

**EDITORIALS**

## Bug fighting bill deserves passage

State Representative Phyllis Mundy wants the Commonwealth to join the fight against the kind of pesky and damaging bugs that devoured a good portion of our woodlands last year. She has introduced a bill that would require that the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) conduct a \$5 million spraying program against three insects: the elm spanworm, the tent caterpillar and the fall cankerworm, all of which have spent the past two summers munching their way through the Back Mountain. The department doesn't like the idea, or at least they didn't until recently, claiming that counties, which would implement the program, lack qualified personnel. DCNR officials also said it's impossible to predict where the bugs will show up, and there's insufficient money anyway.

Mundy counters that her bill provides funding, and there's no lack of knowledge about when and where the bugs nest here, since Ron Rugletic and his colleagues have done battle with it for two years now. She makes some important points about the need for such action: (1) After two years of defoliation area woodlands are filled with dead or dying trees, raising the risk of forest fires. (2) Many people can't afford private spraying programs, or can't get enough neighbors on board to meet the 10-acre minimum. (3) Individual land owners might use toxic sprays such as Sevin instead of the relatively benign BT used by commercial sprayers.

DCNR has begun to soften its opposition, suggesting that a county-by-county plan might be acceptable, and that makes sense to us. Counties like Luzerne that have experienced widespread damage are prepared to do whatever is necessary to avert future problems. But time is of the essence, because if spraying is done too late it won't kill the bugs.

The Legislature should pass HB 1766 now, so that areas of the state which have suffered this plague in the past won't have to do so again.

## Bored, broke? Head for the Back Mountain library

Severe winter weather, a budget stalemate in Washington, lousy new shows on television, it's enough to drive you to...the library. That's right, the library.

You may think that if you're not a high school student working on a term paper there's nothing at the library for you. Wrong. There's plenty at today's Back Mountain Memorial Library for young and old, and all interests. Want to watch a movie, but can't afford the ticket price, or the video rental charge? You can choose from over 300 video tapes, and you'll like the price - 0. Are you tired of buying music tapes or CD's which turn out to have only a few good tracks? Borrow one of the library's CD or audio tape collection, each over 200 strong, and listen for free. Would you like to read The New York Times every day, but can't stomach the \$1 per copy price? The library has a subscription to The Times, and eight other newspapers including The Wall Street Journal and The Philadelphia Inquirer. If your tastes are really eclectic, the library receives 153 periodicals - mostly magazines - that surely can keep you busy until the next issue comes out.

If you're into high-tech, there's a computer with a CD-ROM drive that contains the World Book Encyclopedia (and soon the Encyclopedia Britannica), lists of all the books and periodicals available at all Luzerne County libraries, and a newly-installed phone disc with business and residential numbers for the entire nation.

Oh, and there are also about 60,000 books, including a growing list of large-print titles.

So, no more excuses - go enjoy yourself where money is no object, the Back Mountain Memorial Library, and brighten a dreary winter day.

