

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Regional policing deserves a good look

Officials from most Back Mountain communities cast off outdated misgivings last week and agreed to cooperate in a region-wide survey of law enforcement needs and costs. That may sound like a small step, but it could prove to be the first significant movement toward true regional planning.

The state Department of Community Affairs has been pushing regional policing for several years. Early on, their cheer-leading fell mostly on deaf ears, but gradually, contiguous communities in other parts of Pennsylvania have warmed to the idea, and there are now more than 20 such arrangements in the Commonwealth. None of them are in the northeastern part of the state, although the Back Mountain isn't the first place to think seriously about it. An effort in the Clarks Summit area fell apart when officials in outlying towns decided against allying themselves with then-powerful political power brokers.

And there's the rub. "Politics," though maybe not the big-city kind, is the most difficult obstacle to be overcome when independent municipalities consider whether to share something as important as police protection with their neighbors. Many questions come up: Will our streets be patrolled as often as they are now? Will response to an emergency come as quickly? Will the patrolman know all the street names and shortcuts? Will our loyal officers be treated well by a larger entity, or will they be swallowed up in the bureaucracy? The answers to these and many other questions must be forthcoming if this notion has any chance to become reality.

On a purely logical basis, it's hard to make a good argument against a regional police force for the Back Mountain. It should cost less and provide equal protection to larger municipalities; for smaller towns, the availability of full-time officers around the clock would be a marked improvement, and such an arrangement should cost less than a cruiser and a barebones department. One certainly, though, is that more than one station house must be maintained to serve such a large area.

We'll leave other details to people more acquainted with the nuts and bolts of policing, but the concept surely seems worth investigating further.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



When Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell was being interviewed about his health care proposal on National Public Radio, he told a classic New England joke to illustrate his position that it's not how you get there that counts, it's the destination. Seems a fellow was driving up to Maine and as he crossed the state line, saw two signs. One read: "Portland, 1-95." The other was: "Portland, Route 1." So he pulled over to ask which was the best way to go. Encountering a crusty Mainer, he asked, "Does it matter which way I go to Portland?" To which the Mainer replied, "Not to me, it don't."

Park naturalist Jerry Kozlansky frets that not enough Back Mountain folks visit Frances Slocum State Park, or at least areas beyond the swimming pool. In addition to the park's natural attractions, he offers a full schedule of nature walks and other programs for all ages, covering everything from bird watching to fishing. The park is a delight to visit in all seasons. We have fished, hiked, picked berries and ridden sleds there for several years. It's a great place for the kids to get some exercise while learning a little more about nature. So are Rickett's Glen and Moon Lake; we are fortunate to have so much of the outdoors so accessible — and free, too.

We were approaching a minor crisis with waste newspapers last week. The Post and its sister paper The Abington Journal don't generate that many leftovers, but combined with copies of other papers we get at the office, they had filled our back porch over a period of several months. A farmer in Sweet Valley had been picking them up regularly, then suddenly stopped doing so. I figured he was disappointed after his last trip here, when there weren't enough papers to make it worthwhile. I hoped he was just staying away until he was sure the pile was big enough, but after nearly six months, I was coming to the conclusion we had let him down one too many times. Was I surprised and pleased over the weekend to see an empty porch! If you are reading this, thank you. Please give me a call because I've misplaced your phone number.

Recycling newsprint is a hot topic in our industry, both in getting rid of the old and for printing the new. State and federal officials frequently introduce legislation, none of which has yet passed, that would mandate the use of a minimum percentage of recycled paper. Fortunately, the rules would skip small newspapers like ours. Because we contract for printing, we use whatever newsprint our printer keeps in stock and that may not meet the requirements.

Many industry observers think the issue will resolve itself as more recycled paper reaches the market, where demand presently outstrips supply by a good measure.

