

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

## Despite shortcomings, we remain nation of law

cause of modern conveniences, and for the rest, a guarantee of some sort of government assistance, thus removing economic incentive, i.e., as of last year, more than 50 percent of the entire nation receives government subsidy in one form or another.

More time on their hands, coupled with a belief that an automobile is now a 'right' not a privilege, along with expectations of excitement fueled by television, movies and advertising, mixed with the traditional rites of passage, and you now find the self-proclaimed turf owners roaming the streets and school hallways of America with little thought to tomorrow, or even fewer thoughts about being responsible for and to today.

It is our job as parents and as communities to recognize that children require focus and to put time and money into alternatives which provide focus. It's true there are already many such activities in which many people already put time and money. It's also true that you can't make a horse drink if it refuses.

Perhaps that speaks more to the point; that you won't find many among the so-called kids from traditional families among the street kids; rather, that the street kids are led by those not content with the traditional. Historically, it is from just such aberrants that many of our eventually best and brightest have emerged.

Lest we forget our own roaming, biological fires and quests for individuality, the trick for each generation is to keep both the traditional and the aberrants safe and sound through the rites of passage. Therein lies the measure of a community, and a measure of the nation itself.

My daughter wants at least the leader in this incident to be permanently removed from the school system...not a bad idea. And I'm sure that some her classmates want to do more than that; indeed, seek an eye for eye kind of justice.

I urge her and them to remember why and how this nation came to be.

In 1987, we celebrated the 200th birthday of its Constitution. Long speeches and schol-

arly tomes marked the passing of this event. But what did it really mean? And what meaning does it have today...some history.

In 1976, we celebrated our bicentennial as a member of the earth colony of nations. Also in 1976, many were still mourning those lost in Vietnam. Some didn't want to hear about it then; some still don't want to hear about it.

However, and while I disagreed with (but served during) the Vietnam debacle, a nation which holds constitutional symbols forth as a foundation—then predicates its daily activities on a body of laws subservient to that constitution—that same nation then must insist upon personal beliefs and desires being subservient to the will of the majority as that majority is able to effect change within constitutional limitations.

That is what, in fact, occurred: the people ended the Vietnam war.

Through it all; the tearing apart of the nation caused by the Vietnam conflict; and later, the crisis created by a flawed Richard Nixon, the Constitution remained, a stronger symbol and set of standards for having survived these onslaughts.

It was that symbol we celebrated in 1987; that symbol given breath by the Declaration of Independence; given a strong, healthy body by the Constitution itself; and given eternal nourishment by the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments.

You could argue (and perhaps effectively) that the many young men who died so in vain.

That is the wrong question.

To the point: we are either of nation of laws—predicated upon constitutional principles—or we are not.

I believe we are and that we should forever remain, a nation of constitutionally-based law.

Else we can turn the nation over to the zealots, special interests of every stripe, and those who want to take the law into their own hands...we can give up the right to choose, believe, speak freely, be heard, and effect change.

Because then we would also be giving up the opportunity to live and be better than the wolves we would surely become.

### ONLY YESTERDAY

60 Years Ago - April 3, 1936

#### HUNTSVILLE DAM WITHSTANDS FLOOD

Huntsville Dam withstood the strain of recent high water staunchly and is in splendid condition, according to the Water and Power Resources Board of the Department of Forests and Waters, which this week completed a survey of important dams in Pennsylvania. The inspection of the local dam was ordered because of apprehension in some sections regarding the safety of all dams after the high water.

The Public Service Commission was asked this week to approve incorporation of Hillcrest Water Co. to supply water to homes on Mt. Airy Terrace in Kingston Township. The request was made by Harry F. Goeringer, Herbert N. Stark and Fred W. Malkemes. Par value of capital stock would be \$5,000 the Commission was told.

50 Years Ago - April 5, 1946

#### DALLAS CORNERS TO GET NEW TRAFFIC LITES

Delayed for some time before it could locate a third director to make a quorum, Dallas Township School Board Monday night approved a new budget for posting in preparation for final adoption at the May 6 meeting. The new budget calls for receipts and expenditures amounting to \$78,104.

Only seven copies of *The Dallas Post* from 1941-1944 are now missing from the files to be bound and presented to the Back Mountain Memorial Library in the near future. Following last week's appeal all the missing numbers but seven were received at *The Post*. Special thanks go to Mrs. Culp who gave more than a dozen back copies.

Five new traffic lights will be installed within the next month at intersections with Harveys Lake Highway in Dallas Borough. Lights were purchased from the Marble Light Co. of New York City at a cost of \$432.99. Installation will be in addition.

