

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Celebrate a special week with the library

The entire region can feel proud of this week's celebration of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's first 50 years. The library is a unique community resource; it also is the single most important unifying institution in the Back Mountain and it has survived and prospered only with the help of the people it serves.

Plans and proposals for the library took shape during the World War II years. Even in that traumatic time, community leaders foresaw the need for and uses of a community library, supported by the same people who would use it. Those ideals came to fruition when the vacant Ryman home was purchased and converted for the first library. The official opening was to be marked by a parade, but that event was postponed by uncooperative weather. So the library opened with little fanfare until the parade took place a week later.

The library has gone through many changes since October, 1945. It's bigger, of course, and has moved. It contains ten times as many items, not all of them books; now there are videotapes and CD's as well as the printed page. One thing that hasn't changed is the requirement that the Back Mountain's library be supported by the Back Mountain's people. There is some public funding from state, county and local sources, but it must be supplemented by donations and fund raising. Through good times and not so good, those sources have been sufficient to maintain and expand the facilities and the collection. The demands of a high-tech world won't lessen the library's importance, since not everyone can afford the gadgets being so incessantly touted these days. Instead, the library's challenge will be to provide the latest in information technology alongside the venerable shelves of books that form the basis of a literate society.

The Dallas Post is proud that so much of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's history is intertwined with its own. Post publisher Howard Risley was among the group of leaders who created the library, and his consistent editorials of support helped raise the initial funds. A year later he took charge of the first auction, later loaning use of his barn for the event, which is the library's largest fundraiser. We've been walking arm-in-arm with the library ever since.

If you've been a library supporter, take some time this week to give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. If you haven't paid much attention to this vital institution, take a few minutes to visit during this celebratory week. You'll be impressed with the library's present, and you'll get a glimpse of the future when plans for an expanded children's room are unveiled. Perhaps most important, you'll gain a sense of the Back Mountain as a community that you may never have experienced, and you'll meet some awfully nice people who are lending a hand to make it even better.

