

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Job 1: Replace Native Textiles

When Native Textiles moves its last few jobs to Glens Falls, New York sometime in the next year, it will leave behind more than an empty building. Nearly 50 years of hopes, dreams and financial security for hundreds of families were tied to the plant's prospects, both directly to employees and indirectly to the stores and services that benefitted from the company's payroll and involvement in the community. For the rest of us, there is no more important task than replacing the lost jobs and tax base, and perhaps even improving upon it.

It's not uncommon that a large employer looks for ways to maintain an existing facility before making the decision to pull out. They often seek tax or wage reductions, or demand greater efficiency. That apparently wasn't the case this time, as the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, to which Native belonged, was as surprised by the company's announcement as the people who work at the plant. If the parent company's reasons for the relocation are to be believed, there wasn't much that could have been done to keep the jobs here.

The local work is to be consolidated with two plants in the Glens Falls area, where living costs and wage scales are not that different from here. To its credit, the company announced its plans far in advance of implementation, though that's small consolation to those who will lose their jobs or face the difficult choice of whether to leave their hometowns to move with the company.

The Back Mountain may have been the wrong place for Native Textiles in 1994, but it's surely a great spot to put a business. We can offer a new employer many good reasons to move into the mill, among them a seasoned work force, reasonable living costs, easy highway access to major population centers, four seasons of recreation, good schools and many more. We also have a great group of people willing to do whatever is necessary to replace the \$2 million payroll that will vanish in the next year. They are the members of the Back Mountain Citizens' Council and the Back Mountain Business & Professional Association. Their efforts and those of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce will boost the already good odds that the plant won't long stand empty.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



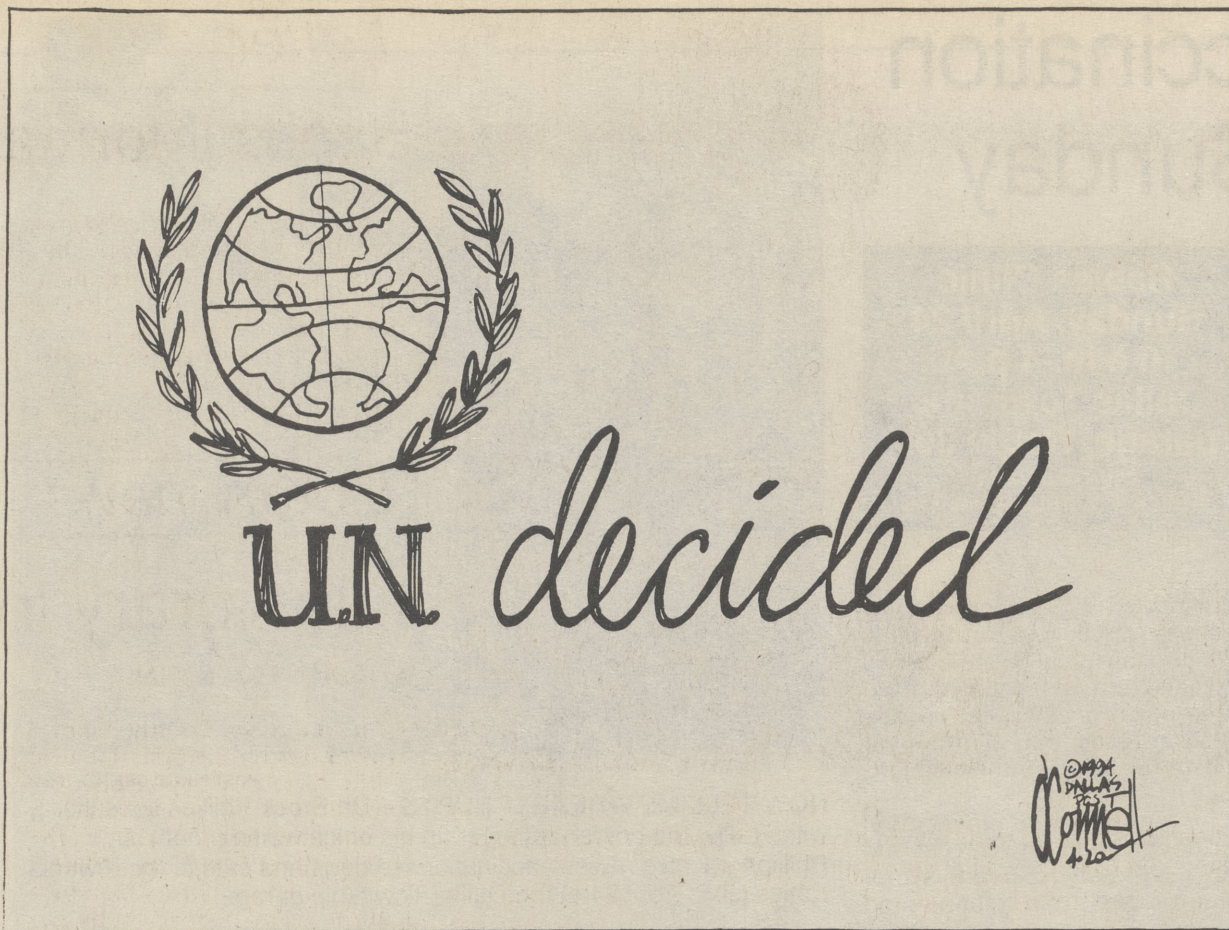
On the way to pick up my daughter at her friend's house the other day, I was driving on Sutton Road and saw a fallen tree limb blocking half the roadway at the crest of a small hill. It was still there when we were on the way home, so I stopped and dragged it off the road. I don't know how long it was there; perhaps a few minutes or a few hours, but I wondered why no one had bothered to remove it. Because it blocked only half the road, everyone had driven around it, even though its location on the hill crest made that move somewhat dangerous if an unseen car had been coming the opposite way. Then it struck me. They all were waiting for someone else to remove the obstruction. Perhaps they figured their responsibility had been fulfilled with the last tax payment, and it was the town's job. Maybe they thought the nearest property owner was responsible. And besides, if they made it safely around the branch, what did they care about the next driver? This small incident was another reminder of the decline in personal responsibility that seems endemic in our society.

