

## As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

General George S. Patton, Jr. died 50 years ago and a new book, "Patton: A Genius for War" attempts and succeeds redefining this complex man. And the author concludes that World War II would have been both longer and costlier without a Patton.

I've said how impressive this egotistical and flamboyant soldier was in person. The swagger, the shiny starred helmet, the pearl-handled revolvers...talk about larger than life! And yet no general, before or since, has ever come close to matching his talent at moving divisions in battle.

Some things in the book were new...like an affair with Jean Gordon, his wife's 21-year-old niece, who was cursed by his wife after Patton's death. Jean then put her head in a gas oven.

But the man who wrote "War is the only place where a man really lives," almost crashed his career in 1943 when he visited patients

## New portrait of a complex, flamboyant, military genius

of the 93rd Evac Hospital in Italy. In a tent with 15 casualties, he asked each one what the trouble was, commended them and wished a speedy recovery. The first six were battle casualties. Then, according to the official report of the affair, a patient said, "It's my nerves," and started to cry.

Patton then yelled, "Your nerves hell, you are just a g.d. coward, you yellow s.o.b." He slapped the man and said, "Shut up that g.d. crying. I won't have these brave men who have been shot seeing a yellow bastard sitting here crying."

He struck the man again, knocking his helmet liner off and yelled, "Don't admit the yellow bastard, there's nothing wrong with him." As he went out he yelled back to send that yellow s.o.b. back to the front lines. All this was so loud that nurses in adjoining wards had come out to see what the fuss was about.

This report was buried in the files by military censors. Another face-slapping incident occurred which did not get buried. War correspondent Quentin Reynolds investigated the incident for CBS and said he believed there were at

least 50,000 American soldiers who would shoot Patton if they had the slightest chance. He believed Patton to be temporarily insane.

Drew Pearson reported all this on his radio show, yet General Eisenhower's press aides denied it. Within hours other American correspondents broke their self-imposed silence (because they respected Patton's military accomplishments) and the military had to retract their denial. If Patton had not had Eisenhower's friendship he would have been fired and not just issued a reprimand.

A southern newspaper said, "Now Patton has received what probably to him was the worst punishment of all, a public airing of his behavior. His record on the whole is that of a soldier of extraordinary courage and competence, in spite of all his theatricalism, and there can be no satisfaction in belaboring him further. It is possible to hope he has learned a lesson."

I like what one reviewer ended with...the rare flash of humor from King George II when the sanity of General Wolfe was questioned: "Mad is he? Then I hope he will bite some of my other generals!"

## Women's testing available this month

During January and February Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania will offer appointments for free pregnancy tests to women at its medical center, 63 N. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre.

A high level of unplanned, unprotected sexual activity typically takes place during the year-end holidays. Planned Parenthood hoopes the free, confidential tests will encourage women to be tested early.

If the test result is positive, referral information will be given on all options. If the result is negative, the client will be encouraged to schedule an appointment for contraceptive services.

For more information on this special service and pregnancy test appointments, call 1-800-230-PLAN.

## Sweetheart Dance Feb. 9 at Idetown

A Sweetheart Dance with the Sundance Band will be held February 9, 9-1 p.m. \$25 per couple. RSVP by Feb. 5. For reservations call 639-2031. Dance benefits J.R. Davis Vol. Fire Co. Idetown-Dallas. Catered buffet and refreshments included.

## Lake Twp. recycling center open Feb. 10

The Lake Township Recycling Center will be open Feb. 10, from 10-12 noon, accepting aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass and plastic #1 and #2 only.

No motor oil containers will be accepted.

## Register early for safe boating course

A boating course will be held at the American Legion Post 967, Rt. 415, Harveys Lake, on February 23, 6-10 p.m. and February 24, 1-5 p.m.

This course will allow a person 12 to 15 years of age operate a motorboat or personal watercraft without having an adult on board.

The course is free but registration is required. Please call 717-477-2996 for a reservation.

## Tax help available at KT offices March 7

Kingston Township announces that a tax personnel specialist of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will be at the Kingston Township Municipal Building, 11 Carverton Road, Trucksville, PA 18708 on March 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer questions on taxes.