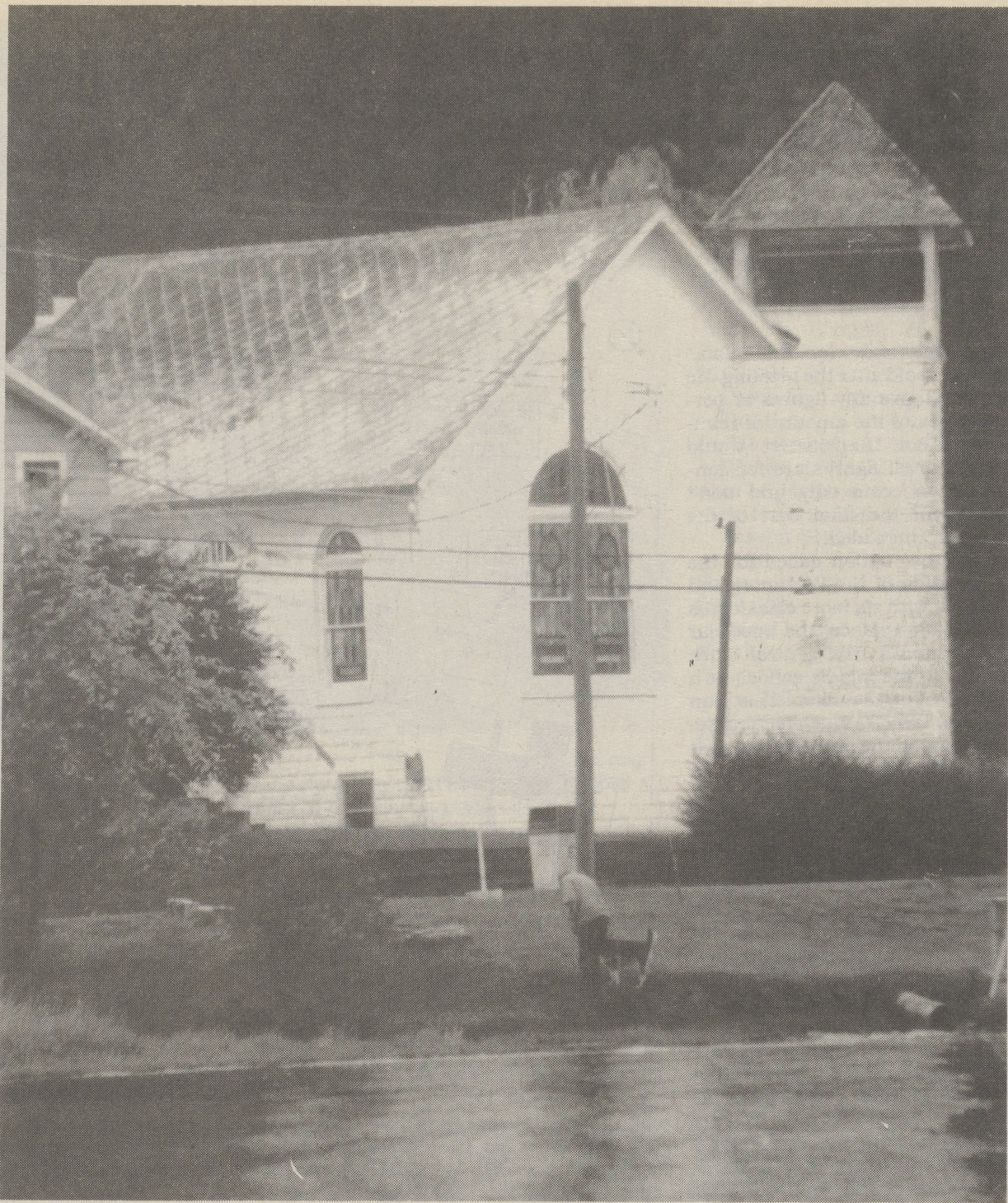
Let's all work together on new high school schedule

Now that the Dallas school board has voted to adopt a four-period high school class day known as intensified scheduling, it's time for all parties to do their best to assure success. It was clear as the board considered the change from a seven-period day that the majority of members were sold on the new schedule because they believed it would improve students' education. That result will be possible only if teachers are able to adapt to the new methods a 85-minute period requires.

The high school faculty has been less than enthusiastic about the change. Whether their reluctance stems from sincere misgivings about the longer periods or is simply the consequence of inertia is unknown. One sure thing is that teachers must receive adequate training if they are to learn to hold a room full of students' attention for an hour and one half. We hope the administration recognizes that such a radical change demands fresh thinking about training, too, not the same formula that has been used in the past. We are not encouraged by the projected budget of \$10,000 or less for training and \$200,000 for hardware. No matter how many computers and gadgets the school buys, they are of little value if teachers are either unable or unwilling to use them to best advantage. More resources should be allocated to train teachers — many of them 20-year veterans — in the new methods that are necessary to make the revised schedule work.

Dallas High School students have produced a mediocre record of achievement in past years, and that has troubled school officials as well as many parents. If this change can spark improvements in test scores and college acceptances, it will be well worth the attempt. But that won't happen just because the classes are longer; it will take a concerted effort on the part of students, teachers, parents and the administration. We hope they all can work together to provide an atmosphere in which excellence is expected, achieved and rewarded.

Hometown news • Hometown product



Queen of Peace Episcopal Church, Harveys Lake. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

School schedule change is too much, too fast

Editor's note: The author brought this letter to the Dallas School Board meeting Oct. 9, prior to the vote to adopt "intensified scheduling" for the high school.

Editor:

I am a very worried mother of a ninth grade student, as well as a past and hopefully future substitute teacher in the Dallas School District.

I feel a sense of panic and anxiety for my own child and every child in the district whenever the phrase "Intensified Scheduling" is mentioned.

