

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Lively elections are good sign for region

Give credit to the Republicans who swept into Congress...to a backlash among Democrats...to Rush Limbaugh if you like, but it's heartening to see the number of contested local races in the upcoming primary, and again in November.

The primary will be a lively affair in both school districts and Harveys Lake Borough. All candidates but one are filed on the Democrat and Republican tickets in the Dallas district, and each of the nine Lake-Lehman candidates is cross filed. In the race for Harveys Lake Borough Council, five Democrats and four Republicans will be on the ballot, with the top three of each party making it to the general election. Dallas Borough Republicans will choose three of five Republican candidates, with three incumbents facing two challengers.

Perhaps most surprising, there will be a race for Dallas Township supervisor in November, the first time that has happened since Thomas Frantz and Glenn Howell competed for the office in 1981. We don't yet know the positions or merits of Marjory Gorko, the Democrat who will face incumbent Frank Wagner, but we plan to give both adequate opportunity to tell voters why they are the better choice. Franklin and Jackson township voters also will have a two-party decision to make in the general election.

We hope incumbents don't see our delight at having political races to report as criticism of them or favoritism to challengers. We simply are pleased to see a contest of ideas bringing a choice of candidates for local offices. Most people would say, and we would agree, that Back Mountain government is efficient and fair in its operations. A little short-sighted, maybe, and not particularly progressive sometimes, but surely not wasteful or malicious. That's good enough for a lot of folks, and certainly beats the corruption found in many valley towns. But maybe it could be better, either because of new faces or because the challenge forces incumbents to think in new ways.

The candidates have done their part, now it will be up to the voters. But you can't vote if you aren't registered by April 17, so don't put it off for another minute. It's easy, and we're making it easier by handing out mail-in registration forms at our office. Just pick one up, fill it out, and send it into the courthouse. It won't cost a dime, because the postage is free. But remember mail it to arrive at the courthouse by April 17, the final registration day for the May 17 primary.

Our office is at 45 Main Road in Dallas Township. Main Road runs down the side of the Offset Paperback plant, starting at the intersection with Route 309 at the Mark II restaurant. If you need further directions, call us at 675-5211.



The Village Store graced the hamlet of LaGrange in the early 1900's. Does anyone know more about it?

Letters

Seeks info on Daniel Sorber, Civil War soldier

Editor:
I have in my possession the Military Service Records from the Civil War 1862-1865 of Daniel Sorber. He was a Private in the Union Army, 92nd Regt., Company D, 9th PA Cav. I found his grave in the Sorbertown Ceme-

tery in Hunlock Creek, PA, as well as his wife, Marilda. Daniel was born in 1842 in Union Township, Luzerne County. She was born in 1844 and died in 1906. I would like to know who Daniel's father was, as well as

brothers, uncles, and any information on the Sorber line. I would like to hear from someone.

Write to:
Dolores Swelgin
415 Smith Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708-9742.

Thanks

Lakeside Nursing Center staff praised for care

Editor:
The family of the late Mary La Bar wishes to express our sincere thanks and love to the staff of the Lakeside Nursing Center.

Your caring and your concern for our mother and also for her family. Your giving of your own time and your checking on mother much more than was expected or

needed, touched us deeply and will never be forgotten.
God Bless each one of you.

Mary La Bar's family
Dallas

The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

Have you heard the term citizen service? If you have not, you may wish to know about the Pennsylvania Citizen Service Project and the various ways by which citizens throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania can contribute to their community and to enable young people and older citizens to participate in improving the way in which community life can be enhanced throughout the region.

The Pennsylvania Citizens Service Project is a not-for-profit corporation whose Board members represent both the public and private sectors in Pennsylvania. They have established the Pennsylvania Institute for Environment and Community Service Learning (PIESCL) which is based at the Philadelphia College of Textiles. The Institute runs a variety of programs with special focus currently on the greater Philadelphia community but also provides assistance to other parts of Pennsylvania. The plan is to expand citizen service across the state in cooperation with the on-going Commonwealth program called PennServe and the newly developed National Community Service Program, originally generated under the auspices of the Bush Administration and expanded significantly by the Clinton Administration.

