

EDITORIALS

School-To-Work; let's make it work

Two public school guidance counselors are taking the initial steps that we hope will lead to a closer connection between schools and employers. Bob Rogers of Lake-Lehman and Jack Wolensky of Dallas are spending a week of their summer "on-the-job" with area businesses, seeing firsthand what skills and traits students need to have a chance at success in the world they will enter after school. It's all part of a program called the Wyoming Valley School-To-Work Partnership, a joint venture of business people and educators.

If this program is implemented enthusiastically, it could be one of the most important experiences of a young person's school years. Understaffed guidance departments often find their days filled with problem children, with precious little time left over to identify students who have latent potential but lack direction. The result is that academic and athletic stars — who need little coaching — and troublemakers get the attention they require, while good but unexciting students are lost in the shuffle.

Imagine the number of teenagers whose imagination and goals could be sparked by time spent alongside a member of the profession or trade he or she aspires to. Conversely, many would likely be turned off after seeing the real work life of those they so admire from a distance, or based only on glamorization by television or movies.

Having guidance counselors spend time at businesses is a good start. Far more important steps remain to be taken, and the most critical will be sending students into offices, stores and factories where they can get a close look at life beyond school, whether high school, technical college or beyond. This is a big undertaking, but one that could pay big dividends both for the youngsters and their future employers. We hope it succeeds.

Walk signals make taking a stroll more pleasurable

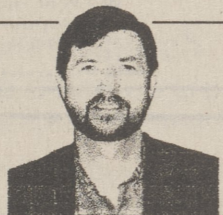
The next best thing after the fact that signal lights along Routes 309 and 415 are almost in operation is that they include walk lights. After year's of dodging speeding cars, those people old-fashioned enough to walk from place to place will be able to safely cross the highways at regular intervals.

Walking is a lost art for many people. Low gas prices and the insanity of trying to cross the road have made even the shortest trip more appealing by car. That may change, at least for those willing to brave the new improved highways. Aside from the obvious benefits — more exercise and less pollution — walking offers many pleasures, such as the sound of birds calling and a closer look at your neighborhood and community. Along the way, you may stop and chat with friends who are out in the yard, or themselves taking a stroll instead of a ride.

But be warned; you'll still have to be extra careful when crossing busy roadways. There's always the risk that a motorist either won't see or will disregard the signal. So, even when you have the right of way, it's best to double check for traffic from all directions before venturing out.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



We're just back from a week off, spent in Southern New England, which included beach time and a day trip to Block Island. You can get there by airplane or ferry, and we chose the latter, spending about an hour each way on the water. While the weather was disappointingly gray and cool, we still enjoyed our second visit to this lovely island, which is not overdeveloped to the extent many resorts are. Most of the island is off limits to more building, so it will retain its charms, which include relatively uncrowded beaches, bikeable streets and plenty of open space.

The explosion of prosperity in places like Block Island is remarkable. As little as 20 years ago, it was an out-of-the-way spot, left behind by Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, dotted with dilapidated buildings. Now, the shops and hotels do a brisk business — even midweek — and a battle rages over whether growing tourism is good or bad for the place, with most people willing to trade the crowds and inconvenience for a steady income. I know we're glad they haven't put up a gate yet.

But enough about us. What did you do on your summer vacation? Let us know; we'd love to do a feature story about where you went, what you did and how you enjoyed it. We'll even publish a couple of those photos you've been dying to show the neighbors, if they'd only let you. Give me a call at 675-5211, and we'll set up an interview.

Send your items to:

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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



Season's pastime at Harveys Lake. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Mainstream



John William Johnson

"How many miles per gallon does that thing get?" I asked.

Service manager Bagadonuts initially ignored the question in favor of a pain in his back as he seated himself on the well worn chair behind the auto dealership service counter.

"About 30," he said finally, sitting up and reaching for a pencil.

"Did you see today's paper about gas prices hitting a 5-year high?"

"That's all I need," he groans. "More people complaining about gas mileage."

"Yes, but..."

"You know what we need," he interrupts.

"What?"

"We need higher gas prices, not lower ones."

This rather startling observation was followed by some history.

"From the beginning of this century," he says, "the world's oil supply and its price was controlled by a loosely knit group of oil companies called the Seven Sisters who received only lip service from those in charge of monitoring monopolies. At the same time, it was perhaps necessary for both supply and price to be controlled by the suppliers, or the world's economies, desperately dependent on the black gold, would fluctuate wildly."

