

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Back Mountain news tracks national trends

While *The Dallas Post* aims to be a thoroughly local newspaper, with no wire services, world or national news, we frequently see a connection between goings-on in our towns and national headlines. Some are positive and some aren't, but it may be possible to draw conclusions from many of them. Here are a few that turned up in just one week's issue:

Native Textiles to begin shutdown soon: Here is the story of a national shift from company loyalty to bottom-line philosophy, with global economics thrown in. The corporate owners of Native Textiles are shifting the local operations to Glens Falls, New York, ostensibly to save the expense of shipping material there from Dallas. An added benefit, though, is that pay rates are about \$2 per hour lower in New York. Apply that to 85 employees working 40 hours a week and the company saves more than \$350,000 annually on wages. We'll never know whether the transfer of jobs is necessary or is being done simply to increase profits.

London trip thrills Dallas cheerleader: Joan Bednar joined more than 1,000 other all-star cheerleaders from across the United States, traveling to London to march in a New Year's parade. We frequently hear comments about how the world has become smaller, and this is one example. Travel is faster, easier and more affordable, and people in different nations welcome opportunities to display their own culture and taste a bit of others. The end result, hopefully, will be greater understanding of one another.

Board members will ride the bus: Two members of the Dallas school board will ride school buses to get a first-hand look at how students behave (or misbehave) on their way to and from school. The board had considered hiring paid bus monitors a decade ago, but didn't follow through because of the expense of doing so. As far as we know, students have occasionally gotten out of hand since buses were put into use, but some people think the problem has worsened. Is this true, or have we simply become overly sensitive to youthful pranks and misbehavior?

Gager thrives on his own: Information superhighway anyone? You bet. Dallas stockbroker John Gager, operating from his local office, can trade securities around the globe, at the touch of a button. His business is one example of the emancipation available through modern technology.

Basketball making comeback at local Penn State campus: You may recall last year's headline that the local campus laid off six employees, while investigating other ways to save money. This year, some of those savings are apparently being spent on a basketball team, as the local branch reflects the big-time university fascination with sports. What does this say about the priorities of our educational institutions?

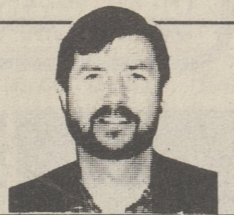
VNA begins hospice: There apparently is a growing demand for people to care for terminally-ill persons, most of them elderly. The U.S. population is aging, and this region of the country already has one of the oldest average-age populations outside of the retirement havens of the sunbelt. The implications are huge, and will touch all our lives.

We are fortunate that the worst of our news is tame in comparison to the murder and mayhem that fills newsprint and airwaves at larger media outlets. Even there, the news isn't as bad as it seems, it's sensationalized in an attempt to sell more copies or attract more viewers.

Perhaps the world isn't really growing smaller, our perceptions are growing larger, and we can see the threads that bind us together, whether we live across that state, the nation or the world.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



We are grateful to Bing Wolfe, who has contributed an ongoing series of vignettes about other towns in the U.S. with the name Dallas. He has so far tracked down four others, from the well-known "Big D" to smaller burghs in Oregon, Georgia and North Carolina. It's a small world, they say, and the reaction to this series has proved it. While I was having coffee at Mark II last week, Linda Scholl mentioned that she enjoyed the articles because she grew up near Dallas, Georgia. I've since found out the towns in Georgia and Oregon have local newspapers, and we'll be getting in touch to swap issues with them soon.

It was a pleasure to read that George Isaacs is planning a quality development for the property that formerly housed his car dealership. A Back Mountain native, George has pledged that he won't put a strip mall on the land, which is ideally suited for a number of uses, but probably best for retail stores. I have long felt there was a place for another well-planned retail complex here, one that incorporated pleasing design with a mix of specialty stores. We have many of the stores now, but because they are spread out, it is a trial to reach them all in a single shopping trip. Thus, the popularity of malls, where you park once and walk to a variety of destinations.

While visiting Scottsdale, Arizona several years ago, we stopped in at a complex that occupied about the same space as the car lot. Parking was in the rear, a pleasant courtyard was in the middle, and the attractive building was filled with interesting stores. And it seemed busy.



Do your stuff!

Philip Miller carefully set his race car on the track after blowing on it for good luck at Dallas Cub Scout Pack's January 21 "Pinewood Derby."

