

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

A few words about the library auction

Four days of fun. Great food. Antiques. Books. Volunteers. Fun. Odds 'n' Ends. More books. More fun. Friends. New items. Old items. One-fourth the library's operating budget. Children's auction. Neighbors. Fun. Auction burgers. Sue Hand's painting. Chance items. More volunteers. Welsh cookies. Community spirit. Go. Bid. Have fun. Support your library.

Editor's note: At the time he was publisher of The Dallas Post, Howard Risley was the driving force behind creation of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Risley served as chairman of the auction its first three years, and the tenth year. Many readers will recall the site of the auction was Risley's barn, on Lehman Avenue just off Huntsville Road, across from the present library building. Ever since that first auction in 1946, The Dallas Post has supported the auction, and the library, and will continue to do so.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek

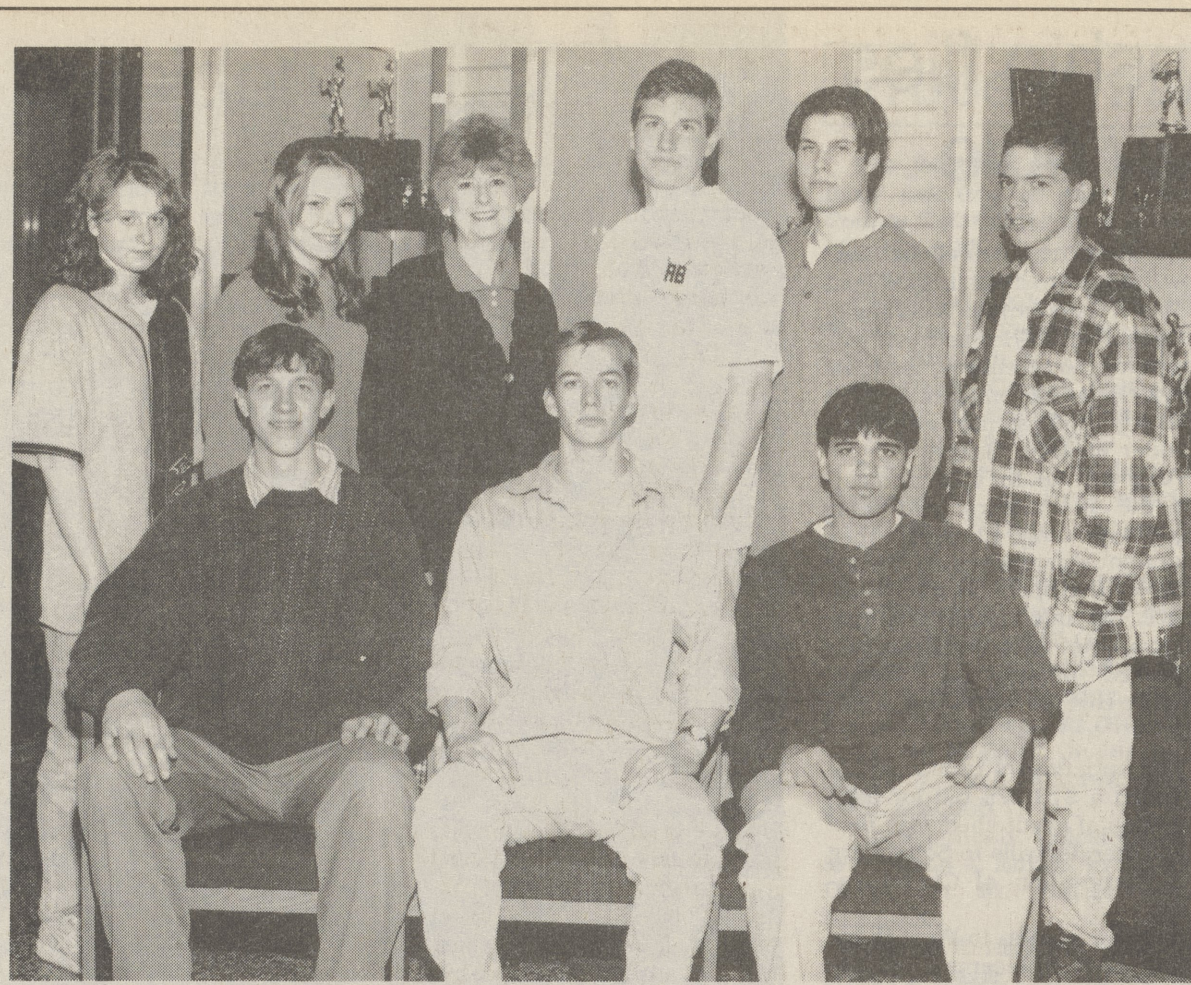


The two-year delay in further improvements to routes 309 and 415 in the Back Mountain will make this a frustrating summer for motorists. There was much fanfare when it was announced that several intersections would be upgraded and traffic signals installed, but since then the timetable has been quietly moved back several times. Traffic has not slacked off to accommodate the delays, and backups of a quarter-mile or more are common at several intersections selected for work. Almost miraculously, there have been few serious accidents along the highways since the announcement, although at least one person has died on Route 309. That is probably just a lucky streak, though, which becomes more tenuous with each passing day, as drivers tired of waiting to pull onto or off side roads frequently risk a collision to break into the flow at the slightest gap. PennDOT could alleviate some of the danger by giving existing green lights longer times. As it is, the intersection of 309 and 415, and Dallas center, have only 30 second increments, not enough when traffic is heavy.

We have finally installed an answering machine to take messages when the office is closed. I don't know what took so long, other than my preference for talking to people directly. But many people can't get to a phone during the day, and this way they can at least get through to us. We may even use the gadget to take unscientific opinion polls from time-to-time. And we hope readers who have news tips will leave them for us to investigate, even if they don't want their name released. If you call our main number, 675-5211, and it rings four times, the machine will kick in and take your message.

