

# The Dallas Post

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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## 50 years ago, a quiet VE Day

# THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1945

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### News Of Son's Death Arrives After V-E Day

#### William Phillips Was Survivor Of Destroyer Sunk Off Normandy

William Phillips, 21, seaman first class, and a veteran of the invasions of Italy and France, has been killed in action in the Far Pacific Theatre of Operations according to a Naval Dispatch received the morning following V-E Day by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phillips of Dallas Star Route.

Date of his death or the nature of the action in which he lost his life was not revealed by the Navy Department in a 96-word telegram requesting that the name of his ship be kept secret for security reasons.

A member of the Class of 1942 at Dallas Township High School, S L/C Phillips followed the footsteps of his father a former seaman and enlisted in the Navy on October 5, 1942, nine days before his nineteenth birthday. After brief naval training he was assigned to the U.S.S. Cole, a destroyer which accounted for six German submarines and three German planes. On one occasion the Cole was torpedoed and chased the submarine for three hours. When she came into port for repairs, Seaman Phillips transferred to the new Destroyer Miredith and accompanied her on the shakedown cruise in the Caribbean. Later she visited Africa and took part in the invasion of Sicily and Salerno. He was also aboard her during her last action at the

### Receives Award



T/SGT. JOSEPH GIRVAN

T/Sgt. Joseph Girvan is awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement in aerial combat" by Col. S. E. Manzo at a Bomber Station of the 15th Air Force in Italy.

### Joseph Girvan Home From Italy

#### Helped Finish Job On Vienna Refineries

Joseph P. Girvan, 27, now home after twenty-two combat missions as a Martin Gunner with a B-24 as a Heavy Bombardment Group based in Southern Italy, has been awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" and has been promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant. The congratulatory presentation of the medal award was made by his group commander, Col. S. E. Manzo, just before Sgt. Girvan sailed for the States.

### Woman's Club Honors Mothers At Annual Tea

#### More Than 175 Women Attended Afters May Meeting Held In Shavertown

More than 175 women attended the annual mother and daughter tea of Dallas Woman's Club held Wednesday evening at Shavertown Hose House. Mothers of Club members and members of Dallas Junior Woman's Club and their mothers were guests.

At a short business meeting, Mrs. Milford Shaver appealed for rummage for the sale May 17-18-19 and gave the following places where rummage may be left: Trucksville, Mrs. E. V. Hartman and Mrs. Vincent McGuire, Shavertown, Mrs. Fred Nixley, Lehman, Mrs. Francis Kunkle, Mrs. Walter Elston, Dallas Twp., Mrs. A. C. Dick and Dallas Twp., Mrs. W. Lee, Dallas Twp., Mrs. Joseph Schmeier, Mrs. Arthur Culver, Mrs. Nelson Thompson, Mrs. R. M. Bodycomb and Mrs. William Brown. If possible to please call on these places to please call on Mrs. Milford Shaver or Mrs. Charles W. Lee and arrangements will be made to pick it up.

Mrs. L. L. Richardson, chairman, announced start of the 7th War Loan Drive on May 14th and asked each member to purchase or sell at least one bond. There will be a booth in the post office. All contacts will be made personally. Miss Florence Crump, chairman of the War Loan Drive for the Junior Club, urged Juniors to co-operate in the same manner to raise a quota of \$8,000.00.

After a short address of welcome by the president, the oldest member of a Senior Club member Mrs.

### Foxhole Reader



### Back Mountain Celebrates End Of War Quietly

#### V-E Day Sorbered By Knowledge Pacific War Is Yet To Be Won

V-E Day in the Back Mountain started with sirens, bells and horns shortly after the official announcement that war in Europe had ended. People in cars blew their horns and the Dallas fire truck drove around town, but few people went out in the streets and the excitement died down in fifteen minutes. The rainy weather helped to curb enthusiasm, but the biggest reason for not celebrating was the knowledge that in the Pacific the fighting continues. Churches were open all day for prayers and special services. Although most places of business including the postoffice closed, the bank, the Dallas Post and the schools worked as usual.

Lehman Schools observed the day with the purchase of a War Stamp by every student, then went on with a full day's work, believing that there is no cause for celebration until fighting stops in all parts of the world. Other schools in the area held similar Patriotic Assemblies.

Dallas Methodist Church bell rung for fifteen minutes by sexton, William Cairl. A number of people visited the church on the day to offer prayers of the day and hope for the end of the Pacific. Rev. Reinart conducted special service of songs and in the evening.

Services were held in the three churches on the town-Mt. Zion-Orange circuit the morning by Rev. Charles Hart and Wesley Lewis.

### Lehman Band Plays Tonight

Musicians Will Present

The original V-E Day received low-key play in The Dallas Post. According to the story, the celebration lasted only about 15 minutes.

# 9 names on Lake-Lehman primary ballot

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Voters in the Lake-Lehman school district will find a crowded ballot when they step into the voting booth May 16. Nine candidates are vying for five seats on the Lake-Lehman school board in the primary.