Residents with questions can call the Township Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 696-3809.

## FEMA newspaper available here

Copies of the FEMA newspaper, *The Recovery Times*, are available free of charge at the office of *The Dallas Post*, 45 Main Road, Dallas.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of January 19-25:

Douglas Barbacci, et ux, to Robert J. Pagnotti, property Unit 132 Orchd. E. Newbry, Dallas Borough, \$55,000.

Helen M. Oleski, per atty., to Andrew J. Kachmer, et ux, property Druid Dr., Dallas Twp., \$67,000.

Claire M. Chollak, to Christopher Michael, et ux, 170 Center Hill Rd., Dallas Twp., \$100,000.

Raymond A. Dipietro, et ux, to Beranrd A. King, et ux, property 132 Orchard View Terr., Dallas Twp., \$207,000.

Katherine L. Fahringer, to John Peter Farrell, et ux, Harveys Lake Bor., \$205,000.

Richard G. Burnett, et al to James L. Pugh, et al, Ash Ave., Harveys Lake, \$2,000.

Gr.WB Assoc. for the Blind to William L. Chollack, et ux, Harveys Lake Bor., \$500.

Tattersall Inc. to Robert W. Wolfe, 4.75 & 1.53 ac., Hunlock Twp., \$150,000.

Tattersall Inc. to Robert W. Wolfe, 27 & 3/8 ac., Hunlock Twp., \$60,000.

David F. Kenning, et al, to Dr. Jason Smith, 51 Blueberry Hill Rd., Jackson Twp., \$173,500.

Frederick R. Buckman, et ux, to Nance Ann Lovelace, Bramblewood Drive, Kingston Twp., \$210,000.

Allied Contractors & Eng. Inc. to James M. Barto, et al, Lots 59, 60 Skyline Dr., Kingston Twp., \$30,000.

Joel Zitofsky, et ux, to Lee J. Turner, et al, 275 Center St., Kingston Twp., \$281,000.

Lee J. Turner, to Ray W. Turner, III, et ux, Center Ave., Lehman Twp., \$130,000.

Raymond C. Hall, to Richard Maslow, Deer Field Dr., Lehman Twp., \$475,000.

James M. Patla, et ux, to Thomas I. Lanning, et ux, 25 ac., Ross Twp., \$32,000.

## J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

Few dates in history have cast so long a shadow as July 4, 1776...even though the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence took place July 3.

It was more than two centuries ago that our founding fathers and mothers gathered in Philadelphia to pledge their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the fulfillment of a dream—a dream unrivaled in human history.

When those people gathered in Philadelphia, the planet was governed to a greater or lesser degree by the tyranny of man over man. Kings ruled with iron fists and hobbled boots. Opportunity was the special province of the rich. Those born poor stayed that way, and none dared question the righteousness of the old order.

Those gathered in Pennsylvania had a different vision. A land where the pursuit of happiness was guaranteed. A land where the governors worked for the governed, rather than the other way around. A land where the people, through elected representation, would rule.

Today, that dream is in large part a reality. We live in the greatest, most free and most prosperous society on earth, or in the history of humankind.

## When might becomes right, everything becomes wrong

It was once the custom for Americans to spend much of the July 4 holiday listing to patriotic oratory. Today, not many of us do that, although it would bode well for our future if a child were to hear (at least once) Daniel Webster's soliloquy about this nation from the play *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

At the same time, and through the free flow of information and ideas, this nation must forever remain vigilant against the tyranny of 'might is right', or that the symbols of patriotism stand as means into themselves.

As such, the First Amendment stands on its own merit as the single most important freedom we have. All other freedoms stem from the right of free expression.

And contrary to the beliefs of those who want to, for example, have a constitutional amendment to prohibit burning the U.S. flag, the flag should not be the subject of worship as an idol, but rather should be approached as a symbol which represents our heritage. Respect for the flag cannot be legislated, but can only come about by citizens' understanding and appreciating that heritage.

That idea seems to be lost on the many veterans' organizations who've come out against the recent U.S. Senate defeat of an amendment which could have given Congress the power to outlaw desecration of the United States flag.

