

An appreciation

Joseph Bunet was a fine neighbor and friend

Editor:
He and his wife lived across the road. He was a schoolbus driver. My four grandsons rode to school in his bus. They all liked him, and all the others too, and were good.
He would come sit on our bench and he and Clarence would visit.

Sometimes I would be there too, and always enjoyed our visit.
After Clarence died, every morning I would open my kitchen door and there would be my daily newspaper, where Joe had brought it from the paper box.
After Loretta died I would see him in his car, driving very slowly

and sometimes walking on the side of the road with a cane on his arm.
Joseph Bunet, we will miss you, but know you are in Heaven and happy.

Ruby B. Elston
Dallas

The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

While local governments throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania are the lifeblood of community life and while they are threatened with great fiscal distress, they are changing and adjusting to the problems and obstacles facing their future.

The local government dilemma was highlighted during the appearance of David Osborne, the author of "Reinventing Government" in Scranton at the invitation of Scranton Tomorrow as he provided insight into the entrepreneurial approaches which local government need to apply for 21st century life. He outlined several of the principles which are found in his book by which local governments could compete and upgrade their service delivery system.

These principles include the following:

- Catalytic Government: Steering Rather Than Rowing
- Community-owned Government: Empowering Rather Than Serving
- Competitive Government: Injecting Competition into Service Delivery
- Mission-Driven Government: Transforming Rule-Driven Organizations
- Results-Oriented Government: Funding Outcomes, Not Inputs
- Customer-Driven Government: Meeting the Needs of the Customer, Not the Bureaucracy.
- Enterprising Government: Earning Rather than Spending
- Anticipatory Government: From Hierarchy to Participation

A few ways to reinvent government at local level

and Teamwork

• Market-Oriented Government: Leveraging Change Through the Market

Another opportunity exists for local governments to improve their ability to deliver services. This is the option of inter-municipal cooperation which has been adopted by a number of governments in the region but which needs to be expanded significantly. Councils of Governments and/or the regionalization of services such as police remain an option yet to be cultivated throughout the region. For example, while 19 regionalized police services exist in Pennsylvania, none have been adopted in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Several opportunities exist to model regionalized services on successful examples elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

Inter-municipal cooperation is not easy; it takes much patience and understanding, but it has, can, and will work to the benefit of local governments, and most importantly their constituents. In a recent survey of local governments in Northeastern Pennsylvania conducted by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP), local governmental officials themselves identified as the number one need, inter-municipal cooperation. It is, therefore, only a question of the types and specific arrangements which are required in order to carry out an inter-municipal cooperative program.

There is no shortage of technical assistance for local governments in reaching decisions as to what the best approach might be toward inter-municipal cooperation. It need not be a formalized councils of government, but it could be. It need not be broad inter-municipal cooperation on a variety of services, but it could be. It need not be a single functional service which provided coopera-

tively, but it could be.

Already, there are examples of communications cooperation by local governments within the Back Mountain and transportation cooperation through the Back Mountain Management Transportation Association. It is from these wellsprings that other models can be developed.

In a recent focus group session on the topic of local government improvements, sponsored by EDCNP and held in Schuylkill County, the topic of local governmental cooperation was stressed along with the interest shown by local governmental officials themselves as to the need for expanded training and educational opportunities in order for officials to further develop their capacity for service delivery.

Thus, local governments within Northeastern Pennsylvania whether they be in the Back Mountain, the Abington area of Lackawanna County or other similar places, have the opportunity to enter the new frontier of local government and develop and generate new techniques for service delivery. Among these, in addition to the above are contracting for services with other levels of government, privatization of services, circuit rider programs to provide municipal administrative support to a number of local governments concurrently, and others.

The reinventing government phenomenon is growing and if Vice President Gore's National Performance Review report has any meaning at the federal level, the same objectives and goals can be and should be applied through the local governmental system in Pennsylvania.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.

Commissioned as Navy Reserve officer

Bonnie S. Adams, daughter of Jim and Claire Futch, RR 3, Wyoming, received a direct commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve on May 13, 1994. She is a public affairs officer with the office of Information Detachment 411 in Oklahoma City, OK.
Adams is a 1978 graduate of Dallas Sr. High School. She earned an associate degree from Penn State Wilkes-Barre in 1981 and a bachelor of humanities from Penn State Harrisburg in 1982.
She is currently pursuing a masters degree in journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and is an information officer with the Texas Department of Transportation.
Prior to joining the Naval Reserves, Adams served on active duty with the U.S. Army at Fort Drum, NY as a broadcast journalist.

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Library news

Book Club counts 215 members on roster

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club met at the library for the November meeting. The membership for 1994 has reached 215, with \$1,975 collected in dues for books for the Book Club shelf.

The list of new book purchases was read by Mary Panaway. Several book reviews were given by members Gene Wert and Audrey Farris. Mary Panaway brought pictures of her trip to Africa, and Joan Shuman showed her jewelry from Arizona. Thanksgiving poems were read by members.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Tea, which will be held on Monday, December 19 in the reading room at the library at 1:30 p.m. Plans were discussed for special programs for the Christmas Tea. Friends and neighbors of the library are invited to attend.

Special guests at the meeting were Doris Kitchen, Alberta Cook and Lottie Karweta, members of the Collector's Group, who presented a check for \$50 to purchase

memorial books for two of their members who recently passed away; Frances Linskill and Charlotte Oley. Mary Panaway and Joan Shuman served at the tea table after the meeting.

New books at the library: "Q-Squared" by Peter David is the return of Star Trek, the next generation. In all of his travels, Captain Picard has never encountered an opponent more powerful than Q, a being from another continuum that Picard met on his very first mission as captain of the Starship Enterprise. Sometimes dangerous, sometimes merely obnoxious, Q has always been mysterious and seemingly all-powerful. A struggle between super beings.

"Brother and Sisters" by Bebe Moore Campbell, is an engrossing eagerly-awaited novel where loyalties are tested and measured along racial lines. This story is set in the white-hot center of racially troubled Los Angeles, still healing

from the deep scars of riot, violence and suspicion. At the story's heart is Esther Jackson, an African-American who has built a promising career at a downtown bank. A black man is hired and Esther is heartened, until his interest in a white officer percolates into sexual harassment.

"Brando" by Peter Manso is the biography of Marlon Brando, who has been the world's most important living actor for almost half a century. All his dramatic personae combined, however, pale in comparison with the real Brando - a man far more tumultuous, driven and larger-than-life than any of the roles he played. This is the first serious portrait of this remarkable man, capturing both his genius and his shocking private life. From growing up the son of alcoholic, philandering parents to his recent public agony as the father of a convicted killer, he has lived a life beset by personal demons.

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