

Guest column

In memory of a father and a generation

By ANTHONY L. LIUZZO, J.D., Ph.D.

It has been a year now since we lost him. He was a part of a transitional generation, one which had its roots both in the old and new worlds. Like his father before him, he had first hand experience with hard work. The forty hour week was yet to be born, and Saturdays and Sundays meant half days of toil. Yet, he never complained about the hours, and quality time was a Sunday dinner with his family, and a subsequent nap in front of the nine inch black and white television screen with the baseball game on. Back then, crime, alcoholism, drug addiction, and family violence were forms of shameful conduct; not diseases, as they are today. He offered no apologies for spanking his children, for they suffered no scars or victimization, but simply learned the lesson of the day. He survived a war, where the

victor was not ascertained until its end, and a depression, that had effects far greater than inflation and interest rate adjustments. A bad day at work was worse than simply being unable to retrieve data from a computer diskette. His hands had callouses and he drank his coffee black, with just a nip of whiskey to warm his weary body on those frigid mornings before the sun rose. Unlike his father before him, he lived through great technological change, the washing machine, the air conditioner, the innumerable kitchen gadgets. When the second wave came, the home computer, the camcorder, and the fax machine, he did his best to conquer these, and was embarrassed that he could not. More recently, he became uncomfortable with the world. From his perspective, his frontier had disappeared. He could not comprehend the violence, the aggression, the hatred. He squirmed at the thought of diversity, the so-called mosaic, for his world had

been that of a melting pot. He never wished his government to take care of him, and he struggled against the loss of his privacy. Unemployment benefits, aid to families with dependent children, public assistance - these were last resorts for the truly needy. He spoke not of rights, to health care, to equality of financial success, to the information highway; but of obligations, to his family, to his culture, and to his religion.

And, finally, when his time came, he went gently into that good night, accepting the pain that preceded his departure as simply a necessary part of his life. He was a part of a transitional generation - a generation that we will miss dearly.

Dallas resident Anthony L. Liuzzo, J.D., Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Business and Economics at Wilkes University. This column was inspired by Dr. Liuzzo's father, who passed away a year ago.

Library news

The library remembers Miriam Lathrop

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will be 49 years old in October this year. The opening day celebration was held on October 12, 1945 in the library building on Main Street in Dallas. The first librarian of the library was Miriam Lathrop, serving from 1945 through 1961. A plaque was presented to her on October 3, 1961 to commemorate her dedication and devotion, from the Back Mountain Community. The sum of \$1,000 was received by the library at the time of her death on April 19, 1990, which has been invested in a Certificate of Deposit for the library. A special commemorative occasion is being planned regarding Miss Lathrop and we are currently looking for a photograph of her to be used in the publicity. If there is anyone in the community who has a picture of her, we would love to borrow it for the newspapers. Contact the library if you have such a picture.

New books at the library: "Something In The Water" by Charlotte MacLeod is a Peter Shandy mystery. Although real murder is never a laughing matter, this author makes the fictional kind more fun than anyone else. Her latest outing with Professor Shandy, takes us to the Maine coast, a world of stormy seas and verdant gardens where dark and bright are strangely mixed...and where secrets abound. An intriguing enigma; with love, hate, greed and lies.

"K" Is For Killer by Sue Grafton is the 11th book in the series that has won her readers around the world. Lorna Kepler was beautiful and willful, a loner who couldn't resist flirting with danger. Maybe that's what killed her. Her death had raised a host of tough questions. The cops suspected homicide, but they could find neither motive nor suspect. Even the means were mysterious. The story pitches us into a shadow land of pain and grief.

"A Superior Death" by Nevada Barr is the story of Park ranger Anna Pigeon's return in a mystery that unfolds in and around Lake Superior, in whose chilling depths sunken treasure comes with a deadly price. The ranger goes to a new post amid the cold, deserted, and isolated beauty of Isle Royale National Park off the coast of Michigan known for fantastic deep-water dives of wrecked sailing vessels. A routine permit reveals a grisly underwater murder.

"Light Sister, Dark Sister" by Lee Walmsley is a stunning novel about two sisters, bonded to each other in the net of a family, and how each of them finds a way to break free. Gray always believed her sister, Bobbie, was the brilliant one; their father, Max, confirmed it. It Bobbie was the light sister, Gray saw herself as the dark one; invisible, depressed, in Bobbie's shadow. Real characters, unconventional wisdom and special insights from pain.

Kingston Twp. adopts, amends ordinances

The supervisors adopted a set of ordinances regulating construction and demolition of buildings, proper maintenance of utilities, plumbing, storage and use of hazardous materials, prevention of fire hazards and setting fees for permits at its April 13 meeting. The first reading of an amendment to the vegetation ordinance, requiring that residents keep their lawns cut to at least six inches,

was approved. The supervisors awarded bids of \$5,605 to Confer Construction to replace the pavilion at the Center Street Park which caved in during the winter and \$394.73 to Danella Environmental Technologies for containers for the township's spring cleanup. The supervisors also awarded bids to various suppliers of road materials for the Back Mountain

Road Materials Cooperative Purchasing Program, formed by Kingston, Dallas, Franklin and Lehman townships and Dallas and Harveys Lake boroughs. Bids of \$6,640 and \$11,500 from Brdaric Excavating and Hawk Construction respectively, for demolition of property at Rear 107 Shaver Ave., owned by Lois Koval and Lois Anderson, were tabled.

