

## EDITORIALS

To usher in the new year, here are a few headlines we hope to write in 1996.

### First leg of trail complete, additions coming soon

The Anthracite Scenic Trails Association has officially opened the first leg of a biking/walking trail that will eventually wind through the entire Back Mountain...

### PennDOT vows to finish highway work by June

Officials from the state Department of Transportation said this week they would marshal all their forces to complete work at five Back Mountain intersections by June 30...

### SAT scores show marked rise at local high schools

Students at both Dallas and Lake-Lehman high schools earned their highest scores in years on the SAT test...

### Commercial/industry park plan unveiled

Principals in a new commercial/light industrial park released plans for the 100-acre facility...

### Library opens new children's room

The Back Mountain Memorial Library's new children's area won accolades from its most important clients, the children themselves...

### Dallas Post circulation hits all-time high

The Dallas Post achieved the highest paid circulation in its history this year, as dozens of new subscribers...

### After cold start, winter mild

At the end of 1995, it looked as if this winter was going to set records for cold and snow, but...

### National Utilities vows to fix lines, lower rates

After years of complaints from customers, National Utilities acknowledged it has provided substandard water service, and...

Well, those are a few of our dreams for 1996. We hope some of these, and many of yours, come true. Happy New Year.

### Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

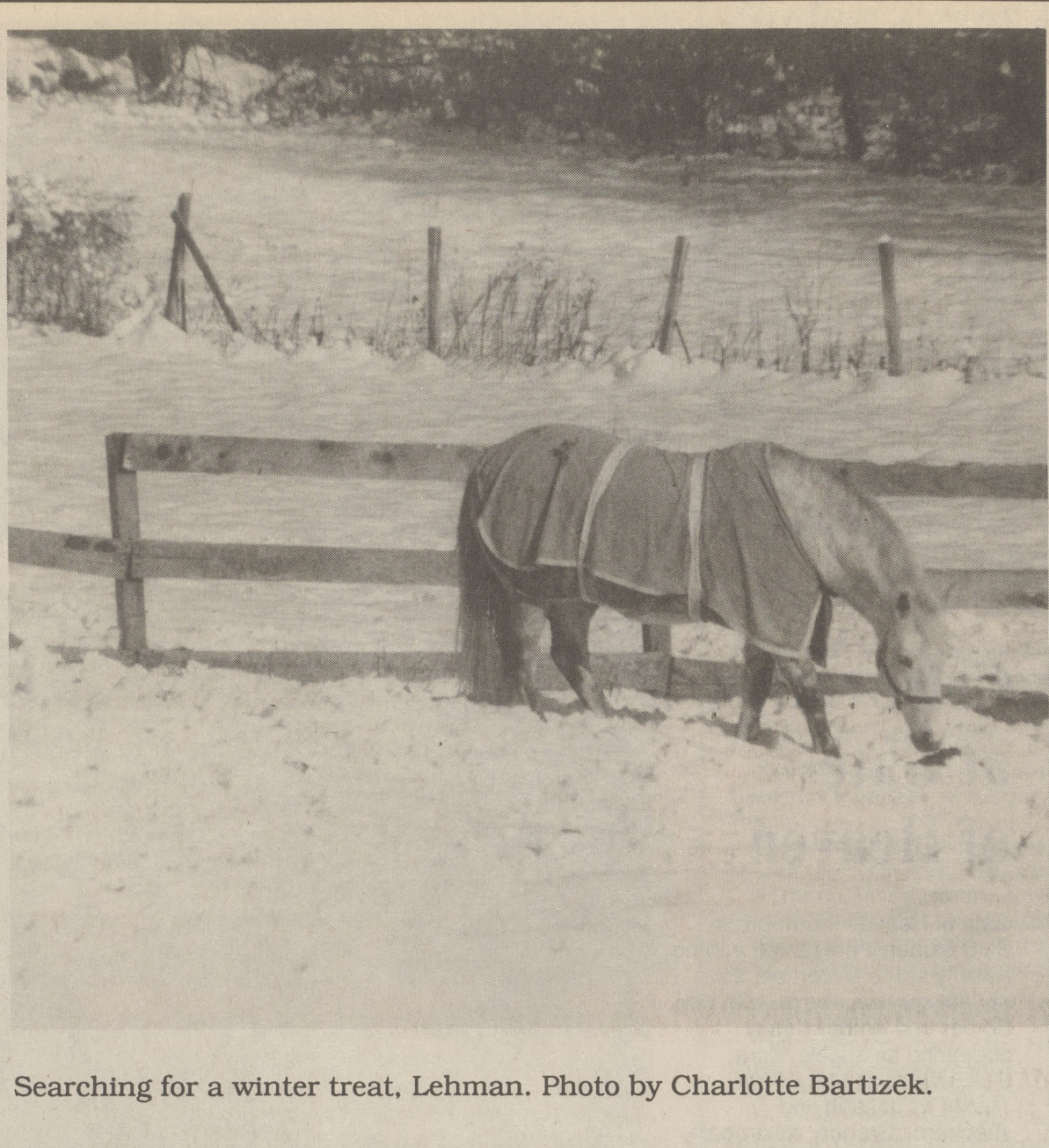
In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.