A well-known radio loudmouth has referred many times to *The Dallas Post* as "teacher lovers." Apparently, in his mind (?) anyone who doesn't thoughtlessly bash teachers can only be the exact opposite of a teacher hater. I doubt that Bill Wagner, the head of the Dallas Education Association, would count *The Post* among his union's supporters, but I think he knows we've tried to be fair and accurate, two qualities that some talk-show hosts hold in contempt.

I wonder if the folks who are relentless in their criticism of teachers realize the message they're sending to students. Encouraging youngsters to think of their teachers only as greedy incompetents weakens our already tenuous educational system.

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.



J.W.J.

Let's put our money where our future is

By J.W. JOHNSON

Earth Day—1994. It will be observed Friday, April 22. And you would have had to have been living in a plastic soda bottle not to have at least heard of it. But what is Earth Day?

As issues of collective importance often are first raised by extremists on either side of the political spectrum, Earth Day was first observed in 1970. The event was launched by radical, left-wing activists out to emasculate corporate America—the making of profit seen then by those extremists to be equally as sinful as spoiling the environment in the process.

What Earth Day has evolved into some 24 years later is an observance which will now be marked by hundreds of millions of people in 150 different countries. The radicals are still out front leading the charge; thankfully, those closer to the middle of the spectrum have chosen to at least hear the message and act upon it. The message is:

There is only one Mother Earth, and we, its caretakers, have not only raped the woman, but have attempted to poison her food and water with toxic wastes, strangle her with foul air, and suffocate her under mountains of garbage.

On the other hand, it seems that corporate America has finally (and because it is not only socially conscious, but it will also become profitable) jumped on the envi-

ronmental bandwagon. Almost daily I now see T.V. and magazine ads touting environmental awareness by this or that corporation. It would behoove those corporations to move beyond the public relations effort as it is now not only the radicals who are screaming about the environment, but the so-called silent majority are at least acknowledging individual responsibility for environmental awareness.

There is growing number of area residents who, and because they now participate in recycling programs as a matter of course, by those actions are demonstrating an understanding that the throw-away lifestyle must be changed.

