

EDITORIALS

# Prevention is the key word this week

All of us are affected by accidents at some point in our lives. Millions of people also are injured or killed by events that are preventable. This week is Fire Prevention Week, and a good time to take steps to see that you and your family don't join the latter group.

Fire Prevention Week has been around a long time, and may not receive the the notice it warrants. Most of us recall a grammar school visit from a fireman who handed out bright red helmets made of flimsy plastic. If we were lucky we might have gotten a ride on a fire engine, or at least a few minutes to clamber up the side of one. Then there were the interminable fire drills, with hundreds of children fidgeting in long lines that snaked out the proper doorway, where we all stood freezing until the all clear bell rang.

That was at school. But what about at home? Far more people are suffer the consequences of fire at home than at school or work, yet few of us devote any time to home fire drills. This would be a good time to start. Everyone in your home should know what to do and where to go should fire strike, as well as the location of fire extinguishers (You do have one, don't you?) and how to use them. But even all that isn't fire prevention, just reaction. There's much more to be gained by seeing that fires never start than by knowing what to do once they begin to devour our homes.

Like so many things, fire safety starts by taking a common sense look at our situations, such as keeping flammable materials away from hot surfaces and repairing frayed wiring. There's much more to do, and you can find some useful reminders elsewhere in this week's Post. You can also contact the fire department in your town and someone will be glad to help out. While you're at it, install smoke detectors if you don't already have them, and replace batteries in the ones already installed.

Some tragedies are unavoidable, others can be prevented with a little caution and diligence. Don't let your family suffer needless pain and inconvenience; take the time to go through your home with an eye toward fire safety, and to practice an escape plan just in case your precautions aren't sufficient. You'll be glad you did.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



The first Presidential Debate was a draw as far as I could tell. There were no startling revelations, no serious blows to either candidate, all-in-all few surprises except that Bob Dole held his own with one of the smoothest characters to ever come down the pike. It's interesting that Clinton, who often touts the virtues of individual responsibility, made this remark about his 1992 election: "I wanted to turn this country around." Clinton also frequently began his responses with a "Well, Jim..." referring to the moderator, to give his replies a more personal touch. He slipped up, though, when he reacted to Dole's tax cut presentation by saying, "I need it." That implies that he doesn't think lower taxes are a bad idea for himself.

Dole hit a high note when he reminded his opponent of a conversation they had about their mothers. He also struck a chord with this: "I want the government to pinch pennies instead of families." But he wasted too much energy trying to tarnish Clinton as the author of the "world's largest tax increase," — it wasn't — and by attempting to paint too dark a portrait of contemporary American life. Speaking of tax increases, Clinton brought up the 1982 plan that was the largest in U.S. history, but failed to point out that it was the responsible thing to do at the time, much like his reversal in 1993.

The candidates' dance around the topic of campaign finance reform showed that political considerations frequently overrule common sense. While both claim to want reform, neither could claim any great strides towards it. And the discussions about drugs and the Mideast illustrated just how difficult those problems are, as neither Clinton nor Dole had ready answers to complex issues that are beyond the reach of any individual or agency.

So take you pick, at least in this debate; a smooth, solicitous sitting President or the erstwhile veteran challenger who betrayed 20 years of fiscal responsibility to find an attention-getting campaign theme. If you're like me, the decision isn't yet made.

