

Speed

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 speed limit signs," wrote assistant district traffic engineer Thomas Ochal in his report.
 PennDOT's solution is to install larger speed limit signs and ask the state police for better enforcement of the existing 40 mph limit.
 It will also install large orange signs advising motorists that they should consider driving 25 mph on the sharp curve.

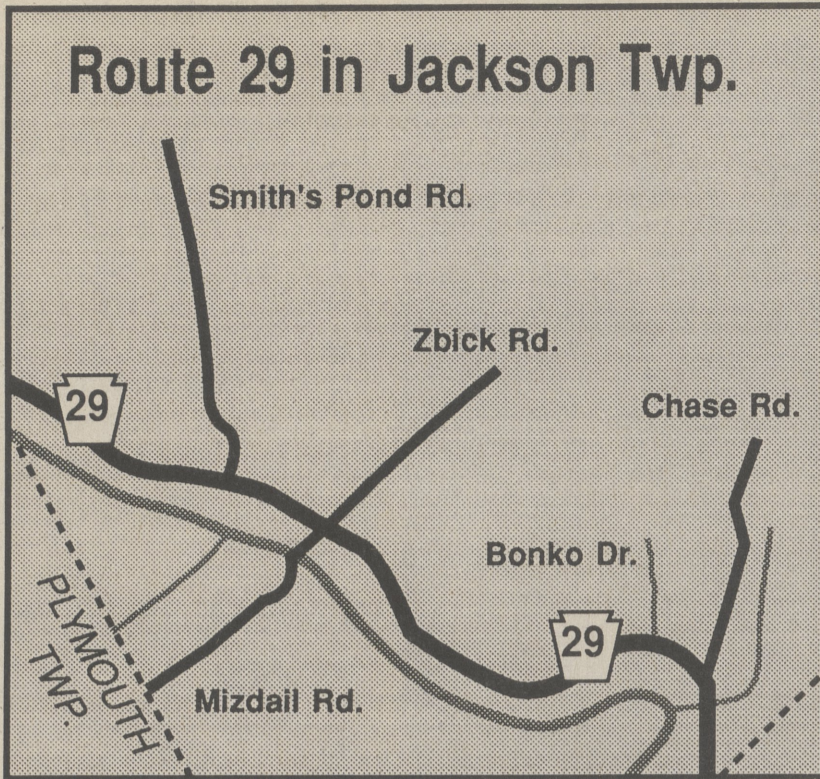
"I was up there during the study - they really fly through there."

Rich Phillips
 PennDOT traffic control engineer

While police enforce white posted speed limit signs, they don't enforce the orange speed advisory signs, which are considered only suggestions.

"This doesn't make sense," said township supervisor Walter Glogowski.

"When we applied for the permit, they told us to try to get the speed limit lowered on Route 29 and to request a traffic study," said township engineer Jack



DeFazio. "Then they said the results of the study didn't warrant lower speed limits. I have no idea why."

"We only told them to have the speed limits studied," said PennDOT traffic control engineer

Rich Phillips. "According to our study, 75 percent of the motorists using that section of Rte. 29 feel comfortable driving more than the posted limit. I was up there during the study - they really fly through there."

According to assistant police chief Jerry Leedock, the area of Route 29 near Bonko Drive is a major concern.

"Traffic goes much too fast through there," he said.

Although mostly cars use Rte. 29, four to five percent of the highway's traffic is tractor-trailers, according to PennDOT's traffic statistics.

PennDOT will lower the speed limit only if 85 percent of the drivers studied are driving slower

The highway has no weight limits for heavy trucks, which means that trucks weighing up to 80,000 may use Route 29.

PennDOT will lower the speed limit only if 85 percent of the drivers studied are driving slower, Phillips said.

"Here," PennDOT sets speed limits statistically, based on traffic studies and the configuration of the road, he said.



NEEDED BREAK - Al Baloga, center, and buddies had a 30-day furlough between duty in Europe and the anticipated invasion of Japan, which never took place.