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Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
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Telephone: 717-675-5211

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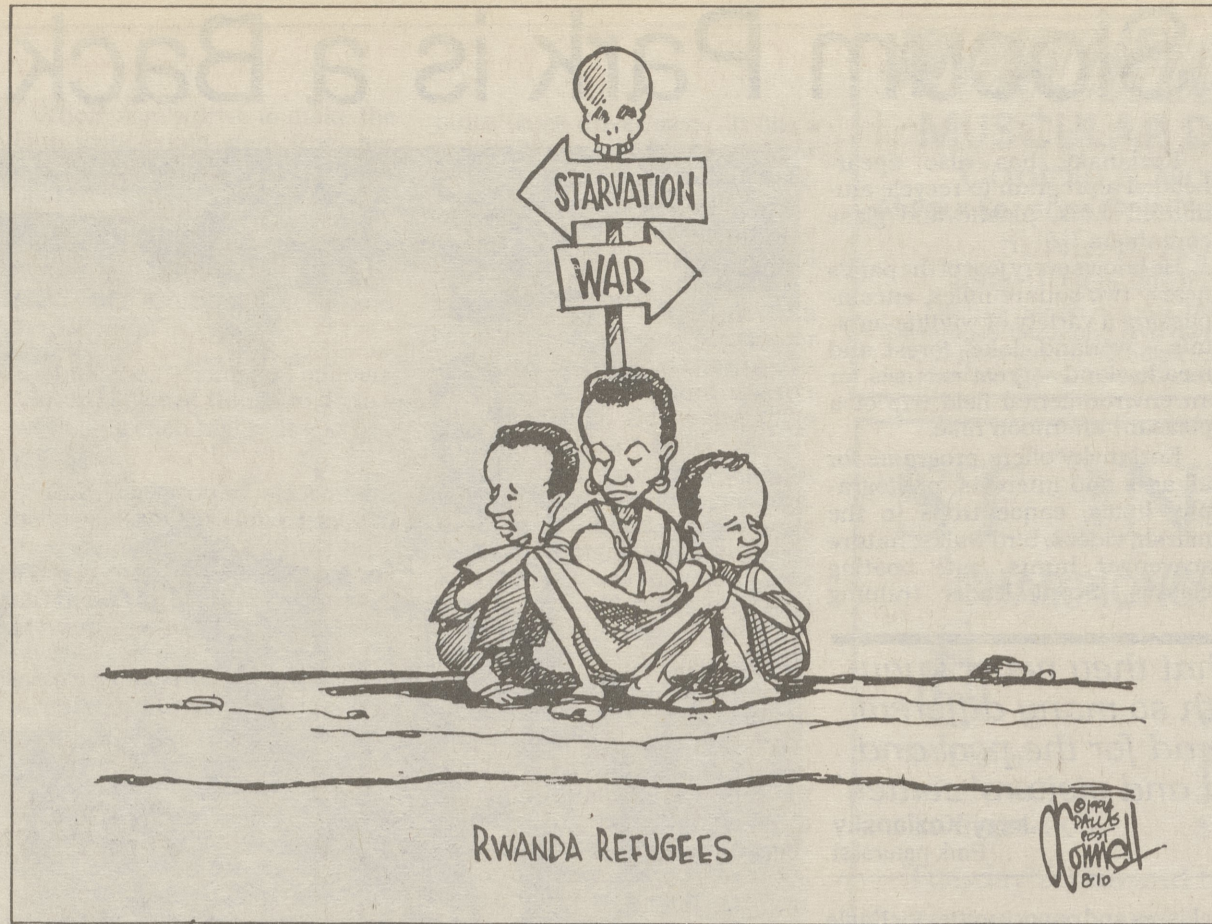
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MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
AND PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
VOTED 3rd BEST SMALL WEEKLY IN THE U.S., 1993



Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1934 KIDS' DAY AT LAKE

Tap dancing lessons which are given under supervision of Play-ground & Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley are attracting an increasing number of children from this section. This afternoon at Fernbrook Park, J. McAndrew, teacher of unusual ability will have charge.

Thousands of children are expected to be present at Harveys Lake Picnic Grounds Aug. 19 when the management, in cooperation with employees and Wyoming Valley business firms, holds its 2nd annual Children's Day.

Members of the committee in charge of the recent Carnival held by Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. announce that after payment of all expenses proceeds from the affair show a profit of \$442.43.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 11, 1944 STRITZINGER KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

Staff Sgt. William Stritzinger, 22, a Dallas Township boy and a former guard on his high school football team, was killed in action on July 9, in France. There were no details of his death in a telegram from the War Department to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stritzinger Sr., of Fernbrook.