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Letters

Public broadcasting: free speech in action

Editor:
In the effort to streamline federal government, some members of Congress have suggested eliminating funding for public radio in America. I strongly believe that federal support for public radio should be maintained. Surprisingly that support is fairly modest. There are about 600 public radio stations in the United States, 300 of which are affiliated with the Public Broadcasting System. The average amount of support from the federal government is only 16.4% much of which is dedicated to new program development. In terms of taxpayer expense, this is 29 cents/person/year or a total of \$67 million. Sponsors and members provide the other 85% of the budget or \$333 million!

In my own family, the local public radio station was one important way that my wife and I introduced the arts to our children. We did not want our chil-

dren to be raised on the steady diet of violence on television and crude music found on many commercial radio stations. Today, their love of fine music, appreciation of arts and cultural diversity is due in part to the availability of outstanding public radio programs.

I know of no other radio besides the Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio that provides such in depth coverage of world and national events. Much television news is "sound-bite oriented" and of limited information value. Not everyone can or wants to watch CNN or what seems to be an interminable proliferation of prime time news shows such as Dateline.

I find that listening to public radio whether at home or on long trips is a way of maintaining my sanity in what seems to be a capricious world. Other radio programming is fragmented, mostly noisy and hardly sooth-

ing. But other than the threat to my personal sanity if public radio were to disappear, what might be the more subtle threat? Perhaps the financial solvency of our federal government is not the real reason behind proposals to eliminate funding for public broadcasting. Public broadcasting in America is grassroots democracy at its best—85% member and corporate support who have a voice in the type of programming! Public radio represents freedom of speech! Why would our elected representatives want to silence a major voice of free speech in America? As American citizens and political representatives who swear to defend and support the American Constitution, we cannot in good conscience start digging a grave for First Amendment free speech by killing public radio's remaining federal support.

Dr. James M. Case
Trucksville

Wyo. sixth-grader needs postcards for project

Editor:
I am a six grade student at Arapahoe School. Our class is doing a project in social studies about the United States. I chose

Pennsylvania for my project. I would appreciate if your readers would send me postcards. Thank you for your help.

Jessica Whiteman
6th grade
Box 211
Arapahoe, WY 82510

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

One of the nicest birthday presents I have ever received was only a newspaper! But what a paper! It was the NEW YORK TIMES edition published on my birthday in September, 1918, courtesy of a very thoughtful daughter, who knows me and my tastes.

Now I can hear your mental calculators working, and the muttering, starting with "ohmigod!" and "1918" and "He sure doesn't look it, does he?"

Well, no, he doesn't. That is because of all the nutritious barley in the Gibbons he has consumed over the years. (For medicinal purposes.) He also has the body of a 21-year old youth, but he has to give it back soon because he is getting it wrinkled. (Humor courtesy of Henny Youngman.)

What were we discussing? Oh yeah, old newspapers. My NEW YORK TIMES is now yellowing and becoming brittle, so it must be authentic. I had seen those ads reading, "Happy Mother's

The newspaper — a unique gift for almost any occasion

Day", "Happy Birthday" - "Give a unique gift to all those who are special to you. The ACTUAL NEWSPAPER printed on the day they were born," and I had always wondered, where do they get their papers? Are they reproductions or actual papers?

The fancy "Certificate of Authenticity" which came with my paper says they come from several sources, like the Library of Congress and the United States Department of Justice. That didn't seem like sources for enough papers to go into business. The ad was dynamite enough that I was sure they'd get plenty of inquiries.

So, scenting a possible column, I called the Historic Newspaper Archives Inc. in Rahway, New Jersey, and got my answer from their genial manager Hy Gordon. Besides the sources named above, Hy says there are many public libraries, historical societies, universities and private collectors, all of whom have put their newspaper collections on microfilm. Once that is done, they no longer have a need - or space - to keep the original editions on hand.

And that's where Hy comes in. He declines to discuss specifics on where he builds inventory - it's an ongoing process, he says - nor will he disclose how much he pays. Hy laughs and says, "Those are secrets of the trade." With their

million-paper inventory I really think he is the trade...you certainly don't see any competitors.

Their most requested paper? Gordon says, "the NEW YORK TIMES by far. We also have the JUNEAU DISPATCH in Alaska and the CHEYENNE STATE TRIBUNE in Wyoming, and everything in between." Gordon stocks papers from fifty cities in all states. For Pennsylvania he has Philadelphia's INQUIRER and PUBLIC LEDGER, the PITTSBURGH PRESS and WASHINGTON OBSERVER. New York has the most of course: HERALD TRIBUNE, POST, TIMES, SUN, WORLD, HERALD, DAILY NEWS and WALL STREET JOURNAL.

