

# The Dallas Post

## EDITORIALS

### Our 'wild kingdom' reminds us of the natural world

If you needed a reminder of how near the Back Mountain is to the wonders of nature, it came last week when game commission officers captured a bear that had been tearing down bird feeders in Dallas Township. The young bruin was lured by a trail of jelly doughnuts into a live trap set behind a home off Upper Demunds Road. Such is life for an animal only recently awakened from a long winter's nap. After being measured and tagged, the bear was released deep in gamelands to the north.

Then there were the beavers at Harveys Lake. It seems a family there (of beavers; they mate for life) has disturbed the human population by building a dam that has backed up water in Harveys Creek. The busy animals also have stripped bark from many trees and the pond they've created is causing water to back up in basements and sewers.

One consequence of our proximity to the wild world is the threat of animal-borne disease, such as rabies and Lyme disease. The Back Mountain Kiwanis Club sponsored a rabies vaccination clinic last weekend, and if you missed it you should get your domestic animals to a vet for the shot. Raccoons are the most common carrier of rabies, and they are around in abundance.

With the onset of warm weather, it is wise to take precautions against illnesses from outdoor sources. For rabies, the smartest tactic is avoiding contact with any animal that acts out of character. Keep a wide berth from a wild animal that appears friendly, or a pet that suddenly becomes aggressive or impaired.

Lyme disease is transmitted by small ticks that can attach themselves to any part of the body. If you are going for a hike in the woods or fields, be sure your legs are covered. And when you return, check yourself and your children carefully for ticks on exposed areas of skin.

We are fortunate to live in a place where the natural world is so easily accessible. Children growing up here see animals and plants in the wild not as remote subjects studied in books or viewed on a television screen, but as integral parts of the where they live. In the process, they are able to develop a clear understanding of how varied are the inhabitants of the earth, and how they can live together in harmony. That's a valuable lesson, learned in a most pleasurable manner.

### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Richard Nixon wasn't my favorite president, even before he resigned after his role in the Watergate burglary and subsequent coverup drove him from office. No modern American politician's career had as many highs and lows as Nixon's, most of the downside brought on by his own paranoia. Yet, he resurrected himself time and again as lesser rivals fell from the scene. Even after Watergate he wrote several excellent books and remained active in international affairs, which had always been his strength.

Two high points in Nixon's career were the "kitchen debate" in Moscow with Nikita Khrushchev when Nixon was vice president, and the opening to China, accomplished during his presidency. Perhaps his own Machavellian persona provided Nixon with the tools to deal so effectively with America's rivals over the years.

All is not lost. To hear some observers of modern life, the younger generations are a bunch of uneducated selfish brats ill-equipped to take on adult responsibilities. Yet, each week's Dallas Post seems to have one or more articles about students winning awards, serving in leadership roles or distinguishing themselves in other ways. I guess it makes a difference who you choose to listen to.

Speaking of misperceptions, did you see the ABC News special last week about crime in America? John Stossel's report showed how crime statistics are being used to frighten citizens and enhance politicians' get-tough image, while the actual rate of crime is quite steady. I noticed the same thing at work during the last New York City mayoral election, as Rudolph Giuliani rode a wave of fear to victory, even as crime rates in the Big Apple were dropping. Now we have a new federal crime bill in the wings that will spend many billions building prisons in the nation that already has the largest prison population in the world. Go figure.

