

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Lake needs more speed limits, not less

Some boating interests want the night speed limit on Harveys Lake rescinded. We can't think of a single good reason to do so.

Harveys Lake has been the site of several serious accidents and more than one lost life, and many of the mishaps have occurred at night. That is more than mere coincidence. Anyone who has spent time on the water knows the hazards of night boating, which are made worse by operators whose boats either lack proper lighting or forget (or refuse) to use what they have. One of the most recent incidents involved one boat cutting across the beam of another which displayed no lights. Moonless or overcast skies only add to the problem.

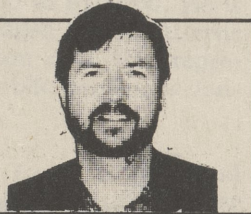
There are plenty of arguments for rolling back the speed limit, but none of them come close to justifying any change. If anything, it would make sense to impose day speed limits or restrictions on motor sizes to cut down the insanity that now reigns on the lake on weekends to the point that many people with waterfront property won't go on the lake until the crazies leave.

This is a good opportunity to remind everyone just what Harveys Lake is and is not. It is not a race track, nor is it a private playground, despite appearances. It is a publicly-owned body of water which the state and borough have every right to regulate for the safety and welfare of citizens. In fact, should they fail to impose reasonable restrictions on boaters, they might be liable to legal action for their failure to do so.

The night speed limit on Harveys Lake should not be relaxed. There is no doubt the lake is safer because of it. It would be far wiser to propose a daytime limit than to talk about removing this sensible law.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



We are just back from a week's vacation to Rhode Island and Connecticut, including an overnight on Block Island, an hour's ferry ride off the coast. Block Island is smaller and less developed than Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket, and a lot less self centered. Because so much of it is relatively pristine, it has been listed as one of the "12 Last Great Places" by the Nature Conservancy, which has protected about a third of its area. I found it remarkable that this 4 by 8-mile island had such an abundance of fresh water, including one pond at nearly 200 feet above sea level! It also has a couple of venerable lighthouses, one of which will be the subject of a documentary on TBS September 3.

This was the first ferry ride for our kids, and they managed it quite well, although both felt a bit queasy. We took bikes — no car — and took a couple of nice rides on a cloudy, fog-draped Thursday. The highlight, though, was the seafood, including first-rate clam chowder and a platter of "whole-belly" fried clams. Yum.

The New England economy is struggling, although its downs are about equal to the high points here. A good deal of defense work was done in that region, and cutbacks in the military have hit hard. One key plant is Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, which manufactures nuclear submarines. They are now working on what may be the last of the Seawolf series unless Congress comes up with the money for another. There's some hope that will happen, although it's nail-biting time right now. One thing that is similar to our region is housing prices, and I can't figure out why. Prices dropped significantly there during the last recession and haven't recovered. Meanwhile, prices here leveled out or even rose a bit, to the point that comparable properties appear to bring similar prices. This, despite the great disparity in average incomes, with Connecticut the highest in the nation. Go figure.

I am convinced that supermarkets pay their checkers commission based on the number of those little white plastic bags they use. I went to the market Sunday morning and bought a few things to fill in, which would easily fit into one bag. But, no, that's not good enough. After putting three or four items into the first bag, the checker reached for another. Please, I begged, fit it all in one bag. With a slight air of annoyance, she complied, but warned that I should be careful not to crush the blueberries, which were safely encased in a plastic container.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post, and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. 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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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