"Along came the 1970's and

What our country really needs is higher oil prices

OPEC, an acronym for a consortium-largely Arab nations-called the Oil Producing Export Countries. Two OPEC-induced steep price hikes in the 1970's proved the temporary wisdom of supply and price control as the world, most notably the United States, went into price shock and economic recessions both times oil prices were raised.

"We survived, largely through reducing dependence on foreign oil by reducing consumption, by dramatically improving our overall energy usage intelligence through massive education programs, and through experimentation and real world use of alternative energy sources, complete with tax incentives."

"What's happened since the 1970's is that oil prices have dropped dramatically. This was caused, in part, by reduced consumption from the 1970's along with a sluggish world economy reducing demand."

"Now along comes Saddam Hussein in 1990 and the U.S. decides to become modern day Hessians, hiring out our military forces for the dubious benefit of have our young people die in the Saudi sand when the real solution is implementation of simple market forces. We need to increase the price of gasoline to a point where consumption will be reduced and the rewards of the free enterprise system will rise up to discover, manufacture, distribute and promote alternatives, i.e., a viable electric automobile."

"All Hussein's invasion did was prolong the illusion that this country can and should continue its

primary economic activity as a military industrial complex. The horrible irony is that while we have applauded the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe for its abandonment of communism in favor of free enterprise, we find our economic system glued to the Defense Department for the survival of an inordinate number of American citizens."

"Don't kid yourself," he says, waving both arms, "our presence in Kuwait has as much to do with keeping profits flowing, and defense industry jobs intact, as it had to do with trying to maintain stable oil prices, depose a despot, or free Kuwait."

Bagadonuts makes sense. We proclaim peace and market war.

We market war while our public infrastructure is falling down around our ears.

We shout about the Japanese economic invasion while buying their cars, selling them our real estate, and not following their example of \$3 per gallon for gasoline.

And as we decide in the coming months who our next President will be, rising gas prices will compete with other issues for policy making prominence, i.e.

- AIDS
- Environmental degradation
- Job insecurities
- Health Care reform
- Massive trade and budget deficits.
- And a New World Order which is ever more increasingly not likely to take its marching orders, even its cues, from the world's largest debtor nation...the United States.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

If you are one of many who always thought that Diamond Jim Brady was purely a fictional character, think again. This guy was for real. Born in New York in 1856, James Buchanan Brady was a natural salesman. Selling railroad equipment with back-to-back multimillion-dollar deals he quickly piled up a sizeable fortune. He also knew how to spend it.

In his wardrobe were 200 custom-made suits and 50 glossy silk hats. He said, "If you're going to make money you have to look like money," and he did. His collection of jewelry was worth \$2 million. He paid \$87,000 for a single set of shirt studs and cuff links.

His diamond rings were the largest in New York and he had 30-odd watches, one of which was appraised after his death at \$17,500. Brady said, "Them as has 'em wears 'em." Exercising in Central Park he would use one of his 12 gold-plated bicycles with diamonds and rubies embedded in the handlebars.

To one of his lady friends, the

The true story of bejewelled glutton Diamond Jim Brady

buxom 200-lb. singer-actress Lillian Russell, Brady presented a special gilt bicycle with mother-of-pearl handlebars and emeralds and sapphires mounted on the spokes of each wheel. Miss Russell displayed her famous machine every Sunday when she was photographed in her white cycling suit with a Tyrolean hat.

Although he relished his nickname "Diamond Jim," it was his eating habits which caused the most interest from his public.

Certainly, lady friends and jewelry aside, food was the greatest passion in his life. The heights he reached have never been equalled by any man in history, and probably never will.

A typical Brady day would begin with a breakfast of hominy grits, eggs, corn bread, muffins, pancakes, chops, fried potatoes, a steak and a full gallon of orange juice. He called it "golden nectar" and it was his favorite beverage; he never touched a drop of liquor.

The rest of a typical Brady day went about like this:

11:30 a.m.: a before-lunch snack of two or three dozen clams and oysters.

12:30 p.m.: a lunch of more clams and oysters, several boiled lobsters, three deviled crabs, a joint of beef and several kinds of pie.

