

LETTERS

Scouts need help to repair damaged camp

Editor:
Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council's Camp Louise outside Berwick has suffered major damage from the recent storms. Sally Jervis, executive director, said that all winter camping has had to be cancelled.
She explained that damage to the camp includes washing out the camp's road, which cannot be traversed by automobile because its base was washed out. The camp caretaker's home had water damage to the lower level, making it unlivable. The septic system was destroyed. Erosion has been discovered at the dam for the lake.
Staff and members of the board are currently evaluating whether to repair or replace the caretaker's

home. Temporary repairs to the road will allow John Gallagher, facilities director and his wife Deborah Gallagher, camp director, and their children to remain on the upper floor of the house.
Early estimates of damage and necessary repairs to Camp Louise are more than \$150,000. None of the damage is covered by insurance since the Council did not carry flood insurance for a camp located on the side of the Jonestown Mountain.
As Council members and the public have learned of the damage, there have been offers of help. Unfortunately, volunteer work crews cannot begin to do what needs to be done at Camp Louise. If Girl Scouts and the public want

to help restore Camp Louise, the best way to help will be to sell or buy more Girl Scout Cookies during the sale now going on. What the Council needs now is money.
Troops will conduct extra booth sales to benefit the Camp Louise Restoration Fund. Over the years, cookie profits built Camp Louise. Now cookie profits at \$1.00 a box will restore the camp. For example, it will take the sale of 45,000 boxes of cookies to repair the road.
The hope of everyone at the Council is that we will be able to open camp in May for the regular camping season.
Ellie Rodda
Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

According to Mr. Jim Hiltner of Waste Management Inc., the Back Mountain communities are doing a very good job recycling wastes. Waste Management collects our garbage and recyclables under contract with the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (D.A.M.A.). During 1995, we recycled 805.6 tons of paper and 559.4 tons of Blue Bin contents (known as "comingled") for a respectable 27.8% recycling rate. The 1994 percentage was only 22%, so we are definitely improving. And, the goal in the state of Pennsylvania is to reach 25% by 1997. By that measure, we are two years ahead of schedule.

I asked Mr. Hiltner if there were specific things that Back Mountain residents could do to make the program run more smoothly. Except for a wisecrack about preventing snow, he really couldn't think of anything. (For my own information, I inquired about the proper procedure for putting out office paper and he assured me that it should still be put into clear plastic bags. No plastic bags should be used for newspapers, however.) Apparently, we have not only learned to recycle, but we have learned to do it well.

Actually, our recycling rate is even higher than that calculated by the waste hauler. Most of our municipalities and townships are now collecting leaves, grass clippings, and used Christmas trees and turning them into compost or mulch. Some residents have begun composting kitchen and yard wastes themselves and using the compost as a soil amendment for their gardens. These yard wastes often ended up in landfills in years past. Other items not included in

Keeping up our area's good start on recycling programs

the tally are the car batteries and waste oil that are being collected by D.A.M.A. and local garages respectively. These items may not have taken such space in our landfills, but they contributed a great deal to the pollution of our soils and waterways. Keeping them out of the waste stream is very important.

But—there always seem to be a "but"—before we congratulate ourselves too much, let's consider improvements that can be made. First, is 25% a reasonable recycling goal? There are at least two parts to the answer to that question. The first part is that, although PA is one of the leaders among states in the USA, it is well below the average in Canada or Europe. Ontario has a goal of 50% recycling by the year 2000. Countries like Switzerland or Austria pride themselves in producing very little solid waste that must be landfilled. That leads us to the second part of the answer to the question: We must not only increase the amount of recycling we do, but we must reduce the amount of trash we generate in the first place. That appears to be happening slowly. In 1994, PA generated 9 million tons of trash. That was a half a million tons less than in 1993. Perhaps "Reduce" and "Reuse" are working, too.

Second, let's lobby for an increase in the number and kinds of items collected as recyclables. Although our plan includes much more than the three items required by state law, there are other items for which markets now exist which could easily be included in our curb-side pickup program. The most obvious are magazines and catalogs. These certainly make up a large segment of my household waste and they would be easy to put out on "Paper Days." The paper recycling plants that have recently come on-line are able to use this type of paper. If you want these and other items added to the next contract, please

write D.A.M.A. at 530 South Memorial Highway, Shavertown, PA 18708.

Third, we must encourage businesses to get involved. I don't mean simply encouraging them to recycle—they are generally doing that along with the rest of us. I mean supporting businesses that sell or produce materials made from recycled waste. I mean providing incentives for manufacturers to reuse materials. I mean providing grants to engineering firms that design equipment with disassembly and recycling in mind. The PA state government has proposed doing many of these things in the Action Plan on Recycling Development and Waste Reduction that came out in October, 1995. The money for this program will come from fees collected when wastes are dumped in landfills across the Commonwealth. That is one fee that should be good for our economy and our environment.