Pennsylvania, in fact, utilizes the citizen service program as widely or more intensively than any other state in the nation. For example, school districts throughout the Commonwealth have access to PennServe monies which provide opportunities for students under appropriate faculty supervision to undertake projects of community service. Some schools such as Wyoming Seminary and Scranton Prep have community service as part of their learning environment.

Intergenerational projects have been undertaken by the Philadelphia-based Institute to enable older Pennsylvanians to work with young people and carry out projects such as formalizing institutional memories regarding certain geographic areas of greater Phila-

Community service: a misunderstood resource

delphia. As an example, a project was undertaken to develop a historical reference document regarding Northeast Pennsylvania. The document provides memory references by older Northeastern Philadelphians and was organized through the auspices of VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) volunteers attached to the PIESCL.

The Pennsylvania Institute for Environmental and Community Service Learning has a mission of becoming a national and statewide resource for service learning programs. The Institute intends to focus on teacher training, provide educational packets and publications to further service learning initiatives, conduct research into service learning, conduct service learning projects, and support the efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and PennServe to foster school reform.

Service learning means students learn by doing and giving. Rather than merely receiving information in a classroom setting, students venture out into their community, making real connections with other members of society and having substantial and genuine impact on a problem which all members of the community share.

One example of service learning is the Pennsylvania Literacy Corps. This involves one on one tutoring by high school students for elementary school students. Dr. Harry Silcox, Director of the Pennsylvania Institute for Environmental Community Service Learning states that "of all the service learning programs in the United States, the High School Literacy Corps has the most significant impact on the learners and volunteers, is the easiest to accomplish, and fits the school culture with the least disruption. Every school district should have a literacy corps."

In a draft document designed to promote citizen service throughout Pennsylvania, a strategic planning process notes that "regional advisory boards should be established in each of the substate regions of Pennsylvania to work with the Citizen Service Project Board and to provide guidance and counsel as to ways by which community service learning can be carried out in that part of the State. From these regional Boards, members can be selected to serve on the State Board and in that

way create a network which will reinforce how and in what manner citizen service learning takes place at the State level and within the context of each substate region."

Furthermore, steps designed to increase citizen service include close collaboration with the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the Pennsylvania Council on Economic Education (Economics America), Junior Achievement chapters and related organizations. Organizations such as the State Chamber, the AFL/CIO and others should be encouraged to either contribute funding support or to be a partner in helping to find financial resources to support the work of the Citizen Service Project.

Among the work program elements which might be developed further by the Citizen Service Project are the following:
• Substantially expand literacy corps activities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
• Develop intergenerational projects involving community histories which bring together senior citizens with young people throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

• Expand opportunities to work with senior citizens throughout the Commonwealth and appropriate senior citizen organizations to considerably advance a number of projects undertaken by senior citizens in connection with the use of senior citizens in voluntary capacity to support not-for-profit organizations.
• Promote and enhance the involvement of young people in specific projects designed to be constructive contributions to the quality of life of Pennsylvania.

• Sponsor an annual citizen service symposium in Pennsylvania.
These are a few examples of the type of thinking currently being envisioned by the Citizen Service Project Board as ways to expand the citizen service function.

For those who would like more information regarding citizen service, contact can be made with the Pennsylvania Institute for Environmental and Community Service Learning, c/o Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, Henry Avenue and School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

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

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Mar. 29, 1935 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME SPARKS BIG DEBATE

A spirited campaign being carried on in Wyoming Valley in an effort to have daylight saving time, this summer evoked considerable discussion in this section concerning the action to be taken by businessmen if the valley communities agree to the plan. Consensus of opinion here seemed to be that if Wilkes-Barre and surrounding towns decide to use Daylight Saving Time, Dallas and its vicinity will almost be compelled to adopt the same system to prevent confusion among businessmen and commuters.

A capacity audience applauded the cast of "Aren't We All" enthusiastically as the first performance of the 1935 Benefit Show of Dr. Henry M. Laing Co. was given last night in Dallas Borough High School.