I might quote here a few items to show you why I like my paper...from the 1918 NY TIMES Hart Schaeffer and Marx suits cost \$27.50; a Hudson super-six touring car only three months old was "wonderfully equipped" and cost \$1500; a 1917 Maxwell with 6000 miles was \$750; an ad called for "Strong boy wanted as helper on butter and eggs auto delivery, good chance for advancement, \$10 to start; at the corner of Madison Avenue and 32nd Street, two light-housekeeping rooms and bath for rent at \$900 per annum.

Get the idea? 'Enuff! Get your own paper! A free catalog is available if you call 1-800-221-3221.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 1, 1935 FIRE DESTROYS BON-AIR RESTAURANT

A \$9,000 blaze in sub-zero weather destroyed the Bon-Air Restaurant, Harveys Lake early last Sunday morning and interrupted telephone service until late Sunday evening. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Barry of Wilkes-Barre, the loss was partially covered by insurance.

Burgess J. Harry Anderson was stricken suddenly at a party in observance of the birthday anniversary of a friend. His death shocked the community severely and something of the tremendous respect in which he was held was evidenced Tuesday afternoon by the throngs of persons present at the services held at the home on Huntsville Street.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 26, 1945 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LIBRARY POUR IN

A Memorial Library dedicated to men and women in armed service and adequate to meet the needs of all communities within Dallas area was assured this week as contributions amounting to more than \$4,000 poured into the Back Mountain Memorial Library Association from 70 public spirited citizens. Funds will be used to purchase and renovate the John L. Ryman, property, Main Street, Dallas as a temporary home for the library.

One of four brothers in military service Pvt. Welford Scouten, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scouten, has been missing in action in Luxembourg since Dec. 20, according to information received by his wife the former Nellie Honeywell of Kunkle.

For the second time within a month, the Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. was called out Wednesday morning to extinguish a fire around the furnace in the Dallas post office building. There was considerable smoke but little damage.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 28, 1955 STOLEN CAR FOUND ON RED ROCK MTN.

Dallas-Franklin Township school directors met in special session Tuesday to go over revised plans authorized by Harrisburg with Robert Eyerman, architect. With minor interior changes to insure better functional results, plans for the 112-60 addition will now be drawn up in permanent form. Bids will be advertised in March and it is hoped grpmid will be broken April 1.

Work is progressing on Gerald Frantz's new building opposite the Acme Market in Shavertown. The single story steel and concrete building will house a large, attractive store room and living quarters.

Acting on the suggestion of Chief of Police Russell Honeywell, State Police investigating theft of Ralph Dixon's 1949 Buick found the two door sedan Friday at the top of Red Rock Mountain not far from the entrance to the Air Corps A.C. & W. Squadron Base.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 28, 1965 TRINITY CHURCH RAISES NEW SPIRE

Fire completely gutted the old two story Bloomingdale home of Charles Paraschos near the Grange Hall early Friday morning. The family escaped with their lives when Paraschos arrived home in the nick of time, roused his wife and carried his two sleeping daughters outside.

The weather let up enough last week to permit raising of the spire of Trinity United Presbyterian Church. Snow and ice had delayed its erection. The spire now points toward the skies, defining the new structure as a church.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 30, 1975 TRAILER FIRE KILLS FOUR IN FAMILY

Greenstreet News Co., Dallas, publishers of *The Dallas Post*, *Abington Journal* and *Mountain Eagle* announced that Pennaprint Inc., a new company owned by Ohio newspaper publisher Ray Carlsen, was the successful bidder for assets of the firm. Carlsen is married to the former Freda Poland. The couple has three children.

Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller and their 78-year old great-grandmother perished in an early morning fire Saturday in their mobile home. Firemen entered the home and found the four bodies, victims of asphyxiation. The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Miller, who had fled from the trailer to a neighbor for help.

The Dallas Post

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

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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

Deadlines for news copy

In order to plan each issue, *The Dallas Post* must adhere to self-imposed deadlines, as well as those of our printer. To have the greatest likelihood of publication, items should be received at our office by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to each issue. Items will be accepted until 4 p.m. Mondays, although much of the paper is already assembled by that time. Send or bring items to: *The Dallas Post*, 45 Main Road, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Our normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A deposit box is located at the front of the building for after-hours submissions.