We will have less than a year now to prepare for its coming. That means less than a year for our teachers to retrain, rethink

and retool the learning processes that began when we entered kindergarten. Is that enough time?

I am very uneasy after learning that teachers do not seem ready or eager for the change. The burden of making this curriculum work falls heavily on their shoulders and those of our students.

Curriculum loss is another great concern, as is the traditional format and grading. Unfortunately, colleges will still be assessing our children using traditional methods. How will our students fit in and measure up?

I feel our children are being well served using current methods. I do not understand the need for change or the sense of urgency

in pushing this new curriculum through. Is there a reason it must be introduced next year? I know that Administration, some board members, and some teachers have had several years exposure to this new plan, but students and parents have not.

I feel we are leaping into the unknown and anything unknown causes fear. Replacing fear with knowledge takes time, much more time that we have been given.

Please consider your decision carefully. You are holding the educational lives of many people, present and future, in your hands.

Kathy Millington
Dallas

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

My family used to belong to several large environmental organizations, but when the boys went off to college, we simply could not afford the membership fees. So, we decided to retain certain essential memberships (like my husband's professional organizations) and discontinue the rest. Over the years, I have discovered wealth is not necessarily a prerequisite to staying informed on environmental issues. In fact, many newsletters and worthwhile memberships are available for \$15 or less — some are even free. Let me give you a sampling of excellent resources that are affordable for most folks.

The most recent addition to my conservation library is the Russian Conservation News. It is published by the Biodiversity Conservation Center and contains all kinds of information about the efforts to preserve land and protect endangered species in the countries of the former Soviet Union (one-seventh of the earth's total land area). The subscription price is \$10 per year payable to PEEC/RCN, R.R. 2, Box 1010, Dingman's Ferry, PA 18328. Hey! Wait a minute, you say. That's not in Russia; that's in Pennsylvania. True. PEEC stands for Pocono Environmental Education Center and is another organization well worth joining. In addition to cooperation with a variety of international organizations, PEEC provides a residen-

Inexpensive ways to be environmentally informed

tial center for environmental education to school students and teachers, families, and other organizations. They publish PEEC Seasons, appropriately once a season, to highlight their activities and to enlighten their readers about the habits of wild creatures such as mushrooms or turkeys. Students can belong to PEEC for \$5 per year, senior citizens for \$15, and other individuals for \$20. If there are several members in your family, you might consider \$25 for a family membership a real bargain. (Address is the same as above, without the RCN.)

Now, let's consider the free literature. First, there is the Bay Journal that is published 10 times a year by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 6600 York RD, Suite 100, Baltimore, MD 21212. This fine little journal in newspaper format is provided free to interested citizens through a grant from the US EPA. Recent issues have covered topics as varied as the Endangered Species Act, a canoe trip on the Juniata River, forests in the bay watershed, and air quality.

Another periodic newspaper is that published by the PA Wild Resource Conservation Fund entitled "Keystone Wild! Notes." I am sure that contributors to this fund through either the income tax refund check-off program or the license plate program receive this newspaper, but all I did was ask about it. Write to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund at P.O. Box 8764, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8764. You will be treated to information on the reintroduction of fishers into Pennsylvania after a century of absence, how scientists study clams using a glass-bottomed bucket, lists of the best places in the state to view

wildlife, etc.

Then there are a couple of interesting publications that are free but probably shouldn't be. The first is the bi-monthly ECOLOGIA Newsletter edited by Carolyn Schmidt (ECOLOGIA, P.O. Box 171, College Street, LaPlume PA 18440). If you want to learn more about waste management strategies, risk assessment, nuclear power, and other international issues, send \$5.00 to cover postage and printing along with your request. The second is our PA State Parks Magazine. With all the reorganization in Harrisburg and budget cutting in general, this magazine is unfortunately becoming slimmer and less frequent. Phone 1-800/63-PARKS to subscribe.