Lake-Lehman candidates are elected by the regions where they live. Region I comprises Harveys Lake, Lake Township and Noxen Township in Wyoming County. Region II is composed of Ross Township and the middle and southwestern districts of Lehman Township, while Region III includes Jackson Township and Lehman Township's northwest district.

Adding interest to this year's election is the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association, formed in 1991 as a grassroots organization to obtain the best, most cost-effective education possible for the students.

Gary and Patricia Gold, John Tasco and Marcy Lathrop were among the founders who had held several meetings during the fall of 1990 before formally organizing the group a year later.

"A board member had told me that a 25-mill tax increase in 1990 was just the beginning," Patricia Gold said. "When we asked what we could do to stop more tax increases, he told us to fill the room (with an audience). So we did."

Four years later the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association has grown into a force to be reckoned with, seating members Patricia Gold and Allen Moss on the board in the 1993 election and sponsoring four candidates this year: Lois Kopcha, incumbent

See PRIMARY, pg 9

# Arena friend, foe make their case

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - With groups campaigning for and against the proposed Luzerne County arena and backing huge voter registration drives, a record number of voters is expected to decide in the May 16 primary whether or not to allow the county to build the facility.

Two Jackson Township residents are representative of the opposing views. "The arena is a binding referendum," said Mike Warner, a Lake-Lehman school board candidate and member of Taxes No, a group which doesn't want the county to use public money to build and maintain the arena. "The voters are about to make a huge, whooping mistake if they approve it."

While Warner and Taxes No don't believe it's Luzerne County's job to build and operate an arena, former supervisor Joe Stager changed his mind after hearing a presentation by Rep. Kevin Blaum and attorney Anthony Lupas, and now supports the project.

"We must take this chance to create jobs for our children's and their children's future."

Joe Stager Arena supporter

money through reserved box seats and anchor groups such as hockey teams, Stager said.

If the arena lost money, it would cost Luzerne County taxpayers an average of \$15-\$20 a year in a worst-case scenario, he added. "That's not even a carton of cigarettes, a case of beer or a night with the family at MacDonald's," he said.

"We must take this chance to create jobs for our children's and their children's future," Stager said. "We can't guarantee anything - there are no guarantees in life."

Although conceding that many of the jobs created would be service jobs, he said that some of the bigger businesses which have relocated to the area don't pay much more than the minimum wage and don't provide benefits.

See ARENA, pg 10

# With Pacific war still on, it wasn't a big deal

By JACK HILSHER Post Correspondent

On May 8, 1945, soon to be 50 years ago, an event took place which put an end to a terrible war, a war which had produced almost 767,000 U.S. casualties, including over 177,000 dead. This significant event, history records it as "Victory in Europe" or "VE Day," was the signing of surrender documents by a German general named Alfred Jodl.

It took place at 2:41 a.m. on May 7 and became effective at 11:01 p.m. the next day, after much stalling on the part of a German admiral named Karl Doenitz.

Doenitz had been appointed as head of Germany by Hitler shortly before Der Adolf fired a pistol through the roof of his

"They were sending back those with 85 points or higher, based on a set formula, and I had 83. I had to wait a bit, but I knew I was heading for a short furlough and then training for B-29's and the Pacific. So why get excited?"

Lamar Sharpe Trucksville

mouth. The admiral, in announcing Hitler's death on the radio, told the German people that Adolf had died "a hero's death at the head of his troops!" Deception came rather easily to most Nazi party heads.

Word that Hitler was gone quickly erased the German soldier's will to resist. That resistance had been feeble at best for

some time. In April and early May it was all the Allies could do to avoid running down the pathetic hordes of both soldiers and civilians who were desperately trying to get behind Allied lines and avoid the dreaded advancing Russians.

Hundreds of thousands of German troops began to surrender and Eisenhower, fed up

with Jodl's hemming and hawing, gave him the ultimatum of unconditional surrender on both fronts (Russians for a change fully agreed) or the Allies would "break off all negotiations and seal the Western front," thus preventing any further movement to avoid Russian capture.

Doenitz immediately stopped the stalling and had Jodl sign. No one was to break this news until after the official announcement, but an AP correspondent named Ed Kennedy - breaking a promise from all newsmen - sent word of the surrender to the U.S. and Times Square promptly went nuts. You've probably seen pictures of the ticker tape del-

See VE DAY, pg 10

# An Honor Roll you may not have seen

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - Anyone driving up the Dallas-Harveys Lake Highway has seen the Honor Roll, which lists the names of people who served their country in wartime, on Memorial Lane in Dallas.

Unless they're old-timers or very observant, they might not know about Kingston Township's Honor Roll, which once was displayed in the entrance hallway of the Kingston Township High School, and now hangs in the lobby of the

See HONOR ROLL, pg 10



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

HIDDEN MEMORIAL - Two Kingston Township residents, Air Corps veteran Francis Youngblood and municipal building caretaker Harry Owen, show off the Kingston Township Honor Roll in the lobby of the municipal building.

■ Celebrating 70 St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Shavertown slates special service to note an anniversary. Page 3.

■ Honors! Dallas High School releases third quarter honor roll. Page 18.

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