

EDITORIALS

Pull National Utilities' license, give it to a responsible company

National Utilities, the rogue water company with operations in Lehman Township and at Harveys Lake, has been reprimanded yet again for failing to live up to its responsibilities. In this case, the utility has been ordered to make repairs at Oak Hill, and to clean up its storage facilities and keep them that way, and to pay a \$2,000 fine.

More important, the state Public Utilities Commission has denied the company's request for a 49 percent rate increase, postponing any consideration of higher prices until National Utilities addresses the host of serious deficiencies brought to the commission's attention by aggrieved customers.

The utility says it needs the money to pay bills and make repairs, but past rate hikes have not brought improved service to National Utilities' customers, and there's no reason to think this one will either. In their usual style, the company denies their are significant problems with its service, and vows to appeal both the denial and the fine.

This latest action came about because of the persistence of Joseph Pagoda, an NU customer who lives on one of the streets served by the company, and dozens of others who appeared at public hearings or wrote the commission to protest NU's lax, costly and dangerous tactics.

This fly-by-night utility has forfeited any right it may have had to continue to abuse customers. Instead of giving National Utilities the chance to earn the opportunity to charge more for its reckless ways, the PUC should pull the company's license and make it turn its operations over to a responsible water company that will take seriously its obligation to customers.

There must be something to be thankful for

So, what do you have to be thankful for this year? You didn't get a raise, the new houses going up in the Back Mountain are twice the size of yours, that snazzy new convertible is out of reach and your spouse hasn't been sufficiently appreciative of your sacrifices? And you're supposed to be thankful? Well, yes, because as sorry as you may feel for yourself, there are plenty of people who have it worse. As for things to appreciate, how about your kids, even if they aren't perfect like you were at their age. Chances are, though, they're bright and inquisitive, eager to see and do all the things children are attracted to, and they're looking for direction from you, even if it doesn't often seem so. So, don't just be thankful for them, do the world a favor and help them grow up to be better than their parents.

And that spouse, the one you argued with last night or last week. Think back a little, to all the moments of life you've shared. There will be more of them to come, just as rewarding, and then a legacy of a family that grew out of a collection of individuals. That's worth a couple of words of thanks.

The house, the car ... they're really not all that important after all, surely not anything to be thankful for unless perhaps they were a gift. If that's the case, the giver, not the gift, is the appropriate object of your appreciation. And in the end, the greatest gift is a life to live and a nation of freedom in which to live it, filled from coast to coast with caring people who won't stand in the way of anyone's attempt to live their dreams.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek

A couple of weeks ago I lamented the woes of high technology. Well, it wasn't that high, just someone's automated fax that kept dialing our number. Being gluttons for punishment, though, we're dipping our toe a little further in the water and publicizing our e-mail address. But before I get to that, a few rules:

- We'd like to get more material by e-mail. But we don't want a flood of items we won't use, so please call us the old-fashioned way at 675-5211 and tell us what you want to send. Once we've established the guidelines, zap away.

- The basic requirement is that your items relate directly to the Back Mountain, or to Back Mountain people doing something elsewhere. We toss out most of the mail we get now because it's not about our region, and we don't want to spend time at the computer doing the same thing. We aren't like a daily newspaper that has to fill space with county, state, national and international news. Most weeks we can't fit all the local news we have on file, so we surely don't want more inappropriate material. Again, call first if you have any questions.

- We don't do attachments! We've found it's difficult — often impossible — to capture attachments to e-mail messages. The easy way is simply to copy your item into the e-mail file, so it's just a big, one-piece e-mail. We take some very large ones now, so don't worry about size.