## The Dallas Post

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Ronald A. Bartzek PUBLISHER	Charlotte E. Bartzek ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Peggy Young ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC	Grace R. Dove REPORTER
Paul Rismiller PRODUCTION MANAGER	Olga Kostrobala CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

Jill Gruver  
OFFICE MANAGER



Searching for a winter treat, Lehman. Photo by Charlotte Bartzek.

ONLY  
YESTERDAY

### 60 Years Ago - Jan. 3, 1936 THOMASES CELEBRATE 52ND ANNIVERSARY

Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Thomas, celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary Dec. 26. They have a son and three grandchildren. Rev. Thomas now retired, served for 40 years as a Methodist minister, being pastor at both the Trucksville and Shavertown churches.

You could get - Sirloin steak, 35¢ lb.; Eight O'Clock Coffee, 15¢ lb.; Iona spaghetti, 3 pkgs., 10¢; Brillo, 3 pkgs., 19¢; sauerkraut, 2 big cans, 10¢.

### 50 Years Ago - Jan. 4, 1946 SEVERE COAL SHORTAGE HITS AREA

There are families right now in the Back Mountain area who will have to close their homes and crowd in with relatives or neighbors because they cannot get sufficient coal to heat their homes. Coal dealers are unable to get more than four tons of coal a day to supply a long list of customers.

The basketball teams, coaches and general public are enthusiastic over the newly finished gymnasium floor in Dallas Borough High School. The floor has been sanded and filled at a cost borne by the school district.

Albert S. Culbert for the past 56 years an employee of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, retired from active duty Jan. 1. He has been station agent at Dallas for the past 26 years.

### 40 Years Ago - Dec. 30, 1955 BULFORDS CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. George Bulford, whose forebears helped to settle the Back Mountain country, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on New Year's Day. They are the parents of four children and have six grandchildren. A daughter, Dorothy, died in the flu epidemic of 1918.

Preliminary estimates received from Game Protectors and other field representatives following the close of the PA 1955 buck deer season indicates approximately 38,000 antlered deer were taken during the 12 days.

You could get - Chuck roast 33¢ lb.; fresh pork butts, 29¢ lb.; Idaho potatoes, 10 lb. bag, 59¢; marble pound cake, 49¢; Emperor grapes, 2 lbs. 25¢; celery, bnch. 19¢.

### 30 Years Ago - Dec. 29, 1965 SANTA DIRECTS TRAFFIC ON AREA HIGHWAY

Items deleted by a federal agency from the construction contract of Dallas's new post office was first brought to light early this year in an exclusive Dallas Post story are scheduled to be placed for bidding.

A crane dropped a 10-ton concrete batch plant through the roof of Center Moreland Precast Concrete Products, smashing the top of the new building and curtailing production. The huge BLAW-Knox plant was being transferred from an outdoor foundation to the recently constructed building to mix concrete for Sickler's Septic Service.

A most novel arrangement is greeting motorists along the Main Highway in Shavertown. Santa stands atop a lighted ladder near the rooftop of the James Taylor home on Cease Drive.

### 20 Years Ago - Dec. 31, 1975 NO PROGRESS IN PHONE STRIKE TALKS

Another mediation session between striking workers of Communication Workers of America and Commonwealth Telephone Co. ended after about three hours of discussion with no progress. Service is continuing with management performing the duties of the striking employees.

Dallas Township supervisors adopted the 1976 budget Monday evening at a special meeting held in the township building. Supervisors announced there would be no increase in taxes, that the present three mills will remain in effect.

PennDOT's Bureau of Motor Vehicles prepared today to meet six million applications for 1976 motor vehicle renewals under an increased fee schedule signed into law by Gov. Shapp Dec. 16. Passenger cars will be \$24, up from \$14 last year.

### As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

One of the hazards of becoming an addictive reader of this column is that you have to share my interests, even though they might not otherwise interest you. (Of course, you could always quit reading, but I'd rather you didn't.)

For instance, of life's many mysteries that interest me perhaps the foremost is ESP. That's "Extra Sensory Perception." In particular, I am baffled by an off-spring of ESP called "precognition," or, the "seeing of the future." (i.e. prophecy.)

