

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Local businesses put on the spot by storms

Snow has many fine and useful qualities. Its cover keeps frost from settling too deeply underground. It protects seeds against freezing too hard. It provides a wonderful surface for sliding and skiing. A snow-covered field or mountain is a treat for the eyes. Finally, when it melts, snow is converted into moisture that nourishes the flowers and fruits of springtime. You may vaguely recall that season of the year, when the sun shines and nothing solid falls from the sky.

According to the official figures kept by the National Weather Service at the airport, this winter is a few inches shy of setting an all-time snowfall record. Their figures, however, are puny compared to what has fallen in the Back Mountain. When the airport registers six inches of snow, we get a foot; just ask the folks who plow it off the roads.

For most people, snow is a massive inconvenience, but not much more. For others, it is a disaster. This is particularly true for businesses and stores which have suffered mightily from the lost income of this winter. The post-holiday to spring season is a slow time for many businesses, but this year has surely been the quietest of all. And, as anyone in business knows, lost sales are seldom recovered. Add increased expenses for snow clearing, heat and repairs to lowered revenue and you have an equation for severe financial pain.

The miserable weather may make shopping by catalog appear even more tempting than usual. But please try to avoid sending your purchase dollars out of the area, even if it's a bit less comfortable to wait for the roads to clear or the temperatures to climb. You see, local stores provide more than a place to shop; they're the source of jobs and income that support all the services we expect in our communities, not to mention the training ground where many young people get their first taste of life beyond school and home.

Shopping locally may seem an outdated, perhaps parochial concept, but it really makes a lot of sense. The money you spend at a local store or shop is multiplied many times over in the local economy, and this year it can really make a difference.

Publisher's notebook

There were no winners at the conclusion of the trial of 11 former members of the Branch Davidian sect last week. While some of them were found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, that is precious little consolation to the families of the federal officers killed in the attack on the compound in Waco. Surviving cult members were quoted saying their acquittal on murder charges was a victory against a tyrannical government. This, from people who blindly followed a real tyrant nearly to their death. The whole affair was bungled, but it's hard to sympathize with someone who chose to put themselves so at odds with a government that is perhaps too tolerant of violent dissenters.

It was remarkable to see the sun shining brightly as the snowfall ended last Thursday afternoon. The temperature was about 40°, and the snow began to melt almost immediately. That's what can happen this time of year, as the sun's rays become more intense. Our office has a bay window on the west side, and some afternoons the snowmelt makes a steady drumming sound as it rushes onto the tin roof over the window alcove. Our building has come through this awful winter in fine shape...so far.

School districts are trying to figure out how to complete the required 180 day/900 hour school year before June 30. State laws mandate the total instruction time and the final school day. But the state also prohibits Saturday classes, longer school days and other measures that could make up for the time lost because of cancellations and delays. It seems senseless to hold high school seniors hostage to these rigid rules and they could easily be let out sooner than the rest of the students. Everyone else ought to complete their required classroom time, and the state should relax the rules that might prevent them from doing so.

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. The Post does not publish anonymous letters but will consider withholding the name when appropriate. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar, but will call if we think editing might change the meaning.

The Dallas Post

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

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AND THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION

DOWN the RIVER & UP the CREEK

LEWIS & CLARK BROUGHT TO LIFE!

A MUSICAL PERFORMED BY DALLAS PARENTS, TEACHERS & FRIENDS

MARCH 11th & 12th 7:30 PM
DALLAS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Guest column

If we want to change American schools, we must first change many students' attitudes

By JOHN DZURY

Education is the key to success. It's something that should be taught in schools, but it's mostly not. The numbers clearly show it. The United States' public schools are #1 in the following categories: dropouts, reading problems, gangs, violent crime in schools, drugs, teenage pregnancy and peer pressure.

Politicians say they know all the answers - raise taxes and give the money to the schools. I say cut taxes and teach the students they are responsible for their own actions. Teachers should teach students who want to succeed in life that they must: attend school every day, do their homework and study all the time.

The C.A.T. tests over the past

three decades show a steady decline in test scores, starting with the teenage Vietnam generation to today's MTV generation. The biggest distraction to today's teenagers is television and video tapes. Studies have shown that teenagers watch from 30 to 40 hours of TV per week. Just picture if the teenagers would study their school books 30-40 hours per week. The education system would improve dramatically.

If you go back in history and look at Abraham Lincoln's life you see he was self-taught. When he was a teenager he worked on a farm all day and studied heavy at night. This helped him to become the best president of all time.

