

**EDITORIALS**

# Citizens showing real concern for community

There's a renewed spirit of community activism in the air. The most visible example — because the Wilkes-Barre papers are falling all over one another in a race to canonize their mayor — is the "Neighborhood Impact Team" organized by Mayor Tom McGroarty. A loose definition of its job is to go where no city employees have gone before, to improve the "quality of life" in troubled neighborhoods. Whether they actually accomplish their goal, they're sprucing up downtrodden sections of the city, and there's no harm in that.

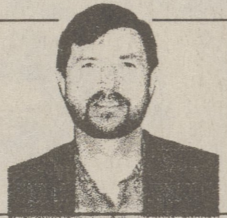
Harveys Lake has its own "NIT," but we like it far better than Wilkes-Barre's, even if it doesn't get as much ink. A group of citizens at the lake has identified problem areas, and brought them to the attention of the zoning officer and the borough council. Their goal is much the same as in the city; to stop blight before it gets out of hand, at least in part by embarrassing the owners of unsightly or unsafe properties.

We're impressed by the effort at Harveys Lake because it springs from ordinary citizens' concern for their community and not a desire for political gain. The good mayor of Wilkes-Barre may be genuinely troubled by the city's run-down blocks, but he's also an astute politician who realizes there's plenty of political hay to be made by being a champion of safe and sound neighborhoods. So, the political leadership is driving the program. At Harveys Lake it's the other way around, and that seems far healthier, and more likely to be sustainable.

Wistful thinkers recall a time when more people took to heart the condition of their community and their neighbors and didn't wait for government to take action. When was the last time you corrected the misbehavior of a child who wasn't your own, or called the local town hall to report a danger or other violation of law or common sense? Most of us could be more active in our town's life, and the folks at Harveys Lake are showing one way to do it.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



From this vantage point, nearly five months before the presidential election, voters can be forgiven if they lack enthusiasm for either of the major candidates. Bob Dole and Bill Clinton each have enough skeletons in their closet to keep a chiropractor busy until retirement, and the long campaign assures that we'll hear them all in gory detail before November.

One poll asked — I hope tongue-in-cheek — which man voters would prefer to babysit their child. The only thing more laughable than the question is that anyone would take it seriously. Is the American voter so impaired that he or she would place the qualities of a good babysitter at the top of their list for president? I don't think so. While I've often been guilty of underestimating the savvy and sophistication of the general public, I have nearly always been proven wrong. There are plenty of single-issue voters out there, and they can't be counted on to choose the best person for the job, even on their own terms given the speed in which politicians' principles change with voter sentiment. But most people, I think, will vote for the person they think most qualified for the job at hand, not the one usually delegated to a teenager.

That's where the question becomes more complicated, because both men, for all their faults, have much to recommend them. So this election will be a real test, and not just for Dole and Clinton. We voters will be asked to pick someone about whom we know more than candidates in any past election, and much of what we hear won't be flattering. That old excuse — they're both bums so I won't vote for anyone — is likely to be trotted out often, but let's not accept it. Whether or not Bob Dole and Bill Clinton are saints isn't the question; it's who is best equipped to lead the nation, or at least the executive branch, into the new century. I'm not ready to answer that for myself yet, but no matter how much they try to smear one another, you'll find me pulling a lever on November 5.

## 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.



Sprucing up for the auction, Joe Stager swept cobwebs from the auction barn. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

Urban American and rural America, and therefore suburban America, are all in trouble. They are troubled in a human sense; they are troubled in a physical sense, and they are troubled in a fiscal sense.

As the mayor of Kansas City stated in an interview on National Public Radio, what we need is a "Domestic Storm" modeled on the impact which Desert Storm had in the Persian Gulf in early 1991. Something as powerful, something as invasive, something as comprehensive as the Desert Storm military strategic plan is needed for domestic America. To accomplish this requires a vision; a dose of strategic planning, and a view that the status quo no longer is acceptable.

The nation is in trouble, but it is not what might be labeled a malaise. Despite a federal deficit of significant proportion and despite a debt level which has changed the nation from being a creditor to a debtor nation, the United States has resources almost unparalleled in the world.