40 Years Ago - March 30, 1956

#### LEHMAN REFUSES BIG SCHOOL JOINTURE

Thrown back upon a 5-way jointure by the Lehman Jackson-Ross joint board, which closed the door to a 10-way jointure, School Directors from Dallas-Franklin-Monroe and Dallas Borough and Kingston Township met Tuesday evening to read proposed articles of agreement. Leaving controversial paragraphs to the last, the boards swiftly agreed on routine articles concerning dates of meetings, election of officers, etc.

The congregation of the Dallas United Methodist Church approved by more than two thirds majority a \$129,000 expansion project presented to it by the Building Committee, Sunday morning. Overwhelming approval of the expansion plans is an indication of the faith which the congregation has in the church and the community.

You could get - Ready to eat whole hams, 55¢ lb.; turkeys, 53¢ lb.; eggs, doz. 61¢; rye bread, 2 lbs. 29¢; Cranberry sauce, 2 16-oz. cans 39¢.

30 Years Ago - March 30, 1966

#### FIRE DESTROYS MOTOR AT WILSON'S SAWMILL

Threatening an entire sawmill, fire engulfed a gasoline motor at Wilson's Sawmill, Lake Catalpa, Thursday evening and destroyed

it before being quelled. Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. assisted by Harry S. Smith Co. of Kunkle contained the blaze. Damage was estimated at \$6,000.

The east side bank bordering Kingston Township's Municipal Building, will be beautified this spring by Trucksville Jr. Girl Scout Troop. Girls will plant clumps of cover, including pachysandra, myrtle and mountain pinks to beautify the landscape. This will aid them in fulfilling requirements for a service project leading to ward credits for Sign of the Star and Sign of the Arrow badges and broaden their aspect in scouting.

20 Years Ago - April 1, 1976

#### AREA BIKE RIDE WILL BENEFIT LUZARC

More than 100 Dallas Rotarians and Rotary Anns gathered to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the chartering of the club last Thursday at Irem Temple Country Club. The evening featured a buffet dinner and entertainment by a barbershop quartet known as Tag Masters.

Dallas Junior Women's Club announced the route for the third annual Bike Hike for Retarded Citizens, which will take place April 25. Riders of all ages are urged to participate in the hike which benefits the retarded citizens of Pennsylvania Luzerne County Association for Retarded Citizens. Luzarc will receive 75% of the funds raised and the remaining 25% going to the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens PARC.

Your could get - Sirloin steak, \$1.37 lb.; gr. beef, 79¢ lb.; Crisco Oil, 38-oz. bot., \$1.29; Duncan Hines Cake Mixes 18 1/2-oz. 59¢; Cheer, 49-oz. \$1.39; Mrs. T's Pierogies 1 lb. pkg., 69¢.

You see them almost everywhere: gangs of kids on the corner, or in the malls, of virtually every town and city in America. And by their presence, telling passersby: "we're here and this is who we are," even when it's obvious most of them haven't a clue about identity or direction. In short, they lack focus.

Every school also has these kids, usually led by a particularly mean-spirited boy.

All of this hit home recently after the following observation from my daughter...who attends school in another state.

"Dad...I just can't believe it. This is so wrong."

She was telling me about her first exposure to the politics of our educational system specifically, and to our judicial system in general. Briefly put, idealism found her indignant that a group of juvenile delinquents had 'beaten up' some of her classmates.

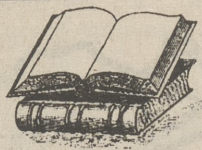
The indignation was that this wasn't the first time the leader of this particular group of kids had been in trouble; more to the point, that both the judicial and school systems were hard pressed to do much about it, given our society's current perception that anyone who does something wrong is somehow a 'victim'; therefore, the young, mean-spirited child who found it appropriate to pound upon his classmates is not responsible for his acts. And parents of the real victims have the ironic responsibility then to pay for the perpetrator's continued presence in the school system.

Where do these aberrants originate?

Some originate in the reality that each generation produces a small number of persons who cannot, or will not, join the rest of us in civilized behavior.

The vast majority, however, result from this culture providing us with too much time, and too much money. Many children today have an enormous amount of time on their hands, largely be-

### LIBRARY NEWS



"Trains, Trains, Trains" is the theme of the current exhibit in the display case in the foyer of the Back Mountain Memorial Library; featuring toy and scale model trains and railroad memorabilia. Shown are HO scale models of a Pennsylvania diesel locomotive and steam engine with assorted freight cars; a Z scale freight train; and a Lionel O gauge train, all the properties of James A. Wert of Shavertown. An actual railroad lantern and an engineer's cap and neckerchief which once belonged to the collector's uncle can also be seen with the display. The display includes a book, "The Portrait of the Rails" by Don Ball, Jr., from steam to diesel; collectible coasters from various railroads and routes; a train station and a tunnel. Special engines included are the GG-1 electric engine, The

## All aboard for new exhibit

Pennsylvania 4866; 1948 Santa Fe F3 diesel engine; and the #400E Blue Comet, all by Lionel. On top of the case with the lantern is a box car, the Lackawanna, DL7W; the route of the Phoebe Snow. A slogan with the display: "Old railfans never die...they just get sidetracked." It is hoped that this exhibit will be fascinating to children and nostalgic to adults who remember when the sight and sound of a train were once common in our land. This display will be at the library until April 17th.