## Do you agree? Disagree?

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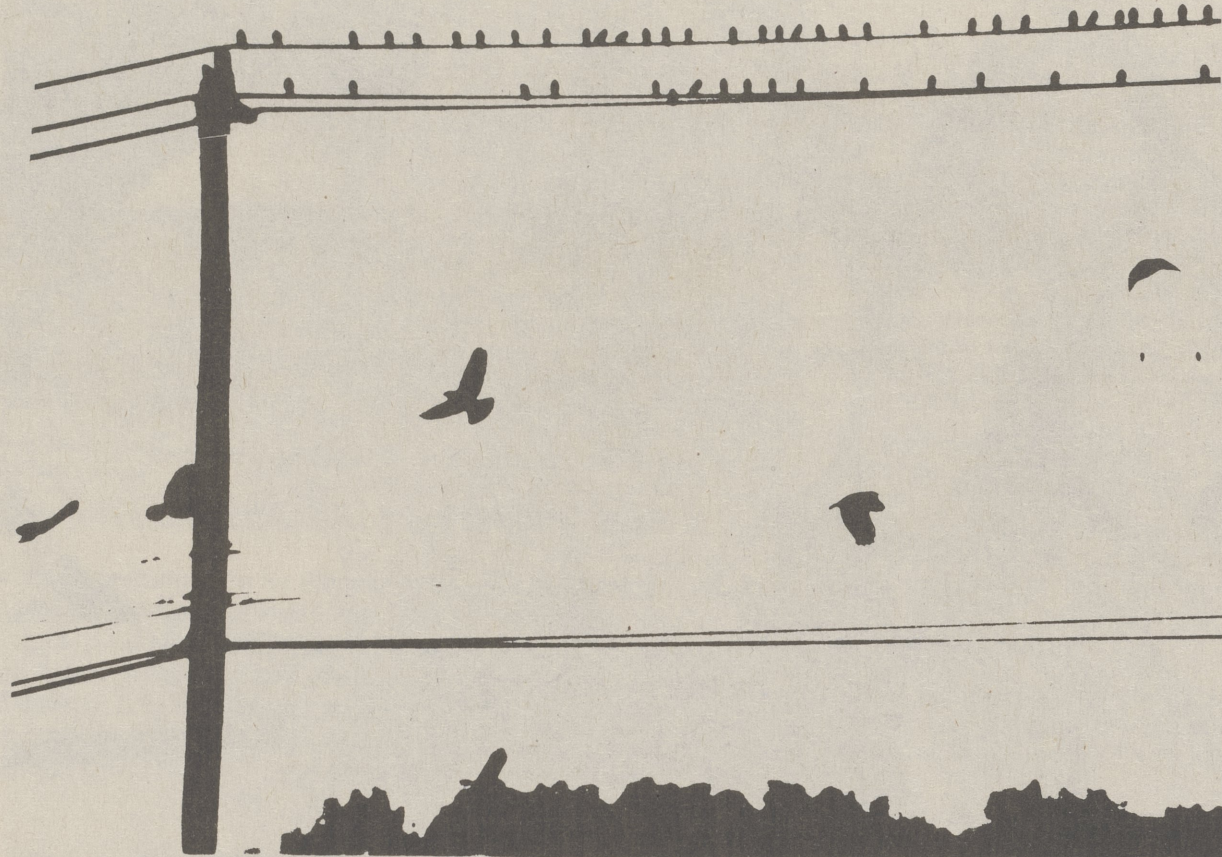
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Birds of a feather, flocking together. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

"Eerie" and "awesome" are the two words that come immediately to mind when I think back to early August, to the day our son took us to visit Mount St. Helens. Those are not words that I use often. But, I noticed that other authors of articles about this volcano tended to use them, too. There are, I think, good reasons for this convergence of syntax.

My husband and I spent an hour and a half relaxing along Sheep Canyon Creek on the south side of the mountain (our younger companions hiked further, but we figured six miles of uneven terrain would be enough for us). For much of that time, I stood on a small bridge over the creek and contemplated the scenery in every direction. It was a crystal clear day in southern Washington. The only sounds were the birds calling and the water cascading down the mountainside.

The forest through which we had come was almost untouched by the events of May 18, 1980. Ash underfoot was the only clue there to the awesome power unleashed a few miles away. But, as I stood on that bridge, I could tell that even though we were on the opposite side of the mountain from where the explosion took place, the tranquil scene in front of me was deceptive. Underneath me, the canyon floor was swept clean of vegetation and soil. Tiny evergreens were beginning to catch hold along the boundary between the forest and the canyon.

To one side, I could see a bare mountaintop. The area within the National Monument was still covered by the toothpick-like trees that had blown down 16 years earlier. The wood on the rest of

## Mount St. Helens: Creation in our time

that nearby mountain had obviously been salvaged by lumber companies.