These resources are not just the natural evolution of minerals and other resources which provide wealth; they are not only the creative ingenuity of technology which has run rampant across the nation; they include the human and spiritual talents which have rolled across the nation generation after generation. It is a nation seeking and thirsting for leadership and for an ultimate design for envisioning the future and creating a renewal of hope and inspiration for all Americans, no matter race, religion, income or gender.

While a sense of desperation hovers over the heads and minds of minority America, the very foundation of the nation was built upon a critical mass of diversity which has come across the shores

# Suburbs must share in solution to urban woes

of the nation, wave after wave after wave. It creates excitement and controversy; it empowers and invents; it focuses and stretches the definition of the American dream.

Unless domestic issues affecting all Americans are corrected, this nation will not be able to compete within the global economy which currently dominates and is expected to increasingly impact the economic base of this country. This is why a clarion call for a "Domestic Storm" make great sense despite the deficit laden base which hangs like a noose around the necks of America's public sector, private sector and non-profit sector. If funds could be found for Desert Storm, then the funds can be found to initiate "Domestic Storm."

The nation should not and cannot tolerate the decay of urban America, neglect of rural America, and forget the almost inexplicable problems facing the growth and urbanization of suburban America. One of the problems with identifying infrastructure needs in the country designed to improve the economy is that we tend to catalog and categorize issues according to type of place. Therefore, when a so-called commitment is made to solve the problems of "urban America", the problems and neglect of other parts of the country are left untouched for the most part.

Joel Garreau's pioneering book about edge cities, gives further pause to the need to resolve ways to regionalize issues in order to attack the root cause of problems which cross municipal boundary lines in what has traditionally been identified as "urban America". Growth areas have different kinds of problems and are often neglected when discussions take place as to how to assist economically distressed areas or communities.

Problems which are attributed to central cities often divorce themselves from discussions which would better take place if a regional approach was discussed and a structured process adopted

for the betterment of these types of community-regional areas.

In all of these discussions, it is often the case that rural America is completely forgotten. If rural issues are discussed it is only in the context of agricultural or farming subsidy policies and not the concept of or thematic need for rural development.

What all of this seems to say is that there has not been nor is there the likelihood of a national domestic policy with sufficient financial teeth to meet all of the unmet needs of the nation. Even when a President announces that a policy does exist, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to develop the strategies and tactics necessary to carry out a national framework policy.

If the term, "Domestic Storm", a military connotation is meant, then so be it. The nation is at war with itself, struggling with how it can compete in a world quite different than what was left after World War II. In less than 50 years, the legacy of leadership which the United States held on all fronts has deteriorated and in its place little substance has been offered except fragmented, program-oriented scraps of projects and functions which have not been directed toward a strategic process.

The nation therefore, may require a military approach such as "Domestic Storm" which organizes a domestic strategic plan with a focused mission and goals for the betterment of the nation's future. Its future lies in the utilization of the best tactics and activities which can refocus attention on the responsibilities of "domestic tranquility" which have been written into the historical pages of this nation's history. A Domestic Storm should be preceded by a domestic vision to guide and shape the growth and development of this nation well into the 21st Century.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.



# Library display complements Theatre-on-the-Green show

of William Shakespeare and a set of arches. The display also shows the programs and information about the performance. The colors and the display set-up are exquisite. Joan John, as chair of the committee, has made an inviting welcome to the performance. The public is invited to join in a perfect evening in the open air, surrounded by cool country breezes, flickering candles, and College Misericordia's beautiful campus. Performances are held rain or shine. Walsh Auditorium is available for a quick move, if necessary. Order forms are available at the library or at the college.

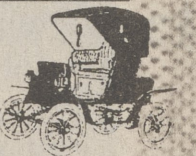
New books at the library: "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry takes place in 1975 in an unnamed Indian city by the sea. The government has just declared a State of Emergency. The days

that follow bring new forms of degradation and misery to vie with resilience and stubborn hope.

"Mount Dragon" by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child is an enigmatic research complex hidden in the vast desert of New Mexico. Its scientists are drawn from the best minds in the world. They are secretly working on a medical breakthrough to bring incalculable benefits to the human race.