In several narrow decisions, the Supreme Court has set out to dismantle much of the "Great Society" legislation passed since the early 1960's. I am torn by this, because I believe the federal government's pressure has made a difference in opportunities afforded minorities, and in the living standards of our poorest neighbors. Yet, I think (or, at least hope) we are a much different society than we were 30 years ago, and some of the regulations may now be a roadblock to further progress instead of the aid they were when first adopted. We must pay close attention to the direction of our society under these relaxed rules, and be prepared to step in if it turns out a firmer direction from Washington really is needed.

One interesting note: The present conservative majority was appointed in part because they were thought to be opposed to an activist judiciary. Yet, they have moved into the legislative domain much more quickly and deeply than any Court since FDR's time.



Win third place in TEAMS competition

Students and teachers from Lake-Lehman High School who participated in a TEAMS, math, engineering and science competition held recently at Penn State and brought home a third place finish, are, seated from left, Christopher Pagoda, Shannon Kelly and Avesh Jain; standing, Jen Feehan, Heather Barsh, Christine Kopcho, team coach Jeff Castellano, Joel Toluba and Todd Kopec.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

To knot tie, or not tie? That is the question, and the glossy and trendy men's mag Esquire, which is but a shadow of its former self, says it has the answer. The June issue claims ties are on the way out, and that a revolution is under way, has indeed been under way since the 60's.

This earth-shaking event has not been sudden, has been creeping up on us gradually, is still ongoing. More and more men, they say, are DRESSING WITHOUT NECKTIES!

Good heavens, I exclaim, what in the world is this world coming to? A tieless society? Well they point to the recent Academy Awards where guys like Tom Hanks, Richard Dreyfus and Elton John (ELTON JOHN?) were prime examples of masculine

I hate ties. Knot!

trendsetting. All wore a dress shirt and no tie, bow or otherwise.

I can remember a great essay, maybe it was in the old Esquire, where the author had painstakingly autopsied a man's dress shirt and tie, and counted the number of layers of cloth, including the stiffening member. He gave the exact number, I don't remember it but it was humongous, of cloth layers with which man chose to surround his neck each and every day he went to work.

And yet, I always liked ties. I had a bright yellow knit tie which I wore with a black shirt. Looking at that combination in a mirror, George Raft always came to mind, which I did not mind at all. Let the tie critics carp; they term ties "functionless," and say they are "a convention of withered utility."