But, the most telling view was that of Mount St. Helens herself. There she stood - a gray and white lady silhouetted against the bright blue sky. The gray covering was an apparently uniform layer of ash. The white patches were snow fields. Compared with other mountains I had visited, St. Helens was too smooth, too perfect.

Mount St. Helens is only about 40,000 years old - very young for a mountain. It is one of a whole series of volcanic peaks that stretch from British Columbia to northern California which are known as the Cascade Range. This range itself is part of the much larger "Ring of Fire" that marks the geologically active Pacific basin circumference.

A small oceanic plate, the Juan de Fuca, is pushing underneath the North American continental plate just off the coast of Washington and Oregon. The pressure and friction of this movement causes rocks to melt and form magma which, in turn, pushes upward to form volcanoes. As long as this geological movement continues, the Cascades will remain active. This is one way in which mountain ranges form.

Throughout her existence, Mount St. Helens has had periods of quiescence and periods of strong activity. During the past 4,000 years, there have been only short periods of inactivity, the longest perhaps 500-700 years. The past 500 years have been a period of intense activity. The 1980 blast that blew 1,300 feet off her top and excavated much of her north side was simply another typical creative event in the formation of this mountain. As before, gas pressure built up inside until it could no longer be contained. The resulting explosion carried ash

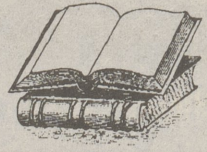
thousands of feet into the air and hundreds of miles to the east. It blew down huge trees six miles away and singed those standing beyond that line.

According to John Costa of the US Geological Survey, this eruption, like many in the past, can best be characterized by the vast quantity of sediment deposited and/or washed away. The mud flows of May 18-19, 1980 carried all sorts of debris including cabins and loaded logging trucks all the way down the North Fork Toutle River, under the I-5 bridge, and on to the Columbia. There was so much deposited there that the formerly navigable river could not be used for shipping until the debris was removed. The amount of sediment that is washed from the affected area is still almost ten times the "normal" amount. It is not much consolation to former residents and fisherfolk that the mudflows following this eruption were small in comparison to those of the past.

Mount St. Helens has become one of the best laboratories for the study of volcanoes, their cycles of activity, and the restoration of habitats in the wake of eruptions. Her power is indeed awesome, but it is quite natural. She is only a visible example of the fact that we do not live on a static earth. I found the peacefulness of the place eerie, knowing what had happened so recently, precisely because I knew that the forces behind that explosion were still at work deep in the earth.

Thom Corcoran, author of the National Park's "Story Behind the Scenery" book on Mount St. Helens, dedicated his work to "all who find Nature not an adversary to conquer and destroy, but a storehouse of infinite knowledge and experience linking man to all things past and present." May we be such people.

## LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received a donation of "Almost New" books in excellent condition. These books will be on a special table at the entrance to the reading room and will sell for \$5.00 each. These are fiction and non-fiction books. They will be available for sale during the library's regular hours.

The Book Club of the library met on Monday, September 16 to begin the Fall season. Mary Lou Swingle gave the secretary's report and Elin Northrup read the treasurer's report. New book purchases were reviewed by Mary Panaway. The members elected to purchase a bronze plaque to be

## Almost new books in great condition on sale at library

placed on the new curio cabinet. Book reports were given by various members. Blanche Thompson and Marge McGivern served at the tea table. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 21, at 1:30 in the community room.

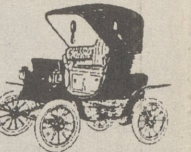
New books at the library: "Bestseller" by Olivia Goldsmith is the story of five authors, five novels, one publisher...and only one bestseller...Davis & Dash is the epitome of Manhattan's glittering publishing scene, a world of multimillion-dollar advances and Champagne publication parties. As the do-or-die fall season approaches they are scrambling to outmaneuver its competitors. Every book has a story, but when the dust settles, which one will be a bestseller.