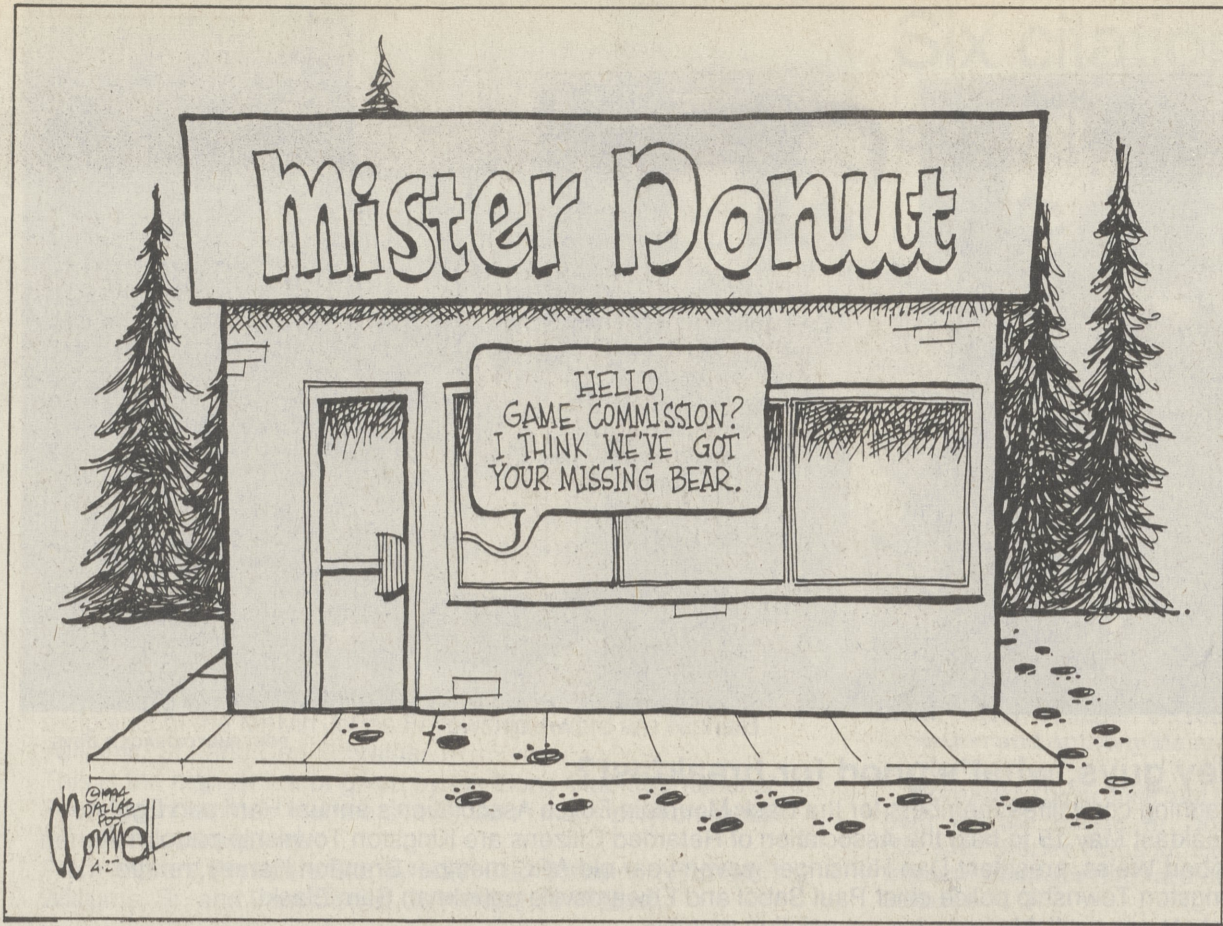
No good deed goes unpunished, it seems. Congressman Paul Kanjorski's Earth Conservancy plan offers this region something seldom seen; a positive vision for the future. But the entrenched powers that be have done everything they can think of to shoot it down. Meanwhile, 15,000 acres of desolate land serves no useful purpose other than lining the pockets of lawyers fighting to drag on bankruptcy proceedings as long as possible. So far, this has been a formula for maintaining the stagnant status quo in which this region has wallowed for 50 or more years.

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### A. Case for conservation

## Saving water: more than turning off the tap

By ALENE N. CASE

We've all seen them - those inserts in our utility bills that offer hints about conserving water in our home. We can probably recite them by heart: turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or lathering your body in the shower, use the dishwasher or clothes washer only when full, water your lawn in the evening, repair leaking faucets and toilets, don't pre-rinse the dishes before putting them into the dishwasher, etc., etc. And, many of us try to follow much of this advice when we remember.

But, did you realize that 1900 gallons of freshwater is withdrawn for each American each day and we personally use only 50-150 gallons of that?! Certainly, we should try to go about our daily tasks without wasting water. However, I have come to the conclusion that water conservation goes far beyond yelling at the kids when they leave the water running while they brush their teeth. Let's look at some interesting facts and statistics.

It takes 40,000 gallons of water to make the steel used in one automobile.

Processing one gallon of gasoline requires up to 70 gallons of water.

If corn is grown where it must be irrigated, it takes 26 gallons of water to produce one ear.

Producing one pound of pork requires 430 gallons of water.

Recycling paper saves more than half the water required to make virgin paper.

Manufacturing aluminum from recycled scrap can reduce water use by 97%!