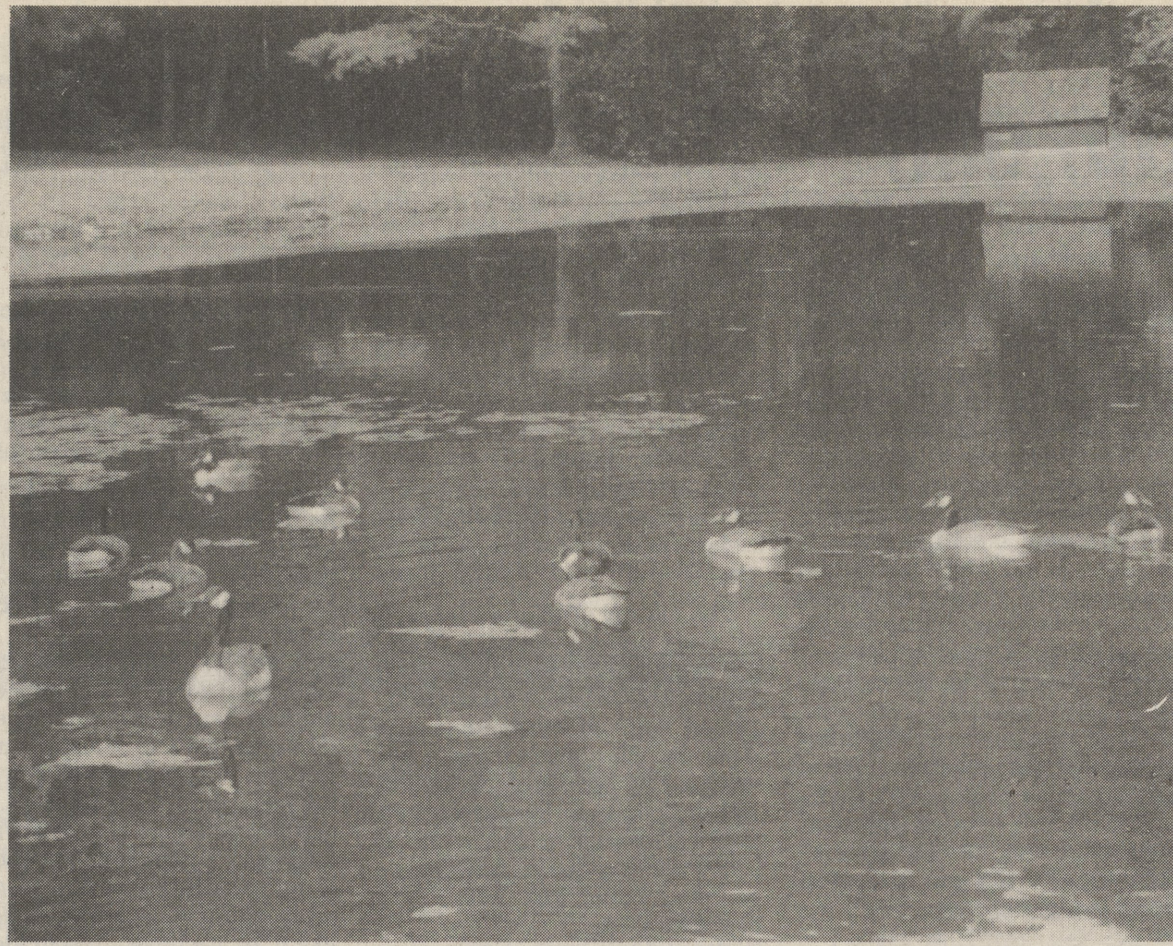
Peggy Young
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Grace R. Dove
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Jill Gruver
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Geese spent a lazy summer day on the pond at The Newberry Estate. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Volunteers made Scouts' project a success

Editor:
Penn's Woods Junior Girl Scout Troop #645 recently held a community service project, the Kid Care Photo ID, at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.

There was a tremendous response from the community. The troop photographed 340 children.

We would like to thank the following businesses and patrons, whose donations made it possible to offer the project free to the community: Francis J. Collini, M.D. FACS, P.C.; Anthracite Rubber Co.; Dr. William E. Watkins; Dr. Leonard C. Medura; Management Specialist, Inc.; Fino's Rexall Pharmacy; Dr. George Nahas; Offset Paperback; Country Pets; Pace Physical Ther-

apy; Bartsen Media, Inc., Dallas Post; Charles R. and Rebecca R. Davenport; Pizza Perfect, Inc.; Welding Works; Quality Metal Products; Chris's Auto Repair; Schmid's Amoco Service; IMG; Joe and Veronica Kasmark, Jr.; Joseph B. and Genevieve Wroblewski; Kenneth Thomas, Jr., Plumbing & Heating; Rave Landscaping, Inc.; Kingston Metal; Play Plaza; Savage, Sharkey & Reiser Eye Care Consultants; Steven's Town & Country Cleaners; William and Priscilla Perry; Pete's Automotive; Northeast Reprographics; Debra A. Serfass, Ph.D.; Robert G. Szulborski, M.D., Ph.D.; Jim Finn.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped make this