Baloga

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first time not severely, and he went back into action. The second time he never heard coming. It was a mortar shell, and Al says he preferred the 88's. "You could hear 'em coming."

He has had some unusual experiences which seem to prove that truth is stranger than fiction adage. In the hospital he found two Wyoming Valley nurses, and earlier he had searched a civilian while doing occupation duty. Many years later he encountered the civilian, who had become a bishop at a church on North Main Street! "Small world?" Al Baloga asks.

of nine grandchildren. Their children are Rebecca Caffrey in Easton; Virginia Godleski of Somers Point in New Jersey; Mark of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Valery Smith in Dallas, and Bert in Swarthmore. Al likes to fish, gets to Atlantic City and Long Beach Island, visits the grandchildren and enjoys experimenting with flowers in his garden. He also drives for the Red Cross and is chairman of the board of the Cross Valley Credit Union.

It is not a pleasant ending to this story, but a necessary one, as a serious illustration of one unit's contribution to World War II which needs to be said. And saying only

"Replacements filling holes in the line were mechanics rushed over from air bases in England. None of them had even loaded a rifle before, let alone fired it."

Al Baloga
 Battle of the Bulge veteran

Before he was shipped home, Al went to his old company where, for reasons you will see later, he couldn't recognize a soul. Back home he married Marion Grozalis of Swoyersville, whose family were the makers of Jer-Lyn potato chips. Al says, "When I first met her I thought I'd be in the chips, never thinking it'd be potato chips." Marion smiles and shakes her head. She's heard it all before.

The Balogas have a happy total 60% casualties doesn't do it. This does: Company F, of the 346th Regiment, of the 87th Infantry Division, lost the following in 153 days of combat in Europe: 1 Captain, 4 1st Lieutenants, 7 2nd Lieutenants, 5 Tech Sergeants, 20 Staff Sergeants, 24 Sergeants, 2 T/4's, 4 T/5's, 4 corporals, 111 PFC's and 156 privates.

May they all Rest In Peace.

Mossback

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he finished, he realized he was still hungry.

And it was cold. Too cold to find fresh flies.

Mossback was frightened.

"Get hold of yourself," he told himself. "You've been in trouble

before. You always made it out. This time's no different."

But this time was different, Mossback knew deep down within his little green froggy heart, because this time he was far from home - farther than he'd ever been

before. This time he couldn't get help from old Maw Mole, who lived near his pond, or take a handout of an emergency fly or two from Robin Robin, the bird whose nest was in the tree in the next meadow, or even get an awful-tasting acorn from Charlie Chipmunk, who he played checkers with (always taking the green pieces, of course).

This time, he was on his own. Mossback was brought out of his terrifying thoughts when he saw a squirrel running around in circles, chattering in fear.

"Yo, squirrel!" Mossback called. "What's got you in such a tizzy?"

"My tree is gone!" the squirrel yelled hysterically. "It was right here just a few minutes ago, but now it's gone! I don't know what happened to it."

"Wait a minute. Calm down," Mossback advised. "Trees don't just get up and walk away. You must have lost your bearings."

"Maybe you're right," the squirrel said, still greatly agitated. "But

how do I get them back? For a squirrel, I have a rotten sense of direction."

"Here," Mossback said, handing over his little green compass.

"This will help you find your way. Just go in one direction for a little while and soon you'll know where you are. It's just a matter of staying on the course."

The squirrel took the compass and within a few minutes knew exactly where he was. That night, he ate juicy acorns in his home tree. And he never got lost again.

Which is more than can be said for Mossback. Without his compass, the courageous little frog couldn't hope to find his way home. Without his compass, Mossback was lost, directionless, and had no hope of ever seeing his little pond, its meadow or his little froggy home again.

But by the time Mossback realized his predicament, the squirrel was out of sight.

Next week: End of the journey.

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SKI TIP #9
 by Sean O'Shea
Q. How early can children start skiing?
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