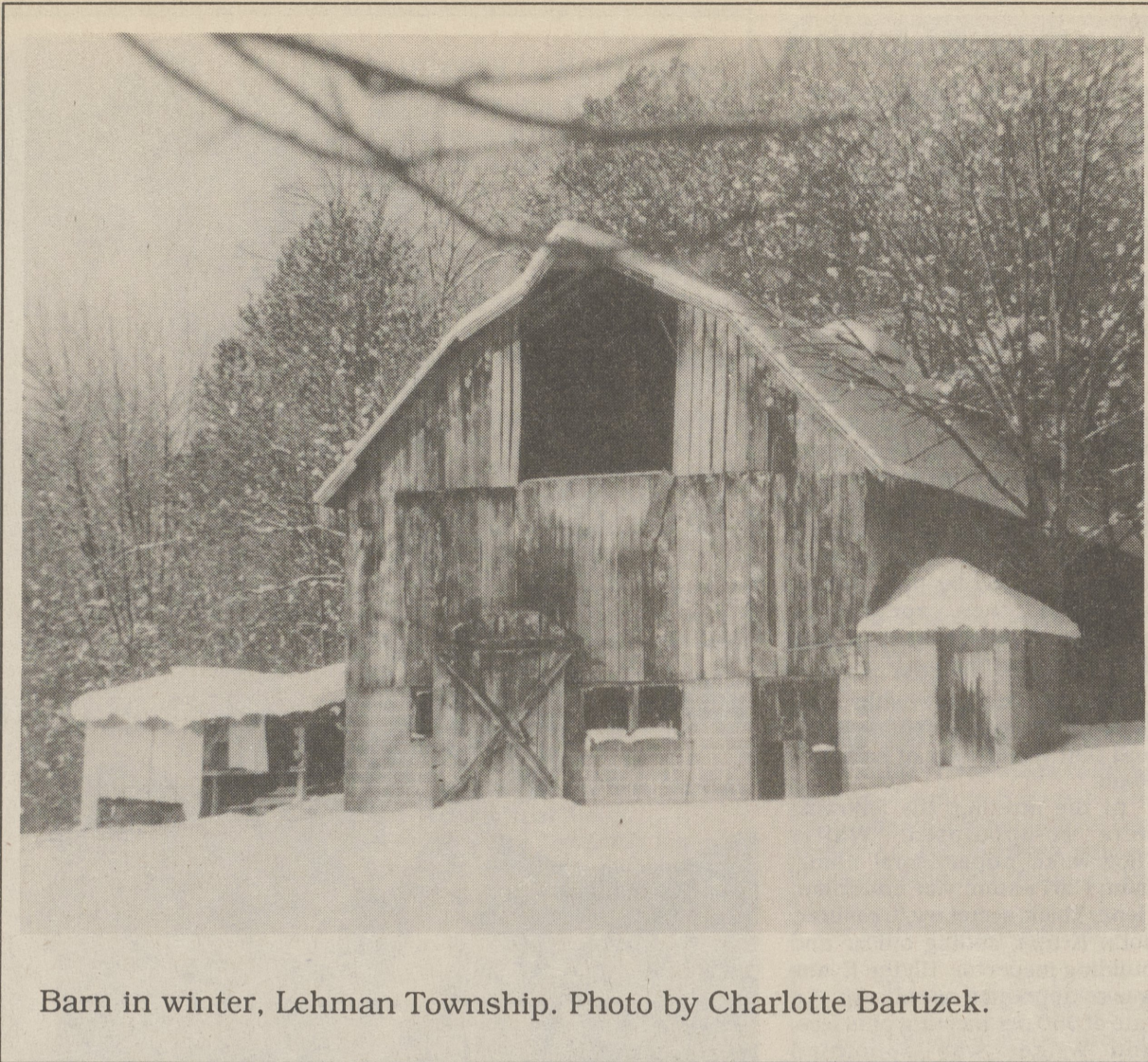
### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



At least all this early snow presents sledding opportunities for the kids. That and the benefit to skiers and the ski industry are about all the good things I can say about it. In case you haven't heard, we are withing 10 inches of the annual average snowfall for an entire winter. And we're not alone; Buffalo, that capital of white stuff, is also less than a foot from a year's average, as is Erie.

Sliding is fun, especially with all the new sleds and saucers on the market. But it can also be dangerous. A child was killed in Columbia County last month, and we heard a call on the police radio last week for an ambulance urgently needed for a sliding injury. The transmission said a child had hit a tree and was not breathing, but we didn't hear any more so assume he or she survived. We certainly hope so. So, go out and have fun in the snow, but remember that doesn't mean you have to suspend common sense. If you or your kids are going out, make sure to avoid places with obstructions that could become deadly.



Barn in winter, Lehman Township. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

**LETTERS**

## Save your money instead of criticizing wealth

Editor:

From November 23rd through December 1st, the A&E network presented the Lifestyles of the Rich and powerful on its biography shows. On some of the shows they showed how some of the famous rich were criticized because of their wealth. How could non-rich people criticize personal achievement? The funny thing about it is most millionaires start off poor. Do people today still understand this is still the land of opportunity. It's also the reason why people all over the world want to move and live here.

Everybody has heard the old phrase "The rich get richer and the poor get poorer." Why don't the lower money classes go out and try to make more money. Almost all millionaires got their wealth through hard work and lots of sacrifice. It doesn't matter how much you make, it's how much you waste. Many people waste their hard earned money on: cigarettes, alcohol, daily gambling on state lotteries and spending money on things they really don't need. These things do more harm than they do good.

Many people believe rich people don't pay enough taxes. The I.R.S. tax tables are done by rates not dollar signs. The following example is not the 1995 IRS tax

rates. This example will prove the rich will always pay more taxes than the poor. Take an average \$4.25 an hour full time worker. Let's say he makes around \$10,000 a year and he pays 30% of what he earns to the government. When you work it out, it will be around \$3,000 a year. Now let's take a self made multi-millionaire. Let's say he makes \$1,000,000 a year and only pays 10% taxes on his income. He will be paying around \$100,000 to the government. The millionaire will still be paying \$97,000 more than the \$4.25 an hour worker.