project successful: Cathy Polachek, Jennifer Polachek, Kathy Swepton, Erin Swepton, Sara Swepton, Debra A. Serfass, Ph.D.; Kira Szulborski, Nancy Vanderhook, Jill Vanderhook, Laura Vanderhook, Danielle Zarambo, Barbara Zarambo, Marjorie Adams, Whitney Adams, Hillary Adams, Judy Daniels, Alyssa Daniels, Carol Sosik, Jessica Fields, Loni Plekanski, Susan Dwinchick, Carrie Cocolin, Elizabeth Eby, Dorothy Backes, Cassandra Backes, Lynn Kirkwood, Jamie Sulewski, Rachel Kukosky, Jonelle Dickson, Judy Polachek, Amanda Yeager, Elizabeth Yeager.

Troop #645
Dallas

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

In a fateful August of 50 years ago atomic bombs exploded over two Japanese cities and brought about an ending to a long and bloody war. And, as seems to be the custom these days, a lot of second guessing about those actions is going on.

A Wilkes-Barre newspaper columnist, much given to viewing with alarm, has called the use of these weapons - which had the intended effect of canceling American invasion planning - a "terrible error." He said it resulted "from rash judgement that destroyed a piece of our soul."

I would hardly call it that judgement rash, but his comments do call for some rebuttal beyond the editorial in his own paper taking issue with him. A final quote from his column: "Popular myth holds

No atomic bomb apologies are needed

that a planned invasion of Japan would have killed multitudes of American soldiers." Myth?

It was no myth that an Allied invasion force would have faced 1,230,000 Japanese troops on the island of Honshu. On Kyushu were another 560,000. Neither number includes the hundreds of thousands of volunteer civilians, some were women being trained to resist with sharpened bamboo spears. (They were told, "Death is preferable to surrender.")

It was no myth that uncounted numbers of suicide planes were ready, along with hundreds of small submarines, each equipped with two torpedoes, designed to attack Allied troop ships.

It was no myth that many "Fukuryu," (literally "human mines") were trained to swim out to blow up landing craft with handheld explosives.

Nor was it a myth that Japan's Imperial War Ministry was cranking out mimeographed warnings of the coming invasion and issuing this decree:

"We shall throw everything conceivable, material and spiritual, into the coming battle and annihilate the enemy by fierce and bold offensive attacks."

"Our people should fight to the last person..."

"Nursing and tending to comrades will not be allowed."

"Units should not retreat."

"Soldiers without weapons shall take the arms from dead."

"Wounded soldiers and patients shall accompany troops and participate in the decisive battle. Dropping out shall not be permitted."

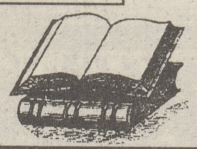
It is futile to wish that this columnist's research would also have included examining the horror stories which eventually came out of the infamous Death March on the Bataan Peninsula, involving 10,000 Americans and 62,000 Filipino troops.

That probably would not have deterred him from his desire to "someday find my way to Japan to pay my respects."

I hope he does.

They might keep him.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library circulated 8,754 books during the month of July. The adult circulation was 4,359 and juvenile 4,395. Book Club books totaled 235; Audio tapes, 243; and Videos, 165. Interlibrary loan books borrowed from other libraries, 58.

New borrowers joined: adult 75 and juvenile 58; Re-registrations, adult 47 and juvenile 45; new books added, adult 129 and juvenile 53; and withdrawn books, adult 8 and juvenile 11.

The summer reading program ended on Friday, August 4 with a movie and special activities with refreshments. The summer story hours finished August 2 and sign

Library circulation is brisk

up for the fall story hour will be held the week of September 5. The story hours will begin in October.

New books at the library: "Practical Magic" by Alice Hoffman is a tale of two sisters, Gillian and Sally Owens, brought up by their two elderly aunts in a world of spells, and exotica from which they eventually escape—one by running away, the other by marrying, but which never escapes from them. Many years go by before strange circumstances thrust them together again in the world of mundane and mysterious, the normal and the numinous.

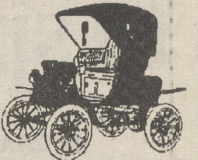
"Alley Kat Blues" by Karen Kijewski tells of Kat Colorado's current case which is getting to her. She found the mangled body of a young woman on the road, apparently the victim of a hit-and-run accident. The victim's mother turns up in her office asking for help—convinced that her daughter's death was no accident. Suspects abound from her

fiance to a former boyfriend.