The biggest mistake was taking religion out of public schools. There are a lot of kids in the

schools who can't handle the peer pressure of today. Just look at all teenage suicides, alcohol and drug problems, and the kids who bring weapons to school.

Many years ago school lavatories were used for their purpose. Today they are filled with drug users and heavy smokers.

The students are the reason why the education system is the way it is today. It's not the teachers, school books or tests. The students must change their behavior. They must value education over TV, movies, sports, music and parties. If they don't, the education level will continue downward.

John Dzury, 23, lives in Shavertown. He is a 1988 graduate of Dallas High School.

As I was saying...

Remembering columnist Dorothy Kilgallen

By JACK HILSHER

Forty-four years ago this month a new kind of game show appeared on CBS television called "What's My Line." Although it left the network in '67, syndicated sales ever since have been showing up over five times a week. In fact, somewhere out in the sticks it may even be appearing right now.

Its premise was simple...a series of anonymous guests faced a panel of celebrities who, through questions and a moderator (John Daly) attempted to make a guest's occupation, which was usually rather odd, like an animal grave-digger, or a pigeon trainer. These seldom were plain painters or plumbers.

There was also a "mystery guest" who "signed in" on a blackboard while the panel was blindfolded. These guests were as diverse as Jack Benny and Eleanor Roosevelt, and, to prove the awesome power of national TV, within a short time after Colonel Sanders appeared as a mystery guest his Kentucky Fried franchises mushroomed all over the country.

Panelists were seldom changed. Regulars were Bennett Cerf, publisher; Arlene Francis, actress; Fred Allen, humorist; and our favorite enigma, Miss Dorothy Kilgallen, Broadway columnist.

To a regular viewer of What's My Line it was obvious that three of the panelists were merely killing time, perhaps on the way to a party or late supper, but not Dorothy. She played every game to win, and the show revolved around her and her sharp questions. Even without the show's exposure, Kilgallen was a household name and her column with at least 20 million readers the most widely read in the country. Actually, her "Voice of Broadway" was a copy of Walter Winchell's, even to the use of three dots between items. In her gushy style, people never married, they "waltzed down the aisle" and couples who were expecting were "knitting tiny garments."

Dorothy wore white gloves, always, with every outfit, and that seemed somehow symbolic of her personal life - up to a point! You never swore or told an off-color story in front of Dorothy. If you did, you got an icy stare and were

ignored.

So what happened to her at 44 (same age as What's My Line!) is completely inexplicable. She broke up her marriage to producer Dick Kolmar to have a fling (hardly the right word) with singer Johnnie Ray.

Ray, 29, was an ex-farm boy...noisy, uncouth and becoming a problem drinker. His idea of dinner was to open a can of spaghetti and eat it right out of the can.

Almost totally deaf, he wore a hearing aid constantly, even during the frenzied contortions of his act when he always sang the same two numbers - "Cry" and "The Little White Cloud That Cried." He cried too, during his act. (You had to see it to believe it.)

A friend once told Ray, who had said he wanted to be an actor, that then he ought to see Peter Pan, playing at the Winter Garden. "I don't know," Johnnie replied, "I've never liked Shakespeare a whole lot."

That was the "crush" of Kilgallen's life. I must say it completely killed any crush I might have had on her.

Library news

Help the library by doing the Achey Breaky

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club will hold its first meeting of 1994 on Monday, March 21 at 1:30 in the reference room. The program will be a preview of new books recently read by members and some show and tell items. The meeting is open to all Book Club members and is usually concluded by 3 p.m. Refreshments are served by the committee members. Members of the community are invited to attend as guests. Book Club dues for 1994 are now due. \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a double membership. These funds are used to purchase the books for the Book Club shelf.

The Pennies for Periodicals project has concluded and the results of the contest held to guess the number of pennies and other money in the green bottle will be announced soon. Prizes for the top three closest to the correct

amount will be awarded.

The Western Line Dancing Lessons being held at the Dallas Elementary School will be continued until April. The lessons have been well attended; but, due to this winter, many of the sessions have been cancelled. The cost is \$3 per lesson and all proceeds benefit the library. The exact final date will be announced in the near future.

New books at the library: "Sarajevo" is a war journal written by Zlatko Dizdarevic. It is the winner of the International Prize from reporters without borders. The whole world has been watching the cruel and seemingly senseless bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina since April 1992. What has the war been like for those who have lived through it and what is it like to survive a war that has murdered 150,000 of your neighbors and loved ones? This is the story of the first account of the war by a Bosnian to

appear in English. The book describes a life in which unspeakable horrors are daily occurrences. Will the world go beyond passively watching as Sarajevo is destroyed? The book raises uncomfortable questions.

