice it to say that the only two Pennsylvania counties which do not qualify for the program are Delaware and Philadelphia counties, making the program anything but rural.

Likewise, the question of affordability (read, taxpayer giveaway) is underscored when the program guidelines find that a family of four in Pennsylvania's wealthiest county (Montgomery) can make up to \$47,500 a year and still qualify for the program.

Putting it another way, and according to area mortgage bro-

kers, the only way for any one to qualify for this program is

a. Not to need a house in the first place

b. Find some fool builder who will build a house to all the specifications required, and then suddenly go insane and not charge you for the work.

c. Both of the above.

According to the brokers, in order to meet all the specifications for the program, a home would have to cost so much money that anyone wanting to buy such a home would:

a. Not be applying for the program in the first place.

b. Would likely far exceed the program's income guidelines

c. Both of the above.

And at least one broker believes that the only logical explanation for a program—for which there are not logical qualifiers—is that somewhere there is a large group of houses already built...already built, but which a developer has had difficulty selling.

a. That is, unless this developer could sell them under this program.

b. That is, unless this developer could sell them under this program to people who, because of the income levels permitted (\$33,800 for a family of four in Wayne County, for example), wouldn't otherwise qualify for the assistance in the first place.

The brokers also point out that even if some family would find a home that would meet the construction and inspection requirements, the closing costs under the program would total 9-10 percent of the home's purchase price. What family (in particular those who would need the 100 percent financing offered by this program) would also have the \$15,000 in closing costs...on the \$150,000 home that the construction and inspection requirements would dictate the home would have to cost?

And more to the point, why then should taxpayers be involved in a program to finance such housing? The FmHA didn't find that \$15 million under a rock.

And in the bigger picture, government involvement in housing and in subsidized housing in particular, is only an economically and socially immoral political bandaid for the problem. The entire notion of subsidized housing finds its proponents riding on a sightless white horse.

To wit, and while I believe I am my brother's keeper, not everyone is my brother. Put another way, subsidized housing has caused a conceptual destruction of 'doing it locally.' That destruction began with the notion that it was for the government to do, what in reality, was really a local responsibility. A local responsibility, for whatever reason, could not or would not be funded by local taxpayers, supported by local community groups, or guided by local schools and churches.

As that relates to the housing authority, we now have a federal agency telling us that everyone is **guaranteed** 'decent, safe and sanitary' housing. Our tax dollars are perloined to fund this notion.

From this chair, the sad history of public housing can be seen in derelict inner city projects, fraud and corruption in its management, confusing programs such as the one outlined above, and more to the point, a guarantee that with such projects our future holds more of the same.

Before the vote buying politicians and the now unaccountable bureaucracy became entrenched, the strength of this nation was always people coming together with different needs, while finding the best and brightest among us to fulfill those needs through rewards of the free enterprise system.

What we have with taking away local responsibility, and with collectivized housing specifically, is a grouping together of people who, with the same needs, really cannot help each other; consequently, another need is created...more tax dollars, and the continued employment of a bureaucracy and politicians which perpetrated this travesty upon a self-reliant America in the first place.

Library news

Free sundae with each new card issued

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

"Exciting September!" That is what the month of September 1993 is turning into. The Back Mountain Memorial Library is holding Library Card Sign-Up Month in conjunction with the American Library Association. The goal is to put a library card in every adult's billfold and in every youngster's backpack or pocket.

There is a special glossy greeting card sponsored by the American Library Association, The Walt Disney Company and the Back Mountain Memorial Library which features "Belle" who asks you to take the card to your local library and sign up for your card.

The card is filled out and presented to the librarian in charge of the information desk at the library. Belle advises that just as she does, children love adventure, excitement, visiting faraway places, and learning new things.

At the library, we can do all this and more! Please open the door to wonder and help your children sign up for a library card. It's small enough to fit in your wallet,

powerful enough to change your life...it's a library card and it's free!

The library will be giving out a free sundae coupon from McDonald's in Shavertown for everyone who signs up for a library card.

New books at the library: "The Red Horseman" by Stephen Coonts is a novel that shows the forces at work within a collapsed superpower which become the strands that are woven into this blockbuster novel. Greed, hatred, patriotism and blind ambition run riot in a society on the brink of chaos—ruled for centuries by terror, murder and naked force.

"Sugar Cane" by Connie May Flower is a true original, filled with life on every page. Set alternately amidst the sand dunes and palmettos of Florida's northeast Atlantic coast and the magical swamps and cane fields to the south; it is a tale about people learning to forgive the past so that they can step freely into the future. At touching story.