50 Years Ago - Mar. 23, 1945 BROWN, ACHOFF ARE LISTED AS P.O.W.'S

With one week to go before the campaign closes, the Back Mountain area was within \$457 of reaching its \$5,250 quota in the Red Cross War Fund Drive.

Missing in action since December 17, when he took part in the Battle of the Bulge with the 28th Division, Alfred J. Brown, Shavertown, has been unofficially reported as a prisoner of the German government.

The War Department reported Sg. Louis Achoff of Fernbrook, radio gunner in a Flying Fortress missing on a bombing mission over Germany since Feb. 9 to be a prisoner of war in Germany.

You could get - Porterhouse steak, 42¢ lb.; Crisco, 3-lb. jar, 68¢; carrots, lg. bnch, 5¢; Rome apples, 3 lbs., 25¢

40 Years Ago - Mar. 25, 1955 FRANKLIN TWP. HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION O.K.

Bids for the projected shop and four classroom addition to Dallas-Franklin Township high school will be opened April 12, with expectation that ground will be broken shortly thereafter. Blueprints in their final working form were OK'd by Harrisburg on Friday and bids advertised immediately.

Projected widening of Rte. 309 from the vicinity of the Y near Casper's Restaurant to approximately the Wyoming County line south of Beaumont, has been approved by the Highway Department. Work is expected to start sometime this year. Bids will be asked on April 15.

The Hayloft above Harry Smith's Economy Store on Huntsville Road is a rainbow of color for today's opening, summer casuals crowding the racks, suits and four piece outfits. Lillian Hindle and Mrs. Betty Thompson will staff the new dress shop.

30 Years Ago - Mar. 25, 1965 FIRE DESTROYS RENDERING PLANT

Jackson Township's fire siren wailed 24 times as Elmer Laskowski's rendering plant burst into flames Monday evening, one of the few total losses in the company's history. In past times one of the primary products of rendering was grease for use in paint, but Laskowski says the primary product is now fertilizer.

Mr. and Mrs. William Vivian of Centermoreland are observing their 51st wedding anniversary today. They are the parents of one son, Earl of Centermoreland, and have three grandchildren.

College Misericordia's last Theatre 3 presentation of the season will be Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians at Irem Temple in the "Magic of Music."

20 Years Ago - Mar. 27, 1975 SHAVERTOWN SCHOOL WILL BE SOLD

Dallas School Board passed a resolution to sell the Shavertown Elementary School Building and grounds at a special meeting Tuesday night. The Public School Code enables the school district to sell the building and premises of approximately 2.13 acres located on Route 309 and West Center Street. Sec. Tom Jenkins was instructed to publish requests for sealed bids beginning March 31. Bids will be opened at a public meeting April 29.

More than 600 anxious youngsters showed up at Dallas Junior High School gymnasium March 22 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Dallas Junior Woman's Club. The highlight of the afternoon were conversations with "Mr. Bunny", Elby's Big Boy and a clown who were on hand to greet the children.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



The proposal to give tax credits to parents is a good idea at the wrong time, although its top limit of \$200,000 income is about double what makes sense. Instead of wringing our hands about the state of families or shaking our fingers at those deemed to lack "values," providing extra cash for parents could ease some of the burden of raising children in an ever more complex — and expensive — world. The timing stinks, though if you understand that every dollar handed out today will have to be paid back with interest as long as our budget is out of balance. Since tax cuts now will assure that will be the case for years to come, we are again robbing our descendants' piggy bank to pay for today's largesse. If you're more cynical, you might say we're stealing from children to buy votes. The world's financial markets understand this, and have shown how they feel by pounding the dollar lower. This will continue as long as we run deficits, until we are forced to devalue our currency, which will instantaneously make us all poorer.

Another tax cut proposal, the one on capital gains, is a loser from start to finish. Capital gains, the profit from appreciation in value of an asset such as a house or stocks, are already taxed at a lower rate than income. In the case of a home, there's also a one-time exclusion of up to \$125,000 in profit. Proponents say a lower capital gains rate will create revenue because people will buy and sell stock more frequently. That's nonsense. Except in specialized cases, investors don't make decisions based on a few percentage points of taxes. If they do, they're called speculators, and their trading leads to inflated markets that crash.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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