"Murdering Mr. Monti" by Judith Viorst is a merry little tale of sex and violence. This is a romp—the comic, over-the-top story of Brenda Kowner, a middle-aged, middle-class married woman who tells us, in the first paragraph and in the first person, "I am planning to kill Mr. Monti because he is doing harm to my family". Murder, mayhem, and motherhood are hilariously woven together in this novel. Brenda is a syndicated newspaper columnist, compulsive advice-giver, and possessor of what she liked to call "a profound grasp of the human condition". She lives in Washington, DC with her pediatric-surgeon husband Jake.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - March 16, 1934
WARM WEATHER THAWS WATER LINES

Although epidemics of contagious diseases which threatened to develop earlier in the year have been checked and the present number of quarantines is low, Harveys Lake district health officer advises parents to guard against an outbreak of measles which is likely to start this spring.

Slowly rising temps this week thawed many of the water lines which have been frozen for the last several weeks and brought welcome relief to hundreds of home-owners throughout this section who have been suffering from the inconvenience of the water famine.

You could get - Bread, 20-oz. loaf 9¢; Bisquick, lg. pkg., 35¢; peaches, 2 lg. cans 35¢; rib roast, 17¢ lb.; stewing lamb, 2 lbs., 15¢.

50 Years Ago - March 10, 1944
GIRL SCOUTS COLLECT OLD RECORDS

Girl Scouts of the Dallas District are collecting old victrola records. Anyone having old records they wish to donate contact Mrs. Stanley Davies, Dallas 152, and a girl will call for them.

Ninety two year old Mrs. Emma DeWitt celebrated her 22nd birthday anniversary in Centermoreland, Tuesday. Since she was born in leap year she has them once every four years.

Dallas Borough High School basketball team captured the Back Mountain pennant in a play-off game with Dallas Township with a score of 72-37.

Now playing, "Wintertime" with Sonja Henie and Jack Oakie at the Shaver Theatre.

40 Years Ago - March 12, 1954
BORO PLANS DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT

Petitions are out for Senator Newell Wood of Harveys Lake who will seek reelection for a third term in the State Senate without Republican organization support.

Dallas Branch of Miners National Bank and Dallas Borough Council are cooperating in a plan to make Dallas a better and more convenient shopping center by the construction of a public parking lot that will accommodate 75 to 100 cars at the rear of the new Borough Building convenient to all Main Street stores.

As near as can be determined from two assessment records and other sources for the period between 1950-54, 193 new homes were built in Dallas Township. During the same four year period, 133 new homes were built in Kingston Township. Dallas Borough had 110 new homes and Lehman Township, which includes Oak Hill and Keystone Homes developments at Idetown, 150 new homes.

30 Years Ago - March 12, 1964
DALLAS RESIDENT IS IN TIME MAGAZINE

Dallas Senior High School will be evaluated March 17, 18 and 19, it was disclosed at a meeting of Dallas School Board Tuesday night. Accreditation is given if all requirements are approved by the examining committee. The last evaluation took place 10 years ago.

Former Shavertown resident who now resides in Dallas, Texas Atty. James A. Martin III, appeared in the Feb. 29 edition of Time Magazine. Atty. Martin was called for jury duty in the Jack Ruby trial but was excused the next day by his own request.

A Back Mountain Lake-Lehman wrestling champion took the crown in the 154 lb. class at Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Tournament at Williamsport Senior High School. Jack Sorber, took the honors for this area and was one of four District 2 champions to take first.

You could get - Boneless chuck roast, 57¢ lb.; whole chickens, 24¢ lb.; grapefruit, 6/49¢; noodles, 2 12-oz. pkgs. 49¢.

20 Years Ago - March 14, 1974
RAIN WASHES OUT K.T. HOME'S FOUNDATION

Harveys Lake Borough representatives will go to Harrisburg to see if any state aid has been overlooked in the effort to fund the lake's recently begun sewer project.

Bob Stanton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stanton, RD, Dallas took 3rd place in the World Series of Snowmobiles at Eagle River, Wis. The win ranks him #1 in the Eastern U.S. Division of the U.S.S.A. in Stock Class A.

Large sections of the foundation wall of the Howard Kile home on Carverton Road, Trucksville collapsed inward Saturday morning. The Feb. 28 Dallas Post issue told of the Kile's concern with water that accumulates each time it rains.