

Publisher's notebook

Think about this before you shop

As the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season arrives, it's a good time to think about the impact our spending has on our community and the friends and neighbors who provide products and services.

The next few weeks are make-or-break time for many retail stores, as the volume of business and attending profit or lack of it will determine whether or not they'll be around next year. In some categories, such as jewelry and gift items, the holidays can account for as much as 40 percent of the year's sales, and more of the profit. Others aren't so dependent on holiday spending, but all local stores and services have one thing in common; they must compete with an increasing number of large competitors who can use the profits earned elsewhere to carve out a base of customers here. Since population and incomes aren't rising much, at least some of their business will come at the expense of existing stores.

More often than not, the new stores aren't located in the Back Mountain and they certainly aren't headquartered anywhere near here. The most recent example—but far from the only one—is the

Mall at Steamtown, which contains some shops that haven't before been seen here. To be sure, that novelty adds interest to visiting the new mall, and in a few cases the products they offer are truly unique.

But before you make a withdrawal from the savings account and head out of town, think about the advantages of shopping locally. When you spend money in a store near home, chances are it employs people who live here. In many cases, the shop is owned by someone who lives in your community, or one nearby. That means the taxes collected on their income and property supports your school district and municipality. Your patronage allows the store's owner to maintain his or her building, keeping up the attractiveness of your town. That's of no small importance in supporting the value of your own home and property.

But shopping at home isn't a call for charity. No matter where you buy things, you should expect quality and service second-to-none. And that's what you're more likely to get when you visit a store where the owner is never far away, and often is the person waiting on you. Gift wrapping?

It's probably free. Bought the wrong item? Return it for exchange to someone who understands that a happy customer is more than just a number on a credit card. Can't get to the store? Someone will drop it off on the way home. Try that one with a big chain.

That's not to say we should swear off the mall and cancel all the catalogs. In our affluent society, shopping has become as much adventure as necessity, and you can be certain shop owners themselves make an occasional foray into unfamiliar territory. And the new-found competition isn't without benefit to buyers, reminding every business person they can't take customers for granted.

But remember, before you point the car out of town, give our local stores a fair chance at your business. If they don't have what you want, tell them so, and maybe they'll get it. If you need a particular size or color, why not order it locally instead of traipsing around wasting time and gasoline. More important, you'll be trading with the people who share your love for your town, and who have cast their lot with you—the neighbors who they believe will support local businesses and institutions.

Ron Bartizek

FRANKLIN TWP. BUDGET

Item	1993	1994	% Chg.
Total budget	214,995	201,376	-6.3%
Property tax income*	29,400	28,200	-4.1%
Number of taxables	976	989	1.3%
Millage rate	8	8	---
Average cost	30	29	-3.3%

*Budgeted amounts don't match property taxes collected because not all taxes are paid on time.

Dallas High presents play November 24

Dallas High School will present its Fall play "I Remember Mama" by John van Druten, Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

One of the most heart-warming studies of American family life, the play shows how Mama and her husband bring up the children during the early years of this century. Mama's sisters and Uncle Chris furnish a rich background for a great deal of comedy, while the children manage to keep everybody in pleasant turmoil.

The play is a perfect introduction to the Thanksgiving Season. Tickets are available at the door.

This warm comedy is being directed and staged by Don Hopkins, assisted by Audrey Ide. They and the student staff, stage manager, Laura Seidel, lighting chief, Steve Miknevich, art and design chief, Lynn Murphy and prop crew chief, Julie Miers and their crews have created a setting designed to take you back to San Francisco in 1910, where the action of the play takes place.

Franklin Twp. to spend less

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Franklin Township residents will enjoy another year with no property tax increase if the supervisors pass the preliminary eight-mill \$240,215 budget.

The township expects to begin the year \$47,741 in the black, with anticipated general fund revenues of \$201,376 and \$38,838 anticipated to come from the state Liquid Fuels Tax fund.

The secretary/treasurer's expenses, including salary, capital purchases, office expenses and

machines, is expected to increase \$4,000, or 27 percent, to \$14,650. The secretary/treasurer's salary will increase \$1,600, or 21 percent, to \$7,600 next year. The other major expenditure in this category is the purchase of a computer setup and desk for \$5,000.

Insurance and contributions to the Franklin Township Fire Company will remain at \$7,500, while insurance and contributions to the Franklin-Northmoreland Ambulance will increase \$700, to \$2,700.