In case you wonder what needs to be done to create markets for recyclables, let me give you a few examples. There are now 36 million tires stockpiled in PA, with 12 million generated each year. Some uses for these exist, but the demand has not yet caught up with the supply. Household batteries are important to keep out of landfills because of the heavy metals they contain. But, most plants that recycle them are located in Europe. Boxboard—the flat cardboard out of which cereal boxes are made—is often high in recycled content but is not easily recyclable due mainly to the glues used to put them together. The recycling of plastics is such a complex process that many companies have stopped trying.

We should all be encouraged by our response to this environmental challenge. But, join me in pushing forward. Let's reach for Ontario's goal of 50% recycling by the year 2000. Together we can do it.

Unique area 4-H club seeks new members

Editor:
Imagine a world with no stores. No grocery stores, no clothing stores, no hardware stores, no shoe stores, no drug stores, no toy stores. Now imagine gathering materials from your environment and making everything you need to survive. In our modern society there is really no impelling reason to do this unless you are as curious about this lifestyle as I am.
Sometimes you are aware of something long before you have an actual realization of it. I knew the Native American Indians had no stores, but one day, years ago, I suddenly realized exactly what that meant. That realization

aroused an intense curiosity about how their daily needs were met. That curiosity led to years of reading, amateur research, and experimentation with this type of primitive lifestyle. I am also enthusiastic about sharing what I've learned, and am still learning, with others. The most effective way to accomplish this was to become a 4-H volunteer and leader to the "Dream Catchers."
Our projects thus far include making dream catchers, Indian jewelry, rawhide and rawhide drums, a rawhide shield, toy blow-dart guns, soo-soo sticks and tanning a buffalo hide. We won several awards at the Wyoming

County Fair for our dream catchers.
We are just completing our most recent project which is transforming raw deer hides into buckskin clothing.
These projects have brought us a great sense of accomplishment and a respect for the people who developed and perfected this way of life.
Our future projects will combine our interest in primitive skills with our love of nature. For information contact Sandra Tamanini at 675-8994.
Sandra Tamanini
Dallas Township



60 Years Ago - Feb. 7, 1936 BORO GETS STATE \$\$\$ TO PAY TEACHERS

Revived movement for early construction of the Luzerne bypass bore fruit this week when William W. Multer, county controller, announced he had inserted a \$100,000 item in the road and bridge department of his tentative budget to cover possible damages in construction of the road.
Since the teachers' fund is exhausted, Dallas Borough School Board will pay instructors by using a part of the district's general fund it was decided on at their meeting. A \$3,698 appropriation from the State due this month will ease the financial strain on the board.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 8, 1946 NO MORE SEWAGE MAY BE DUMPED IN CREEK

Residents of Dallas Borough who are now dumping their sewage in Toby's Creek will have to change their method of disposal or be subject to heavy penalties. That was made evident at Borough Council when James Beseker, secretary, read the letter from J.R. Hofert, secretary of

the Sanitary Water Board of Pennsylvania Council contends that it operates no sewer system and dumps no refuse into Toby's Creek but admits that certain Main and Lake Street residents do.
Jive Junction Teen Age Center for Dallas will reopen tonight following the basketball games. The Junction, which was closed last fall, has all its facilities available again. Members are requested to show their cards for admittance and non-members will be charged a nominal fee.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 3, 1956 DALLAS ESSO STATION HAS GRAND OPENING

Residents of the Back Mountain area once again displayed their generosity and public spiritedness on Tuesday by topping all previous figures in the Mothers March on Polio. Approximately 270 volunteers collected \$2,866.37. Last year's total was \$2,542.
The epidemic of scarlet fever among grade school children in Lehman is apparently on the wane, with no new cases reported since Sunday. A few of the children affected, are back in school again.
Clyde Birth, owner, announces his Dallas Esso Service Center will have its grand opening Feb. 9, 10 and 11, with free gifts and awards. First prize is a GE Portable TV. Drawing is March 31.
You could get - Center cut pork chops or roast, 55¢ lb.; ground beef, 3 lbs. \$1; Louella bread, 19¢ loaf; broccoli, 25¢ bnch.; lg. eggs, 59¢ doz.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 3, 1966 FRANKLIN TWP. TO ADOPT WAGE TAX

Back Mountain Memorial Library was one of 290 libraries in Pennsylvania to receive state aid this week. Its allotment was \$3,440 out of the \$2.7 million awarded for public library development program. In making a detailed breakdown of payments, Gov. Scranton said libraries serving more than 7.1 million people in 63 counties are sharing in the disbursement at a rate of 15¢ per capita up 2.5¢ from 12.5¢ paid last year.
Franklin Township announced its intention of passing a 1% wage tax in 1966, according to advertisement in this paper. Predominantly rural, Franklin thus yielded to external pressure as a member of Dallas School District to set this tax, presumably as a defense against a levy of a wage tax by Wilkes-Barre against workers from Franklin.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 5, 1976 BMT PROTECTIVE ASS'N TO FIGHT RATE HIKE

A six year record of 96 wins and 42 losses brings Dallas basketball coach Joe O'Donnell to within four games of 100 wins, one of the ambitions of every coach.
Back Mountain Protective Association President Dr. F. Budd Schooley this week announced that his group planned to challenge the rate increase proposal submitted by UGI-Luzerne Electric Division to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.

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