A tour of vocational educational projects in the Back Mountain Region will be conducted Aug. 15 under sponsorship of Anthracite, Laketon and Lehman Chapters of Future Farmers of America. All vocational-agricultural students their parents and friends are invited to accompany the tour which starts at Demunds Corners at 8:30 a.m.

You could get - Potatoes, 10 lbs., 49¢; Elberta peaches, 2 lbs., 19¢; fresh ground beef, 25¢ lb.; Pork butts one size piece, 35¢ lb.; onions 3 lbs., 16¢.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 13, 1954 BEAUTY CONTEST HELD AT THE LAKE

Lehman-Jackson-Ross Township school board appointed four teachers at Tuesday's meeting and selected a custodian for the elementary school in Sweet Valley. Appointed were Nancy Royer, Marie Mizdall, Mary B. Pleban and John Armstrong. George Birth was named custodian for the Ross Township building.

The Harveys Lake Lions Club is sponsoring its annual "Lady of the Lake" Beauty Contest to be held Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. Preliminaries start this Sunday and finals the following Sunday at Sunset Park, Harveys Lake.

Now playing at the Dallas Outdoor Theatre - "Men of the Fighting Lady" with Van Johnson, Walter Pidgeon and Keenan Wynn.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 13, 1964 SEWAGE CLOSES LAKE TO SWIMMING

The Health Department is working as fast as it can to find violators of the ordinance prohibiting discharge of raw sewage into Harveys Lake, Dr. Richard Potter, director told the Dallas Post this week. Contrary to rumor, the lake is still not safe for swimming.

Vandalism at the Westmoreland Elementary School has continued, according to Dr. Robert Mellman, superintendent of Dallas Area schools. Lumber stored outside the building for the conversion of two new classrooms was damaged when vandals rolled large boulders on top of the two by fours.

Dallas Rotary Club Fall Fair and Fashion Show will be held Sept. 18 and 19 on Lehman Horse Show Grounds. One of the most popular events of the Fall Festival last year, the baby show is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 15, 1974 NEW ENCON FACTORY OPENS IN FERNBROOK

Keys for the new ENCON factory were presented to Energy Convertors Inc. by Alfred H. Acherson, chairman of Luzerne County Industrial Authority, Aug. 8. Receiving the keys on behalf of the corporation was Hanford L. Eckman, president.

A legal action was filed Friday by Frank Burnside, Harveys Lake to prevent the statute of limitation from running out on a \$57,000 harness racing grant many people claim the Harveys Lake sewer designers Glace & Glace failed to apply for.

Mr. and Mrs. John Baur, Dallas will observe their 50th anniversary Aug. 23. They are the parents of four children, 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The Baur's will be honored by their children at an open house at the Continental Inn, Luzerne, Sunday at 2 p.m.

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Castro is batting .300 against United States

The first place: Fidel Castro and his self-styled revolution, based on Marxist-Leninist communism.

In recent discussions with a friend of mine who was in Washington at the time, and who was what insiders call a 'White House intimate', a clearer picture had emerged about what actually happened in October, 1962.

The American public was told that then Russian premier Nikita Khrushchev had backed down. A more accurate account follows:

The crisis was partially politically inspired. Republicans were making political snowballs of the fact that Kennedy had failed to send in U.S. aircraft to help Bay of Pigs invaders during the previous year, in effect insuring victory to Castro.

Republicans were also saying that Russia was arming Cuba to the teeth, while in September, 1962, Kennedy warned the Russians not to send missiles to Cuba. When U.S. intelligence discovered that the warnings had been ignored, that in fact, some 40 missiles were on ships bound for Cuba, Kennedy found himself on a political hot seat.

The next seven days following the missile discovery resulted in a Kennedy speech that announced a naval blockade of Cuba, beginning October 22. The question then was whether the Russian ships would turn back, be stopped and boarded, or sunk by the U.S. Navy. And at the time the U.S. held a significant naval advantage, and had about 5,000 nuclear warheads to Russia's 300.

But in announcing the naval blockade, and apparently risking war, Kennedy was at the same time secretly telling Khrushchev he would remove U.S. missiles near Russia's border with Turkey if the Russians wouldn't station missiles in Cuba.

Kennedy was honestly trying to avoid war. But in addition to the Turkey missile offer, Kennedy then sweetened the deal by, effectively guaranteeing the survival of Castro. Kennedy did so by pledging to Khrushchev that the U.S. would henceforward not lay hands on Cuba.