Library news

Model trains make whistle stop at library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring a collection of HO size trains borrowed from Hume Ross of Dallas. Hume is 9 years old and in fourth grade at Dallas Elementary School. He has been collecting trains since he was 5 years old. He often rode into New York on Amtrak when he lived in New Jersey and his father commuted to New York City every day. He was taken around the train station most days in his stroller when he was quite young. This is where his initial interest was born and why he has continued to like trains. He got used to seeing trains of all sorts and everything involved with trains at the station.

His grandfather was always very interested in trains; the rest is history; hence, his collection began. Most of the cars on display have been built from kits with his grandfather and his father helping. He built one completely by

himself; the Sterling Salt, painted light green, ACMX International Salt Co. car. The only cars in the display not made from kits are the engines.

There is a double red National on a long blue and silver Baltimore and Ohio train; E.I. DuPont, silver and black; Union Pacific tank car; General American refrigerator express (modern milk transport); New York Central System refrigerator car; an Erie Lackawanna cushioned car and a Conrail engine. Included in the display and on top are many books about trains and their history. This is an interesting display and it will be at the library until December 15.

New books at the library: "Gone But Not Forgotten" by Phillip Margolin is a complex, utterly compelling, and brilliantly executed novel that truly lives up to its extraordinary praise; once begun it simply cannot be put down. The wives of several prominent businessmen have disappeared without a trace, leaving

only a black rose and a note with a simple message: "Gone. But Not Forgotten." A "rose killer" task force is put into action.

"The Hope" by Herman Wouk is a historical novel which captures the human drama of landmark world events. This author's return to historical fiction is one of the most thrilling stories of our time—the saga of Israel. The reader is plunged into the major battles, the disasters, and victories, and the fragile periods of peace from the 1948 War of Independence to the astounding triumph of the Six-Day War in 1967. This is a tale of hope for all mankind.

"Adam's Fall" by Sandra Brown is a deliciously sensual novel of a woman torn between her duty and her heart. Over the past few years Lilah Mason has watched her sister find love, get married, and have children, while she's been more than content to channel her energies into her career. Lilah takes on a new case; her patient's life and hers is completely transformed.

As I was saying...

A tribute to baseball great Satchel Paige

By JACK HILSHER

Now that the Series is over I have to tell you that I am not a baseball fan. Too slow and too much expectorating. Having said that, of all things our subject today is a black baseball player. Soon you'll see why.

His name is Satchel Paige. I don't know where the first name came from, but Satchel was a true legend, and arguably one of the greatest pitchers of all time. During his games in the Negro league (for most of his career he wasn't allowed to play in any other league) he won over 2000 games. And as a rookie in 1948 (when he was 42) he threw a 3-hit shutout for the Monarchs in Kansas City and the park was packed from then on.

Paige's fame was based on more than his pitching ability. He was known for being late and running red lights but he was not a clown.

When racial barriers were heard from a major league all-star team he was playing at an exhibition, he called in his outfield while he proceeded to strike all the opposing batters out. Later he fanned the great Rogers Hornsby five times.

Paige pitched against Dizzy Dean and won 1-0. At one time his numbers in the Negro league were 75 wins and 30 losses. After baseball's integration, beginning with Jackie Robinson, Paige was allowed in the majors and had three shutout innings when he was 59! Toward the end of his career he pitched two or three innings in every game to satisfy crowds, rather than rotating to his regular place in line.

When finally allowed in the majors Paige pitched 178 games, "retiring" in 1953. But he kept pitching and in 1965 he was signed by the Kansas City A's as a public-

ity stunt. They started him against the Boston Red Sox, and at the age of anything between 60 and 70 (who knows?) Satchel Paige allowed no runs in three innings and only one hit.

The above was all just background for the classic treat you are about to enjoy. Here, just as Satchel Paige set them down, are his famous 'SIX RULES FOR STAYING YOUNG':

1. Avoid fried meats, which angry up the blood.
2. If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.
3. Keep the juices flowing by jangling around gently as you move.
4. Go very lightly on the vices, such as carrying on in society.
5. Avoid running at all times.
6. Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.

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SKI TIP #6
by Sean O'Shea

Q. What is stone ground ski tune-up?
A. A properly tuned ski turns more easily, glides better and holds on ice better. In a tune-up the edges are sharpened, gouges in the base are filled and the skis are hot waxed. Stone grinding insures that the base is truly flat and only removes a minimal amount of material.

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