Mid-afternoon tea - seafood platter and lemon soda, another

favorite. Dinner, usually at a Broadway restaurant named Rector's, where the proprietor would boast Brady was the "best 25 customers he had." Brady would start with two to three dozen oysters, six crabs and two bowls full of turtle soup. Those were only appetizers.

Main courses included six or seven lobsters, two ducks, two portions of terrapin (turtle meat), a sirloin, vegetables and an entire platter of pastries. Additional beakers of orange juice were consumed, and for an after-dinner treat he usually finished off a 2-lb. box of candy.

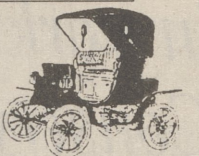
Crowds used to gather around the Brady table to cheer him on and to make bets on whether or not he'd pass out before dessert.

For years Diamond Jim defied the dire predictions of medical experts, until he finally developed stomach trouble at age 56. His career as a world-class eater was over, but he lived on for five more years until his death at the Shelburne Hotel in Atlantic City in 1917.

A postmortem on his body performed at Johns Hopkins showed his stomach had been expanded to a size six times larger than normal. He left much of his fortune to the James Brady Urological Clinic at Johns Hopkins.

Don't make 'em like that any more.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Aug. 7, 1936

COPS CRACK DOWN ON CAMPERS AT LAKE

In an effort to break up petty thievery at Harveys Lake, Chief Ira C. Stevenson of the Lake police has issued orders that all campers will be required to secure written permits from landowners on whose grounds they camp. For some time past residents of the Lake have been bothered with thefts of milk and food-stuffs from refrigerators. In most instances where the culprits have been apprehended, they have been found to be campers.

Ronald Doll, former principal of Dallas Borough school, was unanimously elected teacher of English in Dallas Township Schools for the coming year by the school board Monday night.

You could get - Rib roast, 23¢ lb.; ground beef, 2 lbs., 33¢; onions, 4 lbs., 10¢; Graham Crackers, 1-lb. pkg., 9¢.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 9, 1946

LAND CLEARED FOR NEW LACE MILL

A crew of men were at work this week clearing away trees so that bulldozers of the Sordoni Construction Co. can start excavating today for the foundation of Natona Mills, a subsidiary of Native Laced & Textiles Inc.

The \$125,000 bond issue of Wilkes-Barre School District proceeds from which will be used to remodel Coughlin High School and to make extensive improvements to school property was awarded Tuesday to First National Bank of Dallas. Effective date of bond sale is Sept. 16 and the interest rate will be 1 1/4%. Bonds will be amortized at a rate of \$10,000 per year over an 11-year period.

Now playing at Shaver Theatre: "The Virginian" with Joel McCrea, Sonny Tufts, and Barbara Britton.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 3, 1956

FINN TO TRY OUT FOR OLYMPIC RIFLE TEAM

SFC Charles L. Finn, son of Mrs. Cora Finn, Center Hill Road, is a strong contender for the U.S. Olympic Rifle team according to word received this week from Fort Benning, GA. He will go to Camp Perry later this month with the All-Army Team to compete for a place on the Olympic team which will be picked during those matches.

Preparation of the grounds adjoining the present Gate of Heaven School and church structures on Machell Avenue is already under way for erection of the \$200,000 addition to the school.

Richard J. Griffith, Main St., Trucksville, who was informed two years ago that he topped the list of 15 persons taking exams for the position of Trucksville Postmaster, was ordered to report for duty July 14.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 4, 1966

NEW LIBRARIAN TAKES OVER LIBRARY

Mrs. Martin L. Davern moved up to the Librarian's chair on Aug. 1 when retiring librarian Mrs. Richard Dale started on her month of vacation terminating two years with Back Mountain Memorial Library. Mrs. Davern, assistant and upon occasion acting librarian for past four years was elected by the Library Board at its July 19 meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. George Dendler, Ruggles, are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary today. They are parents of four children and have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 3, 1976

LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE SPARES TWO FROM AREA

Two Legion delegates from Dallas were feeling fine when *The Post* contacted them Tuesday evening in the wake of widespread reports of mysterious illness and deaths among Legionnaires who attended a recent state convention. Ed Buckley and Thomas E. Reese were feeling no ill effects following the convention during the latter part of July. State health officials have not yet identified a mysterious and apparently untreatable pneumonia like illness that had apparently caused the death of 21 state Legion delegates by Tuesday.