

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

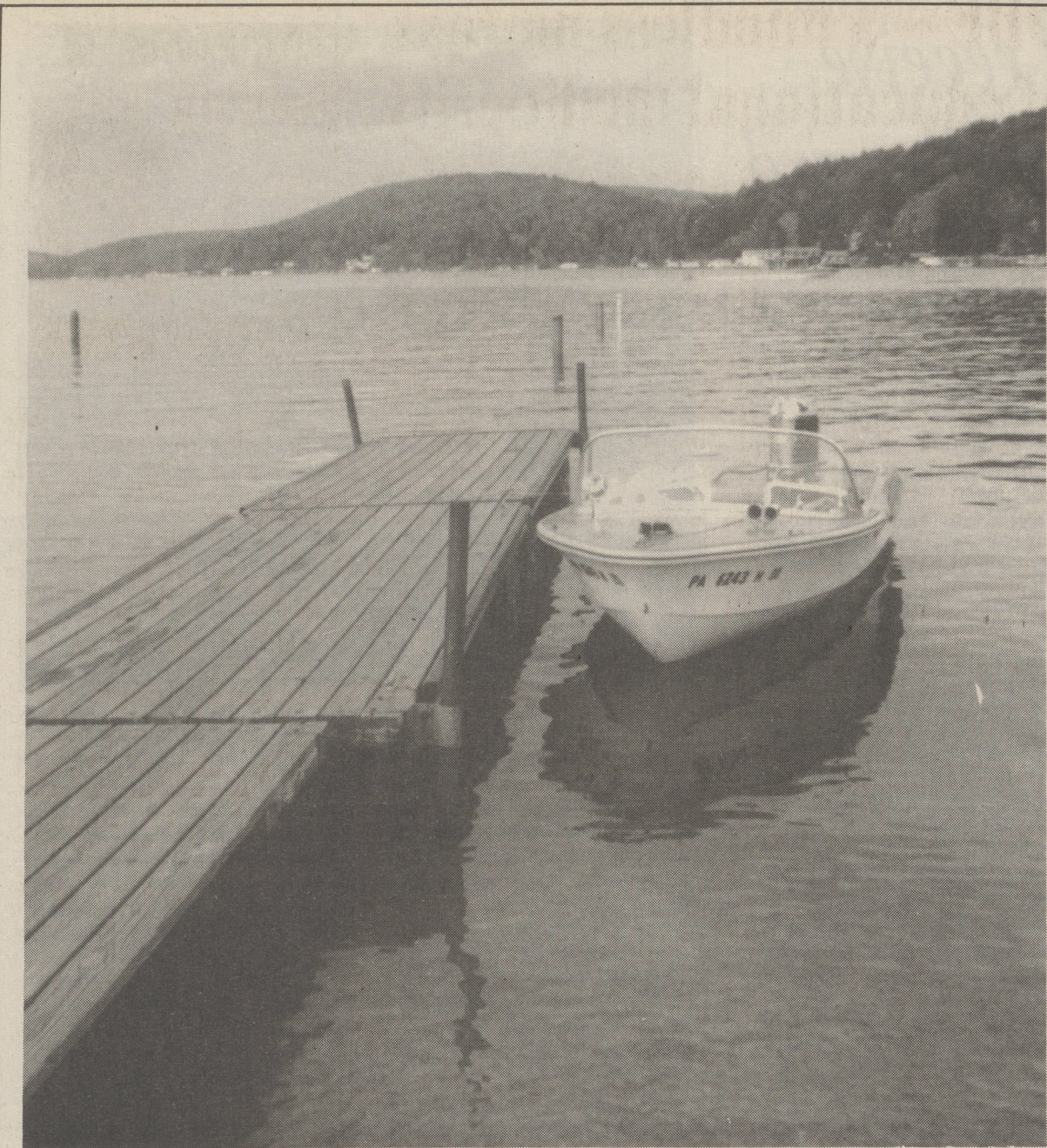
Special teachers live on in their students

Many adults, years after leaving school, recall a special teacher, one who went beyond the classroom routine to inspire students both in the subject matter and a love of learning itself. Lolly Larkins, who died last month after a long battle with cancer, was one of those teachers.