Wells

(continued from page 1)

values, Conrad said.

Appraisers are required by law to "state any adverse environmental conditions present in improvements on sites or in the immediate vicinity of the subject property," she said, quoting from the Uniform Residential Appraisers' Report.

"I must know the area being appraised," she said. "Information like this should not be withheld. Now that I know that the prison could have an environmental impact on area residential wells, by law I must let it be known in my appraisal reports."

Before approving a mortgage or refinancing a property near the prison, a bank could require the owner to have expensive tests or studies done to insure that a water supply, either municipal or a second well, would be available to the home, she said.

"I'm not trying to raise any fears," Conrad said. "As a Jackson Township resident living close to

Property owners told of wells already drawn down to low levels

the prison, I am very concerned of the possible hidden ramifications of the prison's reliance on wells. It's a waste of taxpayer money to put in a line to the dam and not use it. The greatest injustice would be to allow SCID to use the pipeline as a backup system only, while the township residents do not have the luxury of this backup."

In written testimony submitted to the commission, Glogowski said that since the prison opened, three homes within a mile of it have had their wells go dry or have seen a substantial decrease in the amount of water from their artesian springs.

Dr. Paul Niezgoda, Andy Kasko and Fred Murray have seen a drawdown of their wells, which they believe is directly related to the amount of water used by the prison, Glogowski wrote.

Niezgoda also submitted written testimony, in which he said that he doesn't favor the prison increasing its well water usage because his well has already gone dry once.

"Back in about 1979, two of our three wells went dry," said Mrs.

Harold Ray of Kasko Road. "One was a shallow well and the other a deep drilled well. We had to drill down 435 feet, which seemed rather extreme at the time."

Mrs. Ray said that two neighbors have wells more than 500 feet deep.

"We're already into the second aquifer," she said. "I think that our water table must be on the same level as the prison's."

She said that residents wonder how deep they can drill wells and still find usable water.

"We are a small community," she said. "Jackson Township lost a great amount of tax revenues from the properties that were taken for the prison. The least they could do is not to cost us any additional expenses."

Hydrogeologist Larry Taylor said that the commission expects to announce a decision on whether to approve or deny the application at its July 14 meeting, after reviewing testimony and reports of water problems.

If either the residents or the Department of Corrections isn't happy with the commission's decision, they have the right to appeal it to federal district court, Taylor said.

"We always reserve the right to reopen a case and modify our decision at a later date if we feel that it's necessary," Taylor said.

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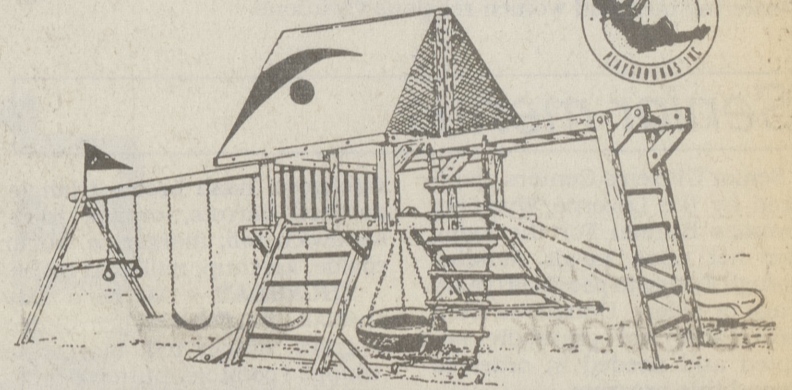
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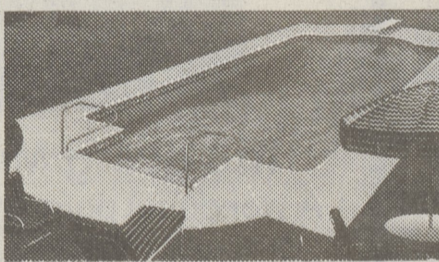
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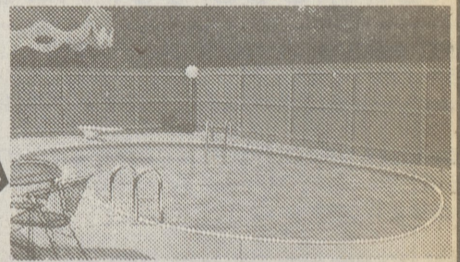


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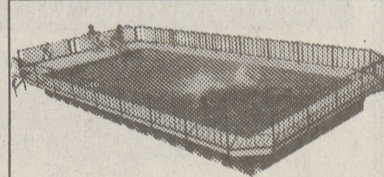
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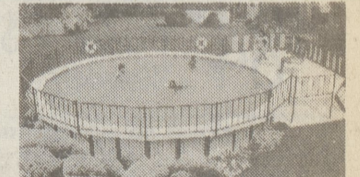
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