Not that there is universal agreement with all the issues still being promoted by the extremists; for example, some see nuclear power as an enemy. Agreed, nuclear power and its attendant toxic wastes are frightening. But what are the alternatives in a society which values its individual liberties over its collective concerns. The world's supply of oil is limited and coal production will never be able to keep up with demand. Unless we go to collective housing (as opposed to single-family homes) on a large scale, the alternative energy sources of solar, wind, geo-thermal or tides are just not financially feasible unless approached collectively.

For those who haven't been

living in a plastic soda bottle, you also must have noticed that many politicians have run up the environmental flag of late. There are a few with long-standing beliefs, i.e., our Governor Robert Casey, and Wayne County Commissioner, Tony Herzog, to name just two.

Although I often disagree with our governor, it was he who in 1970 called for the creation of a state agency for conservation and environment, which agency later became the state Department of Environmental Resources. The DER isn't one of my favorite state agencies, primarily because it attempts to find one-size-that-fits-all solutions to environmental questions. But do we need the DER? You bet we do.

How are we going to pay for taking the necessary action now that we've become environmentally aware? According to public information distributed by Congressman Joseph McDade, nearly \$1 billion is spent by the military in northeast Pennsylvania alone, with \$280 billion earmarked for the entire military budget this year.

Perhaps now, as the world begins to see the folly of the military/industrial complex, we can begin to enjoy some peace dividends. And one of the first beneficiaries should be putting those dollars not spent on the military where our environmental mouths are, and should be.

As I was saying...

Lionel Hampton: a true master of jazz

By JACK HILSHER

Jazz great Lionel Hampton at 85 (!!) averages several appearances each month, plus college seminars, low-income housing work, benefits, festivals and campaigning for his favorite politicians - Republican of course. He's had several White House receptions, dozens of honorary degrees and has toured Europe, Japan, Australia, Africa and the Middle East, playing to packed houses everywhere. He also appeared as soloist at London's Royal Festival Hall.

His performances tend to be as sensational as his career: hot mallets flashing, rapid two-fingered piano breaks and frantic drum rolls using four sticks at once. It's all pure showmanship, only one aspect of this multi-talented jazzman.

Underneath however, is a quiet, more reflective Hampton. The one who, on his favorite instrument the vibraphone, can take a simple, almost banal ballad like "Moonglow" and elevate it to classic status with his treatment.

Once having heard his version, it cannot ever be forgotten.

Sometimes called vibraharp (or vibes for short) the vibraphone was invented in 1920, looks like a xylophone but works differently. Its vibrato is produced by rotating fans on the ends of "resonator" tubes....in other words, it must be plugged in to play while a xylophone does not.

In the 20s vibraphones were only used for chime notes at intermissions on the radio (like NBC's "Bing-Bang-Bong"). One was in a studio where Hampton was recording with Louis Armstrong. Louie asked if Hamp could play the strange new instrument, and since the keyboards looked the same, Hampton took a chance and said yes.

They dragged it out, plugged it in, and Hampton played an Armstrong solo from memory, note for note. Armstrong flipped, insisted on recording it. The song - Eubie Blake's "Memories of You" - was the first time a vibraphone was used to play jazz, but far from last. A discography in his autobi-

ography (HAMP) lists over 100 pages of his subsequent recordings, possible something of a record for records!

From '36 to '40 Hampton and vibraphone appeared regularly with the Benny Goodman Quartet, then formed his own band which has been highly successful ever since.

Hamp says that he "keeps contemporary." He boasts that his concerts feature the latest pop songs as well as the old stuff. "It's all jazz," he says. "From ragtime to Dixie to swing to bebop to cool. Whatever you hear today is gone tomorrow, but it's always jazz. You can put a new dress on her but she's still the same old broad."

Retire? Never! Marshall Royal, the great altoist and long-time Hampton friend, said, "Lionel will topple off the bandstand one night, probably during a chorus of "Flying Home," and they will say, well, that's the way he wanted to go out."

Can you think of a better way for him?

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - April 27, 1934 FIRE DESTROYS J.R. DAVIS SUMMER HOME

The financial problems of Dallas Borough School District will be explained and discussed at a meeting of Borough Taxpayers Association in the high school tonight. The necessity for prompt action to relieve the financial pressure on the district will be stressed.