But, perhaps you would rather not receive any more reading material and wonder if there are worthy causes which would appreciate a small contribution. There are many, but I will only mention one here. "Seeds of Hope" is a program through which you can plant one tree here in the United States in a Global ReLeaf Forest and one tree in Ukraine where Chernobyl survivors have settled. Send \$10 to Global ReLeaf International, P.O. Box 2000, Washington DC 20013 and they will not only see that the two trees are planted but they will also send you a dozen beautiful notecards designed by Ukrainian artist Jaques Hnivdovsky.

So, if you are short on cash, that is no excuse for being environmentally uninformed. Join me in supporting conservation efforts near and far by contributing \$10 to \$15 to the organization of your choice. If you want more information, please contact me through this newspaper.



60 Years Ago - Oct. 18, 1935 BORO MAKES STATE CHANGE GUTTERS

Dallas Borough Council complained this week that the type of gutters being constructed along Lake Street by State Highway Department employees is unsatisfactory, has received assurance that plans will be changed to conform closely as possible to standards set by council.

Construction of an addition to Dallas Borough High School Building was one step nearer realization this week as directors prepared to submit plans for the annex to Works Progress Administration officials to learn if the project can be financed with Federal funds.

50 Years Ago - Oct. 19, 1945 NEW SAWMILL IS BUILT AT HAYS CORNERS

The Dallas Post this week announced that it has purchased the Dr. Alexander Watt property at the intersection of Machell Avenue and Harveys Lake Highway and will erect there shortly one of the most modern community newspaper plants to be found anywhere in a town the size of Dallas.

Workmen for Whipple Brothers Lumber Co. were busy this week erecting a sawmill just back of Hay's Corners where Housing Foundation of America is clearing off several acres of timber land in preparation for the erection of its main buildings.

You could get - Stewing lamb, 19¢ lb.; Swift's skinless franks, 37¢ lb.; sweet potatoes, 4 lbs., 23¢; cabbage, 3¢ lb.; Old Dutch Cleanser, 2 cans 15¢.

40 Years Ago - Oct. 14, 1955 PHOTO SUPPLY STORE OPENS IN DALLAS

Since Chase Dairy's installation of a milk-vending machine near the cafeteria windows at Lehman-Jackson-Ross High School, consumption of milk has skyrocketed and purchases of pop and candy are correspondingly lower, according to a report given by Lester Squier at Tuesday night's joint board meeting.

E.E. Phillips, Orange, has opened a Camera and Photographic Supply Store in the old post office building at 24 Main Street, Dallas. A native of Plains, Phillips has been interested in photography as a hobby for many years.

Back Mountain Little League Champions for the fifth time in six years, the boys of Lehman-Jackson team received trophies Monday before a large gathering of parents, teachers and friends at the PTA meeting in Lehman-Jackson-Ross High School auditorium.

30 Years Ago - Oct. 14, 1965 RESIDENTS PROTEST NURSING HOME PLAN

The tiny borough council room was jammed with a delegation of protestors from Machell and Sterling avenues, alarmed at the prospect of a 75-bed convalescent home at the site of the old Machell barn near the Jacobs clinic. Dr. Irwin Jacobs, represented by Atty. Andrew Hourigan, was the applicant for a variance from the zoning ordinance. Protestors were not buying the lawyer's contention that the convalescent home would be "an asset to the community" with a "country club setting" more residential in character than commercial.

Dallas School Directors will meet in special session Nov. 3 to discuss plans of architects already interviewed and to decide whether other than local firms will be invited to present their specifications before the board. A delegation of parents from New Goss Manor urged that an access path be made available for children to reach the high school, since many now travel through the orchard adjoining the school and encounter muddy terrain.

20 Years Ago - Oct. 16, 1975 FRANKLIN TWP WANTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Supervisors of Franklin Township at their Oct. meeting in Orange Methodist Church approved a resolution to seek bids for the erection of a metal building on Williams Road in the Orange section of the township for use as a municipal building. Bids will be open at a special meeting of supervisors Oct. 23.

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