"Operation Solo" by John Barron is America's greatest spy story. For 27 years, Morris Childs, code named "Agent 58" provided the United States with the Kremlin's innermost secrets. Repeatedly risking his life, Agent 58 made 52 clandestine missions into the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, and Cuba. They never knew he was working for the FBI in the United States.

## ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - July 3, 1936 SURF BOARDS ON HARVEYS LAKE

A high tribute to Daniel C. Roberts of Brooklyn, NY and Harveys Lake who gave Lake Township its handsome community building and powerful LaFrance pumper has been paid by Wyoming Valley Motor Club, Wilkes-Barre, which recently dedicated an issue of its monthly magazine, "The Motorist" to Mr. Roberts, a member of the club. Prominent citizens of Wyoming Valley joined in the enthusiastic praise for Mr. Roberts' numerous philanthropies.

The first aquatic sports event of the season at Harveys Lake will be held Sunday, when at least four persons will compete in a surf board riding contest.

A more satisfactory schedule of bus service between Dallas and Harveys Lake was inaugurated this week by Wilkes-Barre Railway Corp. Under the new arrangement buses will carry passengers until midnight.

### 50 Years Ago - July 5, 1946 EXPLOSION AT GARAGE INJURES WESTERMAN

Explosion of an alcohol drum Friday afternoon at Oliver's Garage shook Dallas and seriously injured Richard Westerman, an employee who was cutting the empty sheet metal tank with an acetylene blow torch. He is in Nesbitt suffering from shock and second degree burns. Also treated was Emery Keatby, another employee who suffered from shock and James Klug, Harveys Lake, owner of the drum.

The Dallas Post plant on Lehman Avenue is closed this week from July 1-6 inclusive so that all our employees may have an annual vacation, the first since before the war for some of them.

### 40 Years Ago - June 29, 1956 COMMITTEE REVIEWS HIGH SCHOOL SITES

Eight possible sites for construction of the new Dallas Area Senior High School were viewed on Friday by members of the building and grounds committee, with four gaining unqualified approval by the committee as eminently suitable. The committee is making no statement at this time as to exact location, withholding for various reason the pin pointing of any special locality until decision has been reached.

Back Mountain residents with a number of outstanding men and women of Polish descent among them will be thrilled with the Polish exhibit and dancing schedule for Friday and Saturday of this week at Irem Temple Country Club as part of the Sesquicentennial program for greater Wyoming Valley.

You could get - Lancaster smoked whole hams, 59¢ lb.; cantaloupe, 19¢ ea.; 7, 16-oz. cans. Ideal applesauce \$1; sandwich bread, 2 lg. lvs., 29¢; Ideal pork and beans, 4, 16-oz. cans 49¢

### 30 Years Ago - June 30, 1966 SCHOOL SUPER GETS RAISE TO \$18,500

Dallas School Board voted Tuesday evening to place the superintendent on a salary schedule with a maximum of \$18,500. Dr. Mellman who is at present receiving a salary of \$15,000 will receive an increase of \$1,000 this year and next and a \$500 increase yearly after that until the maximum is reached.

### 20 Years Ago - July 1, 1976 MAJEWSKI WINS STATE HIGH JUMP TITLE

A two and one half hour boat parade and a gigantic fireworks display will highlight the July 4 Bicentennial activities at Harveys Lake. The traditional Labor Day boat regatta has been moved to the July 4 weekend to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday.

Dallas Area Letterman Booster Club honored John Majewski, Dallas Senior High School who took the state title in the high jump this year, the first Back Mountain athlete to do so. He was presented with luggage.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gosar Sr., Main St., Shavertown, observed their 60th wedding anniversary June 26. The date also marked Mr. Gosar's 81st birthday. They have two sons, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

## 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



The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring an exciting collection of items to announce the ninth season of "Theatre on the Green". The presentation this year will be Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Performances will be held on July 12, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m., College Misericordia and the Theatre-on-the-Green committee of community volunteers have a commitment to quality theatre. A company of professional actors, directed by Jim Petosa, artistic director of the Olney Theatre in Olney, Maryland, brings the master playwright's works to life.

The display includes two busts