Supposedly ties have a military origin, way back when. In the first century B.C. Roman soldiers wore wet scarves around their necks to cool off. Mebbe so, but that did not start a custom. It wasn't until 1668 that Croation mercenaries appeared in France wearing muslim scarves; fashion-freaks that the French were, they copied them, knotted in the center with long ends...they called them "cravates," their word for "Croats."

The custom then spread to England where show-off King

Charles II made neckware a must for his court. In the next century appeared one Beau Brummel, who became famous for extra large ties and fancy knots...one journal reported counting 32 different knot configurations.

Knots and ties were named for famous people and fashionable places, like Windsor, and the race course at Ascot. Neckware ever since has been very popular and probably is the leading gift for men. (Today you can pick up a Fumagalli original for a mere 75 cents!)

Bow ties showed up in 1920, and may also have been Croatian in origin. Men there made them from a square hanky, folded diagonally and pulled into a bow knot. An unknown genius invented a clip-on bow tie in the late 30's.

Gals have nothing on guys when it comes to shifting fashion trends. Wide ties should never have been thrown out when the narrow tie fad began, for the wide ones eventually staged a comeback.

If this fashion trend continues and a revolt is truly under way to scuttle the tie, even though since retiring I hardly ever wear them, I shall be very sorry. My Windsor knot was a thing of beauty to behold. And I can still tie it.

I mean, like sharp, man.

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

Last week brought back fond memories. My husband and I were once again at an oceanographic field station and on a small research vessel. This time, he was the professor and I went along for the ride. But, more than 25 years ago we were both students taking a cruise on the *Research Vessel Eastward*, owned by Duke University.

When most people think of cruises, they think of lolling about on the deck drinking cocktails on their way to someplace exotic. We served as crew on rotating four-hour shifts day and night on our way to and from the Sargasso Sea. Fun? Romance? Sure!

When I mention the Sargasso Sea, many people draw a blank. Others remember tales of mariners getting stuck there with no wind to fill their sails. Both reactions are correct: It is a place in the middle of the North Atlantic that can be described as a calm desert. It is the result of a huge rotating gyre of currents encircling the Atlantic Ocean north of the equator. The most famous of these currents is the strong Gulf Stream which moves warm water from the Florida Straits along the North American coast to Nova Scotia and then across toward Great Britain. As currents go, the Gulf Stream moves fast—it is a

The Sargasso Sea – desert of seaweed in mid-ocean

50-150 mile wide river flowing from three to six miles per hour.

The Sargasso Sea is stable for a couple of other reasons. It has a permanent thermocline—that's a big word for the division of the warm water above and the cold water below. Therefore, there is very little vertical mixing. One of the reasons for this situation is that a lens of salty Mediterranean water is sandwiched between cold layers from the polar regions beneath the Sargasso Sea. The other obvious reason is the lack of wind and storms which often mix water in other parts of the ocean.

"Sargasso" is a strange word. You probably wondered, as I did, how such a name arose. It comes from the Portuguese word for seaweed-sargaco. But you may argue, "I thought you said this place was a desert so what is seaweed doing there?" The Sargasso Sea is a desert with few nutrients, but the nutrients that are there are held in large communities of floating algae known as sargassum or sargasso weed or, simply, gulfwweed. The patches of this algae are "seldom larger than a football field and no thicker than a mattress," as one author put it. It is a brown algae related to kelp. Sargassum is held in the lighted surface zone by small bladders filled with air.

Within these patches of algae live a flat worm, three snails, two species of shrimp, two crabs and half a dozen fishes, including a sea horse and baby eels. Many of these creatures are transparent so that they are difficult to see even when you hold a clump of seaweed in your hands. Other creatures, such as the sargasso fish, look so much like sargassum

that they even mimic the air bladders! That way they cannot be spotted by larger fish which might want to eat them and at the same time they can sneak up on smaller prey to have for lunch. The sargassum is also colonized by bacteria, bryozoans, and other forms of algae.