Mrs. Larkins and her special projects designed to spark children's interest in reading had been the subject of several articles in The Dallas Post in recent years. In all that time, she never mentioned her affliction, preferring to keep reporters focused on the children who were the center of her life. Those students enjoyed all the special methods she used to convey her love of reading, including *The Polar Express*, which has become an annual event for Lake-Noxen School first graders.

"She considered every new book to be an adventure, not simply something to be read in class," said Barbara Wall, the school's librarian and a long-time friend. That was evident in the way she attempted to make stories come alive, complete with props and projects that gave her students a deeper understanding of the material. Sometimes it was celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss, others it was making quilts or bringing a bread-making machine to class, always with the goal of reaching beyond the printed page to help youngsters gain knowledge and, yes, a sense of adventure.

There are teachers who teach the same year 20 times. There are others, like Lolly Larkins, who bring a freshness to each new class, and impart the joy of discovery to their new charges each September. They are to be cherished and honored. That is exactly what the faculty of Lake-Noxen School has done, by creating the Lolly Larkins Reading Corner, a place where students can go to relax and read their favorite books. If you would like to help, send a contribution to: The Lolly Larkins Reading Corner, Lake-Noxen Elementary School, RR 3, Box 270, Harveys Lake PA 18618.



Ron Johnson's boat, Harveys Lake. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Teacher support needed for school change

Editor:

The Dallas School Board will be voting on a new scheduling configuration for the Senior High School at the Monday, October 9th meeting. The District refers to this as "intensified scheduling", which basically translates into four classroom periods a day of approximately 83-90 minutes in length, coupled with a 75-minute "flex" period to accommodate lunch/activities. Present year-long course offerings, such as most major subjects, would be converted to a semester basis.

District administration presentations to the public on the four-period day took place on April 27 and July 10, 1995. A video from Hatboro-Horsham School District was used at the April meeting, while in July, guidance counselors from Hatboro-Horsham and Towanda high schools spoke on their school's positive experiences. Hatboro-Horsham has used this type of schooling for three years, while Towanda had just completed their first year.

Parameters such as lowered school absenteeism and disciplinary referrals as well as jumps in honor roll students have been mentioned as some of the benefits of the four-period day. "The students love it," the Hatboro-Horsham video told us, with reasons ranging from being responsible for work in only three to four subjects, to the advantage of more classroom time to get help from the teacher. This method of scheduling may clearly have potential.

Yet, there is a flip side to all of this. Concern has been voiced as to why we are considering this

change when there seems to be a lack of "hard-core" data, i.e. test scores, to support its effectiveness. Certainly a variety of teaching methods of a participatory nature will be needed to make good use of such a lengthy classroom period, as opposed to a lecture format.

High school science teachers, pointed out at the April meeting that they would lose some 50 hours of instructional time on a semester basis, thus forcing an adjustment in content. Questions as to the effect of taking sequenced foreign language or mathematics courses with conceivably a two semester preparation have been posed.

But let me cut to the point on which the success of this venture rests - and that is the sentiment/commitment on the part of the senior high school teachers to embrace this four period program. The teachers visited Hatboro-Horsham as well as Lake Wallepaupack high schools over the past year, expressly to gain exposure to this concept and see it in action. Presumably they came away unconvinced and with many questions, as an 11 undecided, 29 no and 2 yes vote of June, 1995 indicates.

At the board's August meeting, senior high department chairpersons were present and expressed some concerns and ultimately requested that a plan be formulated by the administration that would spell out the specifics of the implementation of this concept. To this end, the teachers, by department, submitted their list-

ings of needed equipment/technology, staff development, and curriculum adjustments. Subsequent meetings have been held with department heads during September on the topic of intensified scheduling.

The teachers have requested that they have adequate time to review the completed plan before the October 9th school board meeting and may well vote again to indicate their current status in regard to the plan.