People complain when tax cuts are given to the rich, especially the corporations. People don't understand about the tax cuts, (they do create great job growth). You get jobs from rich people, not poor people. Poor business owners go out of business. A large tax cut to a corporation does many things. The extra monney can be invested in the product and make it better. Then we could compete better in the world trade. They can expand their business more and create more jobs. They could diversise. They could even cut their product's prices. It's the U.S.A. way, capitalism.

If you raise taxes on therich, especially business owners it will hurt them. They would cut hours of employees. They might have

lay-offs or raise prices in their products. The small business owners will lgo out of business. I know all about this, I've seen it happen to a small business I liked in Dallas.

Many people taking in the news media say that Social Security is going broke. Many believe Social Security won't be around when today's teenagers get ready to retire. There are many ways around this. We must teach today's youth when you get your tax returns to save some of the money and don't go on shopping sprees. Teach them to invest in U.S. Treasury Bonds (long-term). Then show them about CD's. Just imagine: an 18-year-old buys two \$100 long term bonds every year till the age of 50. Along the way this 18-year-old buys a \$1,000 CD. This 18-year-old holds on to them till the day he/she retires. They would never again have to worry about the government's \$450 a month Social Security checks.

We must save a little more, stop wasting money, running up credit cards and wild gambling. Then you'll see you have more money in your hands. If the government controlled its wild spending it would stop the out of control four trillion dollar deficit. It's up to you.

John Dzurly Shavertown

### As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

At the hospital shop where I cashier, candy bars edge out newspapers in popularity. Candy sales volume is hard to believe since the square footage devoted to satisfying all the sweet tooth customers is not large. A candy salesman showed his manager the shop and his boss exclaimed "You mean this produces all that?"

A Back Mountain resident - Gene McKeown of Orchard View Terrace - manages the operation with shrewd buying and merchandising know-how that he comes by naturally. His dad ran his own store and young Gene learned the basics early.

One candy bar there costs 50¢...or at least it did. By the time you read this, single candy bars will cost 5¢ more, part of their steady progression over the years mostly due to higher costs of cocoa, which only dropped once in the late 80's. Sugar also fluctuates but chocolate is the chief inflator.

When I sell candy bars to senior citizens and it's a slow day, I sometimes live things up by saying, "That'll be 50¢...before your time they only cost a nickel."

The predictable explosion comes immediately: "Whaddya mean before my time? I remember those days when they were only five cents, and they were bigger and tasted better!"

In spite of the cost, candy bars

## Fascinating facts about favorite chocolate treats

capture the palates of America like no other treat. In the 30's at the peak of the Depression years candy sales kept up (the company Mars did nearly \$25 million in 1930), for people always could afford to spend a nickel for a few moments of cheerful chewing in spite of their problems. Candy bars hit the ground running and haven't slowed down.

Speaking of Mars, you would think they would be top dog because of all their brands. You'll see their Milky Ways (Lite and Dark), Snickers, M&M's (3 kinds), Bounty, Twix and others, all with the M&M/Mars logo. Doesn't make them Numero Uno.

Pennsylvania's own Hershey nosed out Mars in 1992 with a 35% market share and has a tough time in the U.S. market fighting the big guns. About half-a-dozen others split the balance.

All the fuss a few decades ago about sugar and fat consumption never fazed the American candy consumer...sales kept rising; we each ate 21 pounds of candy in one year not long ago.

Hershey marketing has probably been responsible for its gaining and keeping a lead over Mars and others...they don't just sit on past popular items. Instead new ones which are well-planned keep pouring out. Two years ago they brought out "Hugs," a white-and-milk-chocolate version of their popular "Kisses." They then introduced a "Cookies'n Mint" bar, a Special Dark chocolate bar, and revived Bar None.

Then Hershey bought Cadbury's popular "Caramello,"

and "Twizzlers"...next will be a thick bar called "Nuggets." Kisses with almonds quickly became a best seller.

There are rumors that Mars management could stand some shaking up. Founder Franklin flopped three straight times before he hit paydirt with Snickers, and some of this reverse business acumen must have filtered down to his family...they pulled the absolute boner of the century.

Mars refused to allow Steven Spielberg to use M&M's when filming the fabulous ET. This stupidity let Hershey offer their "Reese's Pieces" candy instead, and its sales jumped up 70%!