Below these communities live several larger species of fish. At night they come toward the surface to feed. Flying fish are common on board ship in the morning. We used to enjoy shining a light under water to attract squid. I am told that barracuda and whales frequent these waters, but I never saw either of those. I did see some marvelous Portuguese men-of-war with their pink and blue "sails" keeping them afloat.

Although the Sargasso Sea is generally cut off from the rest of the Atlantic Ocean, there are some connections. The baby eels that I listed before grow up to return to the rivers of Europe and North America where their ancestors lived. It is still a mystery how they know which way to swim and why they begin such a journey in the first place. There are also physical connections. The Gulf Stream occasionally forms loops, and sometimes these loops break off carrying colder, nutrient rich water into the Sargasso Sea. But most nutrients apparently come from the air—bacteria fix the nitrogen needed by the algae in the same way they do on land.

As with any large desert, there is much yet to learn. There will continue to be cruises by research vessels for many years to come. And, yes, these strenuous cruises will continue to be wonderfully romantic.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - July 12, 1935 DALLAS ESCAPES FLOODING

While sections around it suffered severely from violent storms and the worst floods in years, Dallas escaped serious damage from the week's rains and yesterday had recovered from its drenching. In Wilkes-Barre, where the Susquehanna River swirled over its banks and inundated hundreds of acres causing damage estimated at a 1/4 million dollars, the level of the river was dropping rapidly last night.

A request for family associations in this section to record their histories with the Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania has been made by Frances Dorrance of Huntsville, director of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. Dorrance says "Many individuals, justly interested in their ancestry, are personally collecting information on their own branches of their families, have formed family associations with officers who are concerned in learning the history of the family."

50 Years Ago - July 13, 1945 BOOK CLUBS SUPPORT NEW AREA LIBRARY

Lewis LeGrand, Borough auditor, was elected Secretary of Dallas School Board for a three year term at a meeting of the Board held Friday in the high school building. LeGrand will replace Daniel Waters whose resignation became effective July 1.

An enthusiastic group of women, members of two book clubs, met at the Memorial Library and pledged their unanimous support and cooperation to the new library. Members voted to open memberships in the clubs to all persons who wish to join, providing they purchase one current book a year. These books will be circulated among members through the library and at the end of that year become a permanent part of that institution.

You could get - Watermelons, 4 1/2¢ per lb.; peaches, 2 lbs. 25¢; Acme Super Bread, lg. loaf, 11¢; Mason Jars (quarts) doz. 65¢; Lifebuoy soap, 3/20¢.

40 Years Ago - July 8, 1955 HAILSTORM RUINS CROPS IN ORANGE

The 9th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will get underway today at noon with an assortment of merchandise, antiques and livestock that surpass any previous sale.

Tuesday afternoon's hail storm hit the Orange area with devastating effect, destroying fruit on trees and crops in the fields. Hail came down in an icy shower until porches and back yards were crusted thick with ice.

Mrs. Elizabeth Deihl Knell, Fernbrook, will celebrate her 100th birthday tomorrow. Family and friends will gather holding open house to mark the turn of the century. She has five living children; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren. The oldest woman in the Back Mountain savors life to the fullest and confidently expects to live to be 110.

30 Years Ago - July 8, 1965 STATE OKAYS NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Official approval from the Department of Education has been received by Dallas School District for the proposed new Elementary Building to be erected near the senior high school. The new building, to be completed by 1967, will house 35 classrooms, designed to take care of an overflow of pupil influx in the district, according to an announcement made at a special meeting of the Dallas School Board. Two other additions, 11 rooms to the junior high and 10 to the senior high building, have not yet been officially approved.

Michael Kozyck, owner of Brothers Four Restaurant and Lounge, Main St., Dallas, began duties as manager of Orchard Farm Restaurant, intersection of Routes 309 and 415, Dallas this week. He told *The Dallas Post* that the present arrangement with himself as manager and Kenneth Rice as owner will continue for the immediate future and does not mean he has assumed ownership as well.

20 Years Ago - July 10, 1975 SHAVERTOWN SCHOOL IS PUT UP FOR SALE

A resolution to advertise for bids for the sale of Shavertown Elementary School was approved by directors of the Dallas School District July 8. The building will be advertised for sale exclusive of the bell and all playground equipment.

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