Parents of Dallas Middle School students and Dallas Senior High School students: Do you have comments or questions that have been unanswered about the four period day? Would you like a chance to read over the administration's plan to implement this scheduling change in the 1996-97 school year?

If so, you need to speak up during the visitor's segment of the October 9th school board meeting. The board meets at 8:00 p.m. in the Administration Building on Church Street near the ball fields, and is preceded by a 7:00 p.m. work session at which this issue might be discussed.

Those unable to attend the meeting could send comments to Dr. Richard Coslett, the Chairperson of the Board, or the individual board members before the October 9th meeting.

This is the only way that the school board members will have the benefit of input from students, parents, and the community per se.

Lucy F. Messersmith
Dallas

Back Mountain needs a light industry park

Congratulations to Mountaintop and everyone who worked to snare a new computer chip manufacturing plant that Harris Corporation says will be built in the Crestwood Industrial Park. The 300 or so jobs that will be created are a much-needed boost to the Luzerne County economy.

The Back Mountain could use a boost, too. Now that the Cross Valley Expressway is complete, this area should be more attractive to businesses that want to locate in scenic surroundings with easy access to major transportation routes. But we lack a location that invites serious consideration as the site for clean manufacturing or high-quality offices. Surely there are officials and individuals in the Back Mountain who can get together to create a well-planned light industry park, one that can not only attract good jobs but situate them in such a way as to inflict the least harm on the environment which is one of our greatest assets.

Mountaintop won the Harris plant over other areas because it offered a ready-to-use location, and a willing work force. We have the latter but not the former, and in today's competitive world, we need both.

No place here for illegal hunting

The annual fall ritual has begun, with bow and arrow deer season opening September 30. Whether or not you approve of hunting in general, everyone with a sense of honor can support efforts to stop illegal hunting, and to catch poachers and others who go beyond the bounds of hunting laws, safety and common sense.

Among the worst abuses are shooting from a car, and jacklighting, in which a spotlight is used to freeze a deer so it can be easily shot. The two often go together, with jacklighters driving slowly and upon spotting a deer shining a bright light at it. Beyond being illegal, the action is dangerous - because it's dark, the shooter often doesn't if a home or other building is behind the deer.

Responsible hunters abhor these practices, and the members of the Harveys Lake Rod & Gun Club have gone even further, donating a deer decoy to the state Game Commission, to be used to catch illegal hunting. The rest of us can help too, by reporting improper hunting to the Game Commission whenever we see it.

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.



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library display case is showing an interesting display of stamps borrowed from Christopher Coslett of Hunlock Creek. Chris is 12 years old and in 7th grade at Lake-Lehman middle level. He has a brother, Nick, who is in 10th grade. The month of October is National Stamp Collecting Month, which seemed a fitting time for this display.

Chris's grandfather, Cy Chadwick of Shavertown, is an avid stamp collector and he created an interest in stamp collecting for Chris five years ago. Cy gave Chris a starter collection to begin his personal hobby. Chris receives some stamps from Cy after he takes them off envelopes and after Cy gets his first pick. Chris received some special stamps from

Fascinating stamp collection visits library

Cy and buys some at stamp shows when he attends with his grandfather.

This is definitely a Gettysburg stamp display. The display includes a Civil War stamp collection which is standing in the rear of the display. There are special Civil War postcards in the display which can be used for mailing. There is included in the display a replica of a letter with a man going to battle. There is a Civil War Centennial special page of stamps dated 1961-1965.

A prize possession is the Civil War Classic Collection, First day of issue. Chris attended the first day ceremony held at the National Park Headquarters in Gettysburg, June 29, 1995. This was a very exciting and historic day for Chris. The display is a reminder of an important time in our history. It will be at the library until October 25.

New books at the library: "L is for Lawless" by Sue Grafton could be called, Kinsey Millhone in bad company. Call it a mystery with-

out a murder, a treasure hunt without a map, a quest novel with truly mixed-up motives. Call it the return of Kinsey as bad girl—quick-witted and quick slivery, smart-mouthed and smart alecky, poking her nose in dirty laundry.