**New children's books at the library:** "Charlie Anderson" by Barbara Abercrombie is the story of Elizabeth and Sarah and their mother, who have taken in a stray cat named Charlie.

"Piggie Piel" by Margie Palantini is about a witch named Gritch the Witch who is grouchy, grumpy and very hungry for something really special, and that means "Piggie Piel"

"I Know an Old Lady" by G. Brian Karas is the special tale of the lady who swallowed the fly. The illustrations are as outland-

ish as the old lady's tremendous appetite!

"Ranger Rick's Dinosaur Book" is a beautiful book that includes all phases of the dinosaurs; the time of the giants, seasons of change, and uncovering the past.

"Anno's Magic Seeds" by Mitsuma Anno begins with magic when a wizard gives Jack two mysterious golden seeds. He eats one and isn't hungry again for a whole year!

"Mr. Putter and Tabby Bake the Cake" by Cynthia Rylant happens at Christmastime. Tabby is a cat he and Mr. Putter are thinking of what to give their neighbor Mrs. Teaberry.

"Dog Friday" by Hilary McKay is about ten year old Robin Brogan who meets the new family next door and suspects his life will never be the same again...and he's right.

"Oliver and Amanda and the Big Snow" by Jean VanLeeuwen tells of the big snow that is packed with surprises, fun and challenges for both brother and sister! A snow fort!

### THANKS

## Meadows Nursing Center appreciates youth painters

Editor: The Meadows Nursing Center recently had the pleasure of having Dallas Senior High School art students, under the direction of Claire Morris, visit our center and paint "Think Spring" scenes on our windows.

The students did a fantastic job, and residents, staff, visitors and volunteers are enjoying the many butterflies, bunnies, flowers, etc. After such a long winter it's a real morale booster for all of us.

Credit where credit is due - we salute you for your creativity and time!

Marilyn Gregorski, volunteer director  
The Meadows Nursing Center

## Daffodil Days was a resounding success

Editor: A most sincere and deserved thank-you to the people of Luzerne County for their heartfelt support to volunteerism during this year's Daffodil Campaign, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

This year's fundraising drive was a total success as a result of the many adults and children who contributed their time and effort.

These people served unselfishly as committee members, contact people, school dis-

tributors, wrappers, drivers, business contacts and sponsors.

Daffodils, the Flower of Hope, were displayed and purchased throughout the county by supporters of this cause.

The money raised will not only benefit cancer research, but will directly benefit Luzerne County residents through distribution to needy cancer victims.

Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause. Your efforts as individuals and a com-

munity will help eradicate this disease.

We all look forward to another successful Daffodil campaign, made possible by the caring residents of Luzerne County, in 1997 in our fight against cancer.

Kathryn Hoffner, Daffodil chairperson  
Bernadette Martin, co-chairperson  
Wyoming Valley Unit American Cancer Society

## Come. See What's New In Lighting

at the C.B. SCOTT Display during the 1996 Builders' Home Show  
ICE-A-RAMA, Coal Street, Wilkes-Barre

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - March 29, 30, 31

Factory representatives will be on hand to guide and advise you.  
Design and layout service available.

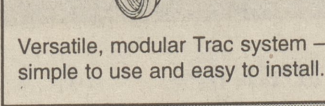
### AMBIANCE Landscape Lighting Systems

by sea gull  
Low voltage landscape lighting you can install yourself!  
Safe, shock-free, 12-volt system, same as used in children's toys.



### Juno TRAC 12

Low Voltage Trac System  
Versatile, modular Trac system - simple to use and easy to install.



### LEVITON



### DECORA ELECTRONIC CONTROLS

Manual, remote and programmable controls; 3-way switching without 3-way wiring.

## "THE LIGHT SOURCE"

# SCOTT

C.B. Scott Electric Supply  
395 Coal Street, Wilkes-Barre Phone: 824-9812



# In The Market For A New Checking Account?

## Check With Franklin First!



### FRANKLIN FIRST



One Day We'll Be YOUR Bank

1-800-262-1210  
(717) 821-7100

\*Senior Accounts Welcome.