New videos received at the library: "Video Math & Verbal Review for Civil Service Exams" includes a two hour study guide. It is a valuable aid for test preparation.

"Attracting Birds to Your Backyard" with Roger Tory Peterson is a memorial presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henry in memory of Barbara Ann Mead. It includes a visit to his 'bird garden'.

"The Infinite Voyage" shows Voyager nicknamed 'the little spacecraft that could'. In 12 years, the two spacecraft traveled four billion miles and sent back delightful findings.

"Country Line Dancin'...made easy" is just what you're looking for if you like to dance, but don't always have a partner. You will learn the number one dance for the last eight years.

"Geronimo and the Apache Resistance" is a dramatic tale of this legendary medicine man, his people and their lifelong struggle to maintain ancestral lands, and brings it to life.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Sept. 22, 1933 COMPLAINTS HEARD ON WATER QUALITY

Formal complaints against the quantity and quality of water supplied to homes in Dallas will be presented to Public Service Commission at Harrisburg within the next few weeks by the Dallas Borough Taxpayers Association it was announced this week. Atty. Bert Lewis of Dallas has been appointed to prepare the petition. A committee headed by Vincent A. Shindal will carry out the plans to lodge the formal complaint.

Dedication of a plot of lots in Fern Knoll Burial Park which has been set aside for the interment of members of I.O.O.F. and their families will take place late this month if present plans are carried out.

You could get - Pure Vanilla Extract 15¢ bot.; Horseshoe salmon, 2 cans 31¢; Softasilk cake flour, 32¢ pkg.; sweet potatoes, 7 lbs., 19¢.

50 Years Ago - Sept. 17, 1943 NEW HIGHWAY, NOT RUNWAY IN PLANNING

Spiking rumors that an emergency runway for army bombers is being laid out on the Joe Parks farm in Idetown, Scranton District Office of the State Highway Department said that its engineers are making a preliminary study for a new highway between Hayfield Farm, on Rte. 115, and the Harveys Lake Highway.

Christmas gifts may be mailed by parcel post to Army men and women overseas only between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. After the latter date such parcels may not be mailed unless a written request from the soldier for the article is presented with each parcel.

40 Years Ago - Sept. 18, 1953 DALLAS BOROUGH TO BUY OLIVER BUILDING

Dallas Borough Council at a special meeting Wednesday at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Annex voted to accept the offer of Dallas Branch of Miners National to lend the borough \$25,000 at 3% interest for the purchase of Oliver Motors property on Main St. as a borough building. Council then passed a resolution to borrow only \$21,000 of this amount. The balance will be paid out of the borough's current revenues. Loan will be paid off in equal installments over a 10 year period.

More than 3600 students are enrolled in Back Mountain schools this fall. Largest enrollment is Dallas Borough-Kingston Twp. jointure with 1080. School showing largest gain is Gate of Heaven which has added an 8th grade and has a record first grade of 65, largest in its history.

You could get - Boneless chuck roast, 49¢ lb.; Australian lobster tails, 89¢ lb.; Virginia Lee Ice Cream, 1/2 gal. pkg. 98¢; cauliflower, lg. hd. 23¢.

30 Years Ago - Sept. 19, 1965 ORAL POLIO VACCINE DRAWS A CROWD

Residents flocked upon the Polio Stations Sunday beginning at noon and continuing to 6 p.m., probably the most smoothly organized effort against disease that the Back Mountain has ever witnessed. Ushered through the front door, pausing for a moment to register at a table manned by a battery of clerks on to a table with sugar, on again to pick up a certificate on to another to deposit 25¢ and out into the free air.

Back Mountain Library Book Club members were enthralled with Rev. George Deisher's talk on birds and wildflowers Monday in the Library Annex inaugurating the Book Club's new season.

Lake-Lehman opened its football season with a 24-14 victory over Nescopeck. Dallas opens in a non-conference game Friday night under lights against Plymouth at Huber Stadium where Coach Eddie Brominski was formerly a grid mentor.

20 Years Ago - Sept. 20, 1973 DR. EUGENE FARLEY, DIES AT HIS FARM

Dr. Eugene Farley, 74, died of a heart attack at his Beaumont farm Monday. He was best known as the 24-year president of Wilkes College. For 10 years prior to that he served as president of the Wilkes-Barre educational institution when it was known as Bucknell Junior College.

Kingston Township Board of Supervisors voted to hire Wilbur Smith Consulting Engineering Co. to rewrite the present zoning ordinance and submit a township building code. Cost of proposed project will be \$12,300 which will be paid through the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund.

Contributions welcome: The Dallas Post welcomes submission of opinion columns and letters to the editor. Send them to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612