"Icon" by Frederick Forsyth begins in the summer of 1999 in Russia, a country on the threshold of anarchy. An interim presi-

dent sits powerless in Moscow as his nation is wracked by famine and inflation, crime and corruption, and seething hordes of the unemployed roam the streets. From the West, Russia is a basket case; but for Igor Komarov, the chaos is made to order. He waits for the presidential election of 2000; his striking voice rings out, for order.

"My Summer With George: by Marilyn French has as its subject romantic love and its power to shake a woman's life at any age. Hermione Beldame, in her sixties, a writer or romance novels (an average of two a year for 40 years) is at the center. She is rich, sophisticated, self-made, often divorced, long widowed, and long finished with the notion of romantic love as a part of her life. Then she sees an attractive man who finds his way to her.

## ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - Oct. 16, 1936 K.T. TO ADD SIX ROOMS TO HIGH SCHOOL

A grant of \$21,273 to be applied to the cost of constructing a six room addition to Kingston Township High School was approved by Public Works Administration at Harrisburg this week. Announcement was made by C. Douglas Andrews, State PWA director, and it set in motion machinery for prompt beginning of construction. About 180 pupils from seventh and eighth grades will be transferred to the high school when the annex is completed.

Although no action was taken at the Monday evening meeting to appoint a successor, Dan Waters, secretary of Dallas Borough School District, has asked that his resignation be made effective November 1. Walters, who was named at the reorganization meeting last December, asked to be relieved of his duties because they have grown until he must devote more time than he can afford to them. Salary is \$150 per year.

### 50 Years Ago - Oct. 18, 1946 FIRE DESTROY'S SLOPPY JOE'S CLUB AT LAKE

The first anniversary of the Back Mountain Memorial Library was observed Friday when friends and members of Board of Directors from all Back Mountain communities gathered at the library for an informal meeting. Librarian Miss Miriam Lathrop gave a resume of the first year's activities. She explained the library had more than 10,000 volumes. About 2,250 have been loaned the library by the State Library. These will be exchanged for new books at the end of two years.

One of the best known night spots at Harveys Lake was destroyed late Saturday when a fire, apparently started by an outside advertising sign and fanned by a strong lakeside breeze completely devoured "Sloppy Joe's" night club at Sunset. Harveys Lake Fire Co. arrived early but was unable to halt the rapid progress of the fire and devoted most of its efforts to saving nearby cottages and the adjacent Cotton Club.

### 40 Years Ago - Oct. 12, 1956 FERN BROOK MILLS IS LEASED BY PHILLY FIRM

Linear Corp. of Philadelphia, a firm with 600 employees and a \$2 million payroll, has leased the idle Fernbrook Park Mills plant in Dallas Township and will start operations early in 1957. The corporation makes precision moulded seals, including O-rings, V-rings and V-cups. These parts are designed for use in hydraulic and pneumatic systems.

Resistance of Kingston Township directors to appointment of Butcher and Sherrard at Tuesday's Dallas Area School Board meeting, resulted in a statement with tabling of the matter to a future date. Directors felt that the company had been instrumental in giving their school district a raw deal in Meadowcrest. It had been firmly understood that some funds would be allocated to support of the schools which educate the children of residents in Meadowcrest. Up to date they said that all that has been possible to get out of the Housing Authority is a poll tax. Residents move in and out with such celerity that they frequently can't be taxed. Butcher and Sherrard sold the bonds of the housing authority.

### 30 Years Ago - Oct. 13, 1966 NEW POST OFFICE WILL HAVE DRIVE THRU BOX

Dallas Post Office is ready for dedication Oct. 22. Ed Buckley, Postmaster says that soon patrons will have no need to alight from their cars when posting letters. A mailbox is on order which will receive letters and small parcels through a chute, the same arrangement in use in front of the old post office building.

Citizen of the Year award will be made at a joint meeting of Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs to be held at the Brothers Four, Dallas, Oct. 25. Identity of Citizen of the Year is carefully concealed until the Citizen rises to receive his plaque and his citation.

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