If you buy a fast-food lunch of a hamburger, French fries, and a soft drink, you would never guess that it took 1,400 gallons of water to produce the food and put it in

front of you.

I contend that we must first become aware of our collective water use before we can effectively conserve it. Let's begin with pricing. Obviously, when we purchase that meal at the fast-food place, we are not buying all 1,400 gallons of water that went into making the meal. No, we already bought some of the water when our tax money was used to subsidize agricultural production. There are likely also petroleum processing or transportation subsidies that further reduce the cost of our lunch. And, the \$3.00 we pay the cashier certainly doesn't cover the cost of treatment of the 1,400 gallons of used water. Municipal taxes and fees usually take care of those costs.

Even more troubling is that in our part of the United States one half of all the water in an average distribution system is never delivered to a customer. It is lost. The old piping has so many leaks that the people in the "trade" have a rather humorous term for this huge waste of good water - they say that they are experiencing "transmission losses." (The last time I experienced a "transmission loss," my car did not go much further!) 50% is a lot of water, and we are all paying for that unused water to be pumped and treated. Replacing old pipes is an expensive proposition, but it could be well worth it in the long run.

According to the American Water Works Association, about half of the largest water suppliers in the nation now use some form of conservation pricing. A few years ago many companies actually penalized people for using less water - if you used a small amount, you were charged more per unit than larger users. Some companies still do this but most either have uniform pricing or

charge larger users more per unit. The city of Boulder, CO realized a one-third reduction in water use when they simply installed water meters. The Boston area essentially created 50 million gallons per day of "new" water sources by instituting aggressive conservation measures which cost much less than any other sources previously considered.

Since agriculture consumes approximately 70% of all water use, we should think seriously about our eating practices. Organic farming techniques require only one quarter of the water used in conventional farming. Simply leaving a field fallow for a year can double or triple yields of wheat the next year. We should try to buy more food that is grown locally or where irrigation is not necessary. Importing so much food from California is a losing proposition. We should also try to eat more fruits and vegetables instead of meats - raising cattle and hogs requires almost unbelievable amounts of water and much of that water also becomes polluted.

Before the next water crisis hits, let's all give some creative thought to water use. Let's landscape with perennials, bushes and trees that require less water than annuals or Kentucky bluegrass. Let's grow our own fruits and vegetables or buy from local farms and orchards. Let's make sure that our water company is charging rates that encourage conservation and that pipes are being replaced on a reasonable schedule. Let's ask our municipal officials to give financial incentives to homeowners and businesses that install water saving plumbing fixtures when they build or remodel. In other words, let's do much more than turn off the water while we brush our teeth.

### As I was saying...

## Low tar or not, cigarettes are 'coffin nails'

By JACK HILSHER

Recently I noticed a red sticker on a cigarette machine. Did I read it correctly...\$2.50? Yes. Per PACK? Yes again. Not having bought any for over ten years, and having paid only a quarter per pack years before that, I think my surprise was understandable.

Who uses these machines? How do their minds work? Don't they read the Surgeon General's warning label: "Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema and May Complicate Pregnancy?"

Lobbyists for the "Tobacco Institute" pressured Congress for years to keep such cautions off cigarette packs, then, when allowed in 1965, said only "Smoking may be hazardous to your health."

It took five more years to get that strengthened to saying that "smoking is dangerous" but still short of ever mentioning those verboten words "death" and "addiction." The Institute yelled

bloody murder everytime they were proposed. Yet deaths of over 350,000 yearly more than justified pack warnings.

Those same label warnings appear in cigarette ads also, ads produced by expensive agencies for companies who can well afford them. Can they ever? Two industry giants - R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris - recently announced sales of over 18 billion dollars combined!

The ads such megabucks buy are full of pretty faces and short slogans like: "Easygoing Low Tar Capri," or "Good Taste, Low Tar."

Or "Carlton is lowest in tar," and this long one from a brand called "NOW"... "It's curl-up time on a rainy night. You light up. Smooth. Mild. Flavorful. Low tar. Low tar? Used to be low tar meant low expectations. Well, dear reader, that was then. This is NOW...the low tar way to smoke."

Well, dear column reader, that low tar stuff happens to be utter nonsense. Yes, tar does affect the lungs to some degree, but the

worst damage is done by a colorless, odorless gas - carbon monoxide by name - which is noticeably present in all cigarette smoke. It does its dirty work by cutting down on oxygen in your red blood cells and chewing away at the lining of your blood vessels. A stroke could follow.