"Don't Cry Now" by Joy Fielding is a novel that once again unfurls her extraordinary talent to keep us turning pages—with all the lights on and the doors bolted. In this powerful domestic thriller she delivers a chilling story in which terror and devotion spar for a place in a mother's heart. This is a stunning psychological thriller.

"Dead Man's Walk" by Larry McMurtry is the story of the early days of Gus McCrae and Woodrow Call, the heroes of Larry McMurtry's novel, 'Lonesome Dove'. He now takes the reader back to the days when two of the most beloved figures in American fiction were young Texas Rangers, first experiencing the wild frontier that will form their characters.



60 Years Ago - Oct. 11, 1935 FEDS PROMISE MANY JOBS FOR AREA

A bond retirement fund of \$3,650 was set up in First National Bank of Dallas for Dallas Borough School Board this week to meet obligations of the local district. Through the fund, coupons amounting to \$825 due December 30 and June 30, 1936 will be paid and \$2,000 worth of bonds due on the same date will be retired.

You could get - Chuck roast 17¢ lb.; ground beef, 2 lbs. 33¢; eggs, 2 doz. 59¢; sweet potatoes, 10 lbs. 19¢; bananas, 4 lbs. 19¢.

50 Years Ago - Oct. 12, 1945 AREA CELEBRATES NEW LIBRARY'S OPENING

Rain or shine, the Back Mountain Memorial Library will be dedicated this Sunday afternoon with colorful outdoor patriotic ceremonies. Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion and all members of the armed forces home on furlough or discharged will meet in front of Dr. F. Budd Schooley's home on Lake Street. From there they will march behind the

Dr. Henry M. Laing Community Band to the library where the Legion will take part in a flag raising ceremony.

40 Years Ago - Oct. 7, 1955 COPS SAY HAULERS MUST COVER TRUCKS

State and local police are working on a number of angles that may in time lead to the solution of the theft last Thursday morning of rifles, shells and knives from Dallas Hardware & Supply. The first break came last Thursday when Wilkes-Barre police notified Chief Russell Honeywell that a box of .35 high-power rifle shells had been found in a Plymouth sedan on Morgus' Parking lot opposite Hotel Sterling.

Chief Russ Honeywell was instructed to arrest any garbage man who does not provide a canvas cover for his truck at a brief meeting of Borough Council Tuesday. Numerous complaints are being heard throughout the Back Mountain area that garbage is strewn along residential and rural highways.

30 Years Ago - Oct. 7, 1965 ASST. CHIEF GENSEL QUILTS JACKSON POLICE

Resignation of Roland Gensel as assistant police chief of Jackson Township as of Nov. 1 came as something of a blow to the board of supervisors this week and leaves Jackson without a day officer on weekdays. The board agreed that he should be called out for duty when needed until that date and Wes Lamoreaux might be called out after that as a constable, state office which he retains.

With Trucksville Fire Company's tanker broken down and beyond repair, a serious situation has arisen in this area, requiring the interest of all citizens. A special meeting was held at Kingston Township Municipal Building, at which time committees were appointed to obtain bids on new equipment and prepare for a fundraising drive.

20 Years Ago - Oct. 9, 1975 AREA HONORS DAN FLOOD FOR SERVICE

The Dallas Post this week announced plans to move its local business and publishing offices to a new location at 44 Main Street, a building formerly occupied by the Grace T. Cave Store and owned by John Shinal, Dominic Fino and Gene DeStefano. The new site is reported to be the same one occupied by The Post during the early years of the century.

Officials of the Back Mountain Protective Association announced this week that U.S. Rep. Dan Flood will be the recipient of the prestigious Back Mountain Community Service Award during banquet ceremonies at Irem Temple Country Club, Oct. 31. Dr. F. Budd Schooley, president of the Protective Association said Flood received the overwhelming majority of nominations for the award which is given for an "outstanding record of community service above self in the Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Valley and Greater Back Mountain Area."

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