In the Bible, Joseph interpreted dreams that were prophetic and so did the ancient oracles. Since the future is usually worrisome, mankind has always welcomed any means of peeking ahead into that worry, hoping to ease the uncertainty. Even today, especially today, dispensers of the

### ESP, psychics and Tarot readers - bogus or true?

future remain popular...card reader classified ads are always there, next to the lost and founds.

Having precognitive ability is not a laughing matter. There are no cosmic psychics and Tarot readers seldom smile. Even tea leaf readers have a forbidding demeanor. This could be because if one issues a prophecy it might become self-fulfilling.

Suppose someone is told they may die within a year. What if they give up fighting a disease and die? Who is at fault? Fate? Some do not believe this. Many years ago in Europe there was a terrible mine disaster which killed 144. At least 34 instances of precognitive warnings were reported, but never given, so no effort was made to avert the disaster.

Does this mean the future already exists? If so, can it be changed? Doreen, an "internationally renowned psychic advisor" thinks so. In a large mall near Philly she hands out flyers (all readings 1/2 price with this coupon) in which Doreen claims the following:

"I can tell you just what you want to know about friends, enemies or rivals, whether husband, wife or sweetheart. How to gain the love you most desire, control the action of anyone even though miles away. I never fail to unite the separated, cause speedy marriage, overcome enemies, evil habits and bad luck of all kinds."

Doreen further says, and this troubles me, that she has had 25 years experience. Judging from her appearance - mid-twenties I'd guess - this means she started readings when she was only two or three. Hmmm!

I once went, at the tender age of 12 to a psychic with an aunt who was devastated when her only daughter ran off with a guitar-playing country singer. She asked the psychic if her daughter would ever come home again. "Oh yes," the turbaned gentleman replied. "She will be back." My aunt cried.

And back she came, as soon as the marriage broke up. So, Doreen, please tell me, did this guy's prophecy cause the breakup?  
Hmmm?

### J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

You've heard it many times. "We need more discipline." Discipline in both home, school, and in government was a rallying cry, and chief among the reasons for the widespread shift in political philosophy now dominating the U.S. Congress. And it came none too soon. Government has been undisciplined. On the personal level, however, there is often confusion between discipline and punishment. Penn State Professor of Rural Sociology, Dr. Jim VanHorn, has developed the following distinctions worthy of your consideration:

Discipline focuses on what the child needs to do right in the future.

Punishment is concerned with making the child "pay for his or her mistakes."

Discipline is intended to help the child deal with the negative consequences of misbehavior.

Punishment imposes restrictions that may have no connec-

### Discipline, cyberspace and Nam: notes from all over

tion to the misbehavior.

Discipline focuses on what the child must do to become more responsible for him/herself.

Punishment is an attempt by parents to control the child.

It's now the law that all boats, even canoes, must carry a life preserver for each occupant. Seat cushions with straps and other floating items will no longer count in meeting the requirement, and the new law covers all waters in the country.

Thought you had heard it all about confusing IRS rules? The current tax code contains the following definition of a private foundation. "For purposes of paragraph (3), an organization described in section 501 (c) (4), (5), or (6) which would be described in paragraph (2) if it were an organization described in section 501 (c) (3)." Huh?

As former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara tries to soothe his conscience with a book, he and his colleagues cannot avoid the reality that myself and others were marooned in war we couldn't win. And to now say that the war was a folly is at the very least,

destructive of the dignity for those who did what the country asked, and returned home to be spit upon. Shut up, Mr. McNamara. Just shut up, and go away.

Seemingly forgotten in the hue and cry about cleaning up so-called cyberspace for our children, is that prime-time TV now is anything but "clean." That aside, the larger issue here is that legislation to regulate cyberspace is a bad idea. Laws to prohibit or eliminate offensive transmissions over on-line services, or other offerings, represents a government solution to a personal problem, the fostering of morality. Ordaining Washington as the minister of cyberspace invites parents to abdicate their roles as guides and care givers.

Be on the listen for a new term being touted by the Economic Development Council of North-eastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP). It's called the "visioning process." Some 17 reports over the last eight months have come from this process, and from one of which has come the recommendation for a "regional assembly of local governments." Does all of this sound familiar?

### Your news is welcome

The Dallas Post welcomes submissions about Back Mountain people and events. In order to plan each issue, we must adhere to self-imposed deadlines, as well as those of our printer. To have the greatest likelihood of publication, items should be received at our office by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to each issue. Items will be accepted until 4 p.m. Mondays, although much of the paper is already assembled by that time. Send or bring items to: The Dallas Post, 45 Main Road, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Our normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A deposit box is located at the front of the building for after-hours submissions.