Even the communists were impressed by this pledge...for it negated the Monroe Doctrine...repeat, it negated the Monroe Doctrine. That doctrine in essence opposed European (or other) intervention in the Americas and had stood for more than

130 years up to that point.

Kennedy's offer to the Russians also did something the Russians would never had done: relinquishing influence over a country in our sphere of interest, literally in our own backyard.

That is, in essence, what Kennedy did...to avoid a possible military incident, but also to win the domestic public relations and political contest.

It was this secret agreement that caused Khrushchev to turn his ships around and bring back those 40 missiles which had been destined for Cuba. In doing so, he had won what amounted to U.S. non-interference with his communist protege just 90 miles off the coast of Florida, a pledge which should never have been made.

Parenthetically, in 1978 the Russians sent nuclear delivery MIG 23's to Cuba, which are there today.

Thus any romanticizing of our efforts in the Cuban missile crisis are misplaced and yet another attempt to romanticize the Kennedy presidency as Camelot. There was, in fact, the potential for conflict, but it could have been resolved without a sacrifice of the Cuban people on the doomed altar of communism.

The so-called Russian back-down was really a secret deal which killed the Monroe Doctrine. Khrushchev got all he wanted and more than he expected. Castro's regime was made sacrosanct. And there's nothing romantic about that.

And to bring the entire situation full circle, Castro has since 1962.

—attempted on several occasions to shut down the Guantanamo Naval Station by cutting off its water supply.

—in 1980, allowed 125,000 persons to leave Cuba, including an estimated 30,000 criminals, in the now infamous "Mariel boat-lift".

And despite recent—and self-serving—attempts to bring Cuba into a free market economy, there are many in Cuba, Florida and throughout the United States who fervently wish that President Kennedy had followed less of his political agenda. They fervently wish that Castro had stayed in New York to become a major baseball player, a dream he held as a young man.

He's certainly batted .300 against United States politicians.

Library news

Unique snow dome collection is on display

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is showing a collection of Snow Domes in the display case borrowed from Philip Weaver of Sweet Valley. Philip is 9 1/2 years old and will be in fourth grade at Ross Elementary School in the fall. He was always fascinated by the water domes and started saving them when he was five years old. He received his first one as a Christmas ornament with a Ninja Turtle. His favorite one is a double dome of sea creatures. It has a sea turtle on the base; which is special, because he had a pet turtle, Freddie, who died and now he has this water dome to replace Freddie.

Many of the domes are bought on trips. There are some from Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Long Boat Key, Florida, Knoebel's Grove and a special one of Lady Liberty from Liberty Island, New York which holds center spot in the display. His latest addition is a carousel. It has a pull string

which swirls the water to make the horse inside appear to move. This one he found at Knoebel's Grove. He received these as holiday gifts and birthday presents. His birthday is October 23 so he has many that are for Halloween. Included in the display are domes for Easter, New Years, Christmas, Halloween, ocean scenes, and special places.

There is a dome from Canada; two from Philadelphia, Franklin Institute and Liberty Bell; and a neat one filled with sea shells. The most important one to Philip has a dolphin on top and it was brought from Florida by his late uncle and namesake, Philip Walker. This makes a nice display for the weeks before school begins again. It will be at the library until August 31.

New books at the library: "Eye Contact" by Stephen Collins is the author's first novel, and it is a riveting story of actor Stephen Collins as he enters us into the world of Nicolette Stallings—Nick—a New

York actress whose best performances are off-screen, in her dangerous relations with men. He is a perfect proper stranger, sitting across the trendy restaurant with his wife. Nick nubs him, Wally Wall Street, but when their eyes meet Nick can tell he's trying to connect. Eventually, she will stand alone—suspected of murder.

"Hidden Riches" by Nora Roberts is a jewel of a romantic suspense novel, in which precious treasures are masked in tawdry disguises and the price tags are written in blood. This story plunges into the exotic and decadent world of antiques with a story in which possession is a lethal obsession and a simple mistake leads to a string of savage murders. Dora Conroy, a Philadelphia antiques dealer, buys a curious selection of auction items which turns out to be a magnet for something sinister. She discovers a shadowy path leading to a smuggler.