The second local showplace to be destroyed by fire in several months was when the summer home of Jonathan R. Davis, at Idetown burned to the ground. Fire is believed to have been started by a person who forced entry into the home.

Married on April 23, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. James Ide marked their Golden Wedding anniversary on Sunday.

50 Years Ago - April 24, 1944 SGT. RODERICK KILLED IN ACTION IN ITALY

Dallas Borough boys and girls will present their first minstrel show under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher Association in the high school at 7:30 this evening. Joseph LeGrand will act as M.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer D. Roderick of Centermoreland received a telegram notifying them that their son, T/Sgt. Robert M. Roderick was killed in action on the Anzio Beach in Italy on March 1.

You could get - Smoked bacon, 31¢ lb. ground hamburger, 25¢ lb. asparagus, 17¢ lb.; new potatoes, 5 lbs., 29¢; lettuce, 10¢ hd.

40 Years Ago - April 23, 1954 FOREST FIRE BURNS 5 ACRES NEAR HILLSIDE

William Harlos, fire tower operator at the Harvey tower above Irem Country Club reports that at 1 p.m. Wednesday a forest fire which burned 5 acres on the mountain above Hillside was under control.

Lehman Volunteer Fire Co. has received tentative bids for the construction of a 40 x 60 foot addition to the present building in Lehman. The addition is planned to serve as a Community Center with ample room for community meetings, dinners, and recreational activities.

Blood Donor Day is scheduled for Friday, noon to 6 p.m. at Dallas Borough School. The goal is 125 pints. St., Therese's, Gate of Heaven and Our Lady of Victory parishes are cooperating 100% to make this drive a success. Minister of Protestant churches are also urging their membership to give.

30 Years Ago - April 23, 1964 AREA KIDS TO ATTEND SPECIAL CONCERT

Tickets for the Library Auction Kick-off Smorgasbord Dinner may be obtained at *The Dallas Post* and Back Mountain Memorial Library as well as through members of local service clubs cooperating in the dinner, May 7 at Irem Temple Country Club. Lee Vincent's combo will play.

The annual special Children's Concert for 5th and 6th grade students will be presented Saturday by the Wilkes-Barre Philharmonic Orchestra at Irem Temple. There is no charge for admission thanks to the grant from the Recording Industries of the American Federation of Musicians Local 140.

You could get - Turkeys, 5-9 lb. average, 36¢ lb.; strawberries, pint basket, 39¢; Jane Park Jelly Roll, 29¢ ea.; Betty Crocker cake mixes, 3 pkgs., 95¢; cucumbers, 4/29¢

20 Years Ago - April 25, 1974 BIKE-A-THON NETS \$4,400 FOR RETARDED

Dallas School District and its superintendent Dr. Linford A. Werkheiser were honored by the American School Counselor Association at its annual national convention in New Orleans, La. Dr. Werkheiser was recognized as the "Administrator of the Year" for the most outstanding and significant contribution to the guidance and counseling fields.

Two hundred eighty seven people of all ages completed the 25 mile Dallas Junior Women's Club Bike-A-Thon on Sunday, collecting a total of \$4,400 in pledges to help the retarded citizens of Pennsylvania.

Dallas halted St. John's and Wyoming Seminary in the opening week of Wyoming Valley Baseball League to go into the second week tied with pre-season favorites Hanover Hawkeys and GAR Grenadiers for first place.

Federal Officials

Representative Paul E. Kanjorski (PA 11th District) (Democrat)
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200
Washington: (202) 225-6511
Address: 10 E. South St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18701-2397
or 2429 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
Address: 116 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

Senator Harris Wofford (Democrat)
Telephone
Scranton: 347-2341
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Address: 116 N. Washington Ave., Suite 3K, Scranton PA 18503

State Officials
State Sen. Charles D. Lemmond (R)

(717) 288-3925 or 287-0474
701 West Market Street, Kingston PA 18704-3496
Lemmond's district includes the Back Mountain.

State Rep. George Hasay (R)
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752

369 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Rep. Phyllis Mundy (D)
283-9622 or 655-3375
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

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