The choice between the flag

and the First Amendment is a clear one. The flag is a symbol of First Amendment principles. It would be a serious mistake to erode one of those principles in order to protect the symbol. To have a flag burning amendment would be sort of like the tail wagging the dog.

Fortunately, our forbears were smart enough to make it difficult for us to mess with our basic charter. Any proposed amendment must first be approved by two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Then it must be ratified by 38 state legislatures. The most recent Senate vote fell short by three votes.

And it's not likely that, even if such an amendment were to pass the House and Senate, it would then pass citizen muster, particularly when citizens would come to realize that it would open the door to a further erosion of the individual liberties found in the Bill of Rights.

How difficult is it to understand that one of the freedoms—perhaps the most basic freedom fought for by the veterans arguing for a flag burning amendment—is the right of free expression....and one of those expressions is burning the flag.

If the day comes when citizens refrain from desecrating the flag only because of the law or some dimly remembered custom, it will have truly become an empty symbol.

## Doctor collecting used eyeglasses

Dr. Curtis L. Goodwin, director of Back Mountain Eye Care Center, will be visiting various cities in the countries of Trinidad and Tobago during the week of February 22, 1996-March 3, 1996. This trip is being made in conjunction with the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity organization (V.O.S.H.) and the mission of the trip is to supply many of the underprivileged of that country with eyeglasses.

Please help support the program by donating your used eyeglasses. Dr. Goodwin will be collecting old eyeglasses at his office, Back Mountain Eye Care, 170 N. Memorial Highway, Shavertown. Phone 675-3627, where a collection bin is located.

## KT Xmas tree pickup is extended

Kingston Township announces the annual Christmas tree collection is suspended because of the excessive snowfall. Road department crews will collect the trees once snow removal operations are completed.

Residents who have already placed the trees at the curbside may leave them there. Residents should wait two or three weeks before putting trees out, if they have not yet done so.

For more information call the township office at 696-3809.

## Executive Tax Service

OFFERS YOU:

Year-round availability

Tax return preparation in your office or home

An affordable alternative in income tax preparation

The H&R Block guarantee of satisfaction

FREE electronic filing (does not apply to refund anticipation loans)

9 Narrows Shopping Center  
Edwardsville, PA 18704  
283-5170

Wellesley Building  
Rts., 6 & 11  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
586-1303



## Building a strong foundation: Wyoming Seminary for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade



A quality primary and middle-school experience builds the foundation for academic success.

AT WYOMING SEMINARY'S LOWER SCHOOL, students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade prepare for a lifetime of learning. With an average class size of 12, individual attention is the key to academic success. Students learn at their own pace: extra challenges and extra help are provided for students of varying abilities.

Nearly 400 students at our Forty Fort campus are building a strong foundation for the future through a traditional curriculum in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Screening for all Lower School grades will be held Saturday, February 17, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, call us at 283-6180.

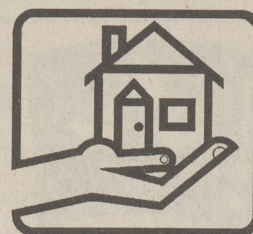
WYOMING SEMINARY  
founded 1844  
LOWER SCHOOL, WYOMING AVENUE  
FORTY FORT, PENNSYLVANIA 18704

Wyoming Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin.

## HOW MUCH HOME CAN YOU AFFORD?

See Franklin First!

**NEW!** Find out the *Fast, Free, Easy Way* with our Automated



**MORTGAGE CONNECTION**

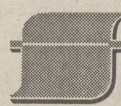
Simply dial:

**1-800-683-7925**

toll-free anytime day or night.

Please have the following information ready when you call:

- Source Code: **161**
- Social Security Number
- Zip Code
- Year of Birth
- Annual Household Income
- Total Debt Payments (not including rent or mortgage)
- Funds Available for Closing
- Percent Downpayment



**FRANKLIN FIRST**  
One Day We'll Be YOUR Bank

Subsidiary of ONBANCorp.  
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Equal Housing Lender