And what's even worse....they have no sense of humor. When Nestle heard Clinton liked their Baby Ruth they advertised: "When the new President said his favorite candy bar is Baby Ruth, nobody Snickered," Mars filed suit for an injunction against Nestle using the ad again. (That's called stupid dumb.)

Incidentally, Baby Ruth is my favorite candy bar too, but that's the only thing Slick Willie and I have in common.

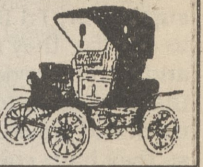
### HOW TO DECREASE YOUR CANDY CONSUMPTION....

Read the fine print!

From and M&M package:

Ingredients: Milk chocolate (sugar, chocolate, milk, cocoa butter), lactose, soy lecithin, salt, artificial flavors, sugar - less than 2% - cornstarch, corn syrup, gum acacia, coloring (includes red 40, yellow 6, yellow 5, blue 1, red 40 lake, blue 1 lake, blue 2 lake) dextrin.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



### 60 Years Ago - Jan. 17, 1936 TRUCKSVILLE CHURCH HAS 25 ANNIVERSARY

The 25th anniversary of the dedication of Trucksville M.E. Church will be celebrated next week at special services. Special preachers, including the pastor of the church at the time of dedication 25 years ago, the man who preached the first sermon in the church and the district superintendent will deliver sermons.

A campaign to oppose the proposed rate increase of Dallas Water Co. will be planned by Dallas Business Men's Association at its meeting tonight. Although there was no explanation of what measures the association will propose, it is understood the members will discuss a new plan for protesting the rates formally.

A 5% penalty will be added to all State, County, Poor and Borough taxes on February 1. Arthur R. Dungey, tax collector for Dallas Borough announced this week.

### 50 Years Ago - Jan. 18, 1946 SPRING MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING SET UP

John T. Clark, forester of the State Highway Department, was here this week planning the Memorial Tree planting program which will start this spring along the Harveys Lake Highway from Center Street, Shavertown to Idetown and along the Tunkhannock Highway from the "Y" intersection near Fernbrook to the intersection with Irem Country Club Road. The program, the first of its kind ever planned for Luzerne County, was recently approved by the Secretary of Highways, John U. Schroyer.

Harold J. Borton, station master at Alderson and Noxen since 1928, has replaced A.S. Culbert, Dallas station master who retired.

### 40 Years Ago - Jan. 13, 1956 PRICE OF MEN'S HAIRCUTS GOES UP TO \$1

The price of adult haircuts in most Back Mountain barber shops will be increased to a minimum of \$1.00 effective Jan. 23. Children under 12 years of age can still get a haircut for 75¢ except on Saturday and preceding holidays when the price will be \$1.00. This is the first time that the price of haircuts has been raised here in 10 years.

Fred Hontz of Sweet Valley obtained the contract for delivery of coal to Lehman-Jackson-Ross Schools in Lehman and Sweet Valley, nosing out other bidders by his price of \$8.90 per ton of coal of Pennsylvania standard in ash content and thermal units.

### 30 Years Ago - Jan. 13, 1966 NATONA MILLS WILL BE SOLD AGAIN

Director John LaBerge proposed the Dallas School District, comprised of Kingston, Dallas and Franklin Townships and Dallas Borough, levy a wage tax to circumvent that recently passed in Wilkes-Barre and another encompassing Crestwood Industrial Park due to the formation of School District 9. LaBerge said it would be easier for the School District to pass such an ordinance than for the individual municipalities to do so. Revenue would not be forthcoming from such a move until 1967. Municipal grants would be eligible for half the amount.

Natona Mills Inc. of Dallas is about to be sold again, according to a communication from the company counsel to Dallas Borough. Robert Fleming, borough solicitor, advised Council that he has been informed that the deed will probably be filed shortly, and that the transfer value is supposed to be around \$300,000.

### 20 Years Ago - Jan. 15, 1976 GENERAL ALARM FIRE DESTROYS ELSTON TIRE

"We will rebuild and open our tire service as soon as possible. We are working on it now. I have too many faithful employees to close down and walk away from it all," said Ray Elston, owner of Elston Tire Service, Memorial Highway, Dallas. Elston's business and building along the highway was heavily damaged in a general alarm fire in the early morning hours last Saturday in 4° below zero weather. Firemen were hampered in battling the blaze by the icy highway.

## The Dallas Post

Published Weekly By Bartsen Media, Inc.  
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612  
717-675-5211

Ronald A. Bartizek  
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Peggy Young  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Grace R. Dove  
REPORTER

Paul Rismiller  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala  
CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

Jill Gruver  
OFFICE MANAGER