So why all the low-tar garbage? Why not, if readers are gullible enough to shell out \$2.50 per pack they will also swallow silly low-tar pitches.

A few months ago the READER'S DIGEST devoted eight full pages to how "clever advertising seduces the world's children by U.S. tobacco companies aggressively, marketing cigarettes abroad." (That's because sales are slumping in the U.S. and have been for years.) There's a vast market out there, just waiting to be tapped.

I could go on but won't. Let's just close with a short question...do you remember when cigarettes were called "coffin nails?"

Well, they still are.

### Only yesterday

#### 60 Years Ago - May 4, 1934 INDIAN CHIEF VISITS BORO HIGH SCHOOL

School taxes in Dallas Borough will be raised from 25 to 30 mills for the coming year to offset the deficit incurred by previous school boards, according to an announcement made by members of the board of education at a meeting of the Borough Taxpayers Association held in the high school auditorium Friday night.

One of the biggest crowds on record for Back Mountain entertainment is expected to participate in the homecoming celebration in honor of Rev. J.J. O'Leary, pastor of St. Therese's parish next Wednesday in the Trucksville High School. Plans were completed for the minstrels which will feature the affair.

Chief Blackbird, whose Chipewa tribe ruled the wilderness of North Wisconsin, came to Dallas Borough High School to relate the inspiring story of his unselfish work on behalf of the Red man. The student body greeted him enthusiastically.

#### 50 Years Ago - April 28, 1944 LEHMAN KIDS' PAPER DRIVE NETS 2 TONS

Daddow-Isaacs Post 672, American Legion has accepted responsibility for maintenance of the Dallas Borough Honor Roll and all funds in the hands of the Honor Roll Committee have been turned over to the legion.

Supported by the State administration forces on an independent Republican ticket, Harold E. Flack, incumbent, defeated Roy Parry, Luzerne contractor by 184 votes in Tuesday's balloting for the Republican nomination for Representative in the State Legislature.

Lehman students completed a year of collecting papers, Wednesday by bringing in 5,215 lbs. of papers and 500 lbs. of rags. The drive was sponsored by the Dallas Woman's Club.

#### 40 Years Ago - April 30, 1954 NO SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINTURE THIS YEAR

Representatives of five Back Mountain School Districts meeting last Friday at Dallas-Franklin High School rejected any proposal to have the matter of a union district placed upon the ballot this fall. Representatives of the smaller districts said they were sure taxpayers of their townships would not approve a union district with higher taxes for better schools. It was agreed that none of the five townships would consider a larger jointure or union district including Dallas Borough and Kingston Township.

Two hundred seventy five persons gathered Wednesday evening at Irem Temple Country Club to witness a national honor. The Lafayette Baton, bestowed upon Professor R.J.W. Templin of Dallas, retiring superintendent of West Pittston schools.

You could get - Porterhouse steaks, 75¢ lb.; frying chickens, 43¢ lb.; Gerbers Junior baby food, 12 jars, \$1.65; bananas, 2 lbs. 23¢; new potatoes 10 lbs., 39¢.

#### 30 Years Ago - April 30, 1964 TOLL-FREE CALLS TO VALLEY SET UP

Voters of Lake Township defeated a move to merge the five school districts into one unit acceptable to the State at Tuesday's election. The jointure will lose around \$10,000 which it could have used to advantage. The remainder of the State bonus for merger will still be available to the four districts which voted to merge.

Beginning of toll-free service between Dallas and Kingston-Wilkes-Barre on March 11, milestone in the history of Commonwealth Telephone Co. in this area should assist immeasurably in the further residential, commercial and industrial development of the community.

Sandy Beach, Harveys Lake, will open May 8 and will continue available for the pleasure of its customers every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from this time on.

#### 20 Years Ago - May 2, 1974 NEW PANCAKE HOUSE OPENS IN DALLAS TWP.

Dry conditions in woods and fields coupled with careless burning during spring yard clean up have led to a rash of fires in the Back Mountain area in the last several weeks.

Perkins Pancake & Steak House, the area's newest dining place, located at the intersection of Rtes. 309 & 415 near the Dallas Village Shopping Center, will seat 120 persons and will be open temporarily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Twelve policemen from the West Side and Back Mountain areas took a 30-hour training course in handling mental health emergencies and family disturbances.