"Heart of the West" by Penelope Williamson is the story of Clementine Kennicutt who has been filled with restless longing all her life. A ladylike New Englander, she yearns to escape the chafing authoritarian rule of her pious, unforgiving father. She has never met anyone remotely like Gus McQueen and when the cowboy with the laughing eyes and big, urgent dreams presses her to elope with him to his Montana ranch, she is ready. She is not prepared.

"Fingerprints of the Gods" by Graham Hancock researches breakthroughs and astonishing new evidence point toward the existence of a forgotten epoch in human history—that of a highly advanced, technologically proficient and civilized society that flourished during the last Ice Age and was destroyed more than 12,000 years ago by the global cataclysm that brought the Ice Age to a sudden and dramatic halt. A genuine breakthrough has been achieved.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Aug. 16, 1935

FLYERS HONOR WOODROW EVANS

The first week's returns in The Post's pre-election straw vote were definitely anti-Roosevelt. Herbert Hoover had a long lead as the choice of the straw voters for the Republican nomination next year.

Seven airplanes circled and dipped over Dallas in an inspiring tribute to the memory of a comrade who was being laid to rest in Fern Knoll Cemetery. Woodrow B. Evans, of Wilkes-Barre who was electrocuted in Dorrance Colliery last Thursday, was a member of the Wyoming Valley Flying Club. While services were being held over his grave, seven fellow members of the club flew to Dallas from the valley and dropped flowers over the grave.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 17, 1945

WORLD WAR II ENDS

Mrs. Rachel Wyckoff, born while this country was at war with Mexico, was overjoyed when on Tuesday, her 97th birthday, came the announcement ending America's fifth war during her lifetime. She was too young to remember anything about the Mexican War, but recalls that when the Civil War ended little celebrating was done outside of meetings with speeches and singing, because everyone was eager to start the job of rebuilding the country.

Residents of the entire Back Mountain Region are invited to attend the Victory Concert of Dr. Henry M. Laing Community Band which will be held Sunday at four at the Bandstand on Dallas-Harveys Lake Highway.

You could get - Cabbage, 3¢ lb.; beets, 2 lg. bchs. 9¢; Acme Super Bread, 26 1/2 oz. loaf, 11¢; Evaporated Milk, 2 tall cans, 19¢.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 12, 1955

DALLAS GETS NEW RURAL MAIL ROUTE

The new drilled well at Noxen Elementary School was reported down to a depth of 212 feet with only five gallons a minute flowing. Dean Shaver is continuing the six-inch drill to find an adequate water vein. Casing, made necessary by coarse gravel and sand extends 65 1/2 feet before the drill starts through solid rock.

In order to relieve the present three overburdened rural routes emanating from Dallas Post Office, the Post Office Dept. has authorized the establishment of a fourth rural route beginning Tuesday. This fourth route will include parts of the present three routes and will also serve areas not heretofore served from the Dallas Office.

William V. Shedleski, owner of the Dallas Motel, formerly the Trav-E-Lodge, has announced 20 new rooms will be added to the property before spring.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 12, 1965

PEAR THIEVES HIT ROUSHEY PLOT

The Dallas Borough Council edged away from making drastic moves to impose an inspection tax on utilities, telephone company, electric and gas companies etc. until the committee of the whole could find out if it was legal. For the second month, Councilman Wilbur Davis urged that utilities were businesses doing business in Dallas and as such were taxable.

Operating under cover of rain and darkness, thieves picked five pear trees clean to arm's reach on the property of John Hardisky, Roushey Plot, Fernbrook Sunday night. The family was home at the time. The pears were ripe and ready to be picked for market.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 14, 1975

COUPLE WEDS AT J.R. DAVIS HORSE SHOW

Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company's 10th annual horse show attracted a sizable crowd to the Lehman Horse Show Grounds last weekend. Highlight of the Saturday show was the wedding of Aileen Hogan and Dave Forster, which took place on horseback in the center of the ring.

A \$824,700 grant from the Environmental Protective Agency received by Harveys Lake Sewer Authority, was used to pay 14 outstanding bills by the authority at a special meeting Aug. 5 at the authority's office. Bill payments totaled \$372,038.