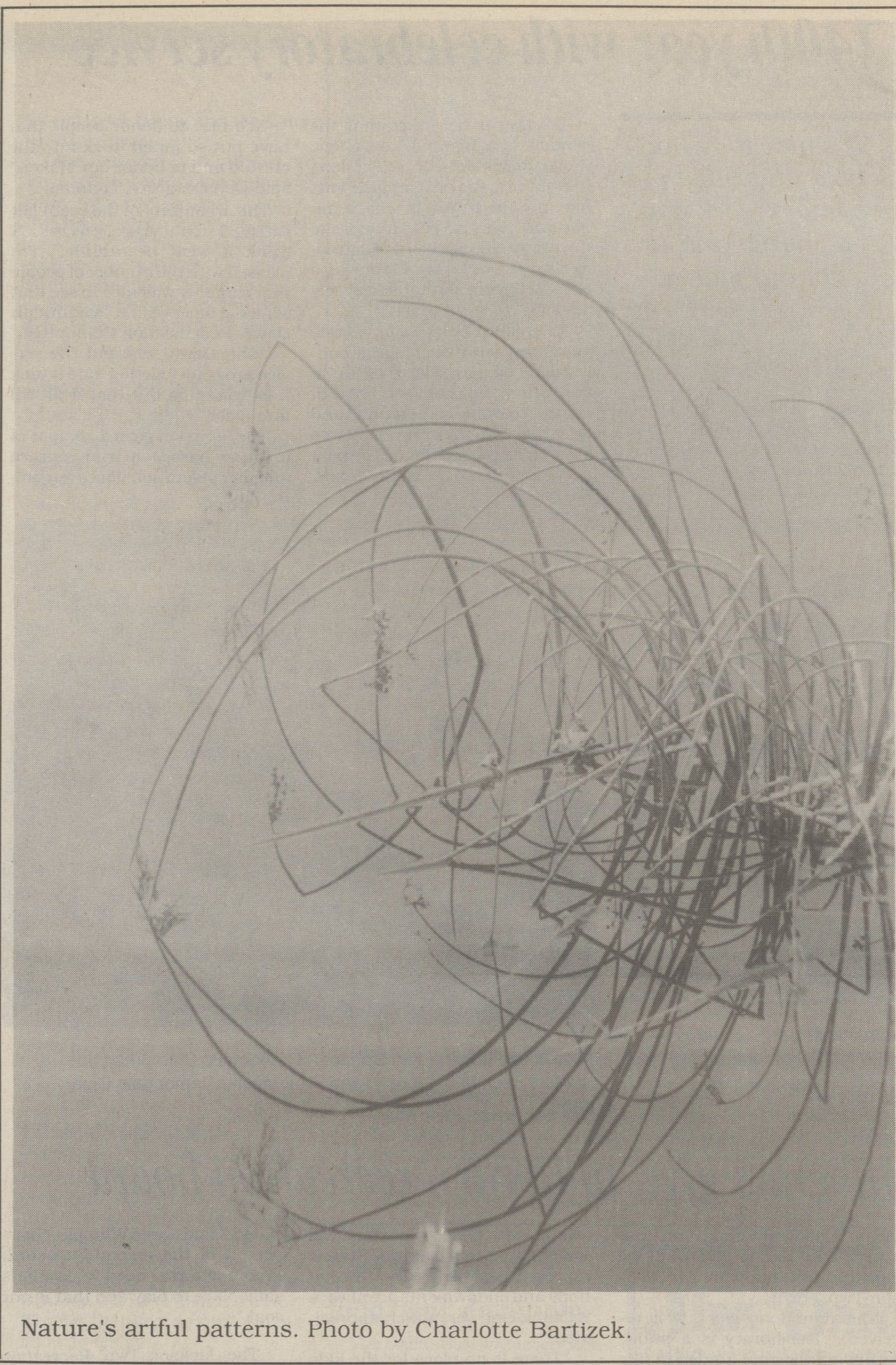
That's about it. Here's the number: dalpost@aol.com
And, just so you know, Jill left our phone off the hook until the next automated fax call, and we haven't gotten one since.

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
Denise Casterline ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC	Kylie Shafferkoetter REPORTER
Paul Rismiller PRODUCTION MANAGER	Olga Kostrobala CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

Jill Gruver
OFFICE MANAGER



Nature's artful patterns. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

As I was saying

Jack Hilsher

MORE ODDS 'N ENDS:
... **A 25 POUND**, six-wheeled robot, is going to be launched toward Mars and will land about July 4, 1997, which was probably no coincidence. The vehicle is named "Sojourner," after a black reformer of the Civil War era. Valerie Ambrose, a 12-year-old student, won the naming contest from 3,500 entries of essays about a heroine and her accomplishments.

It has been 30 years since Mariner 4 flew by Mars, coming within 6,000 miles of the planet. Sojourner, meaning "traveler" will land, photograph the Martian terrain in 13 different colors, and explore the region around the lander. NASA hopes this will prove that low-cost landings are possible. Launches to return samples won't be until around 2003, even with all the present eagerness to prove whether there is or was life

LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is showing a display of David Winter Cottages.

These cottages are borrowed from the collection of Linda Fritz of Dallas. Linda has been collecting these for eight years, having received her first cottage at Christmastime, 1988.

"The Bothy" was a gift from her in-laws, and that started her collection. The following year, she bought "The Bake House" and has received one or more as gifts every Christmas since.

She bought the first one at a country shop in Pocatello, Idaho where they lived for two years. "The Bothy" was constructed on

Odds n' Ends of the future

on Mars.

...**IN TODAY'S SOCIETY** it's impossible to identify doctors anymore because they've given up wearing their stethoscopes around their necks. And they don't carry that neat little black bag, the one they used to dispense pills from. Now they give you a prescription and you have to visit a drug store.

As for house calls, what are they? Talk about a "thing of the past." But one thing about these medicos hasn't changed...the magazines in their waiting rooms are still two years old. Or older.

...**IN TIME TO COME** the day of the electric car will finally arrive. After much grousing from governmental pressure, four companies recently announced plans to sell electric vehicles in California. General Motors Saturn dealers are offering the EV1, which was originally - and stupidly - named the "Impact." Honda will offer a four-seat electric van next spring, and Toyota will sell an electric version of its hot RAV4 sport utility vehicle in the fall of '97. Chrysler is already taking orders for its electric minivan. Wish they'd speed things up, but I am willing to wait.

...**INSIDE LIGHTNING**, probably more than you want to know. Those bolts as you have read are

merely electrical charges exchanged between clouds and the ground. But did you know they involve millions volts, temperatures of more than 50,000 degrees, and move at speeds of over 100,000 miles per second?

And that business about counting the seconds between a flash and its thunder to determine the number of miles between you and the lightning is seldom explained correctly. You must divide by five to get the miles, not just take the seconds as miles.

As many as 2,000 lightning storms are in progress at any given moment on the planet, which causes some curious incidents, like the cowboy in Texas who watched a whole herd of cattle felled by a single bolt. An Idaho potato farmer exhibited samples of his crop that he claimed had been quickbaked in the ground by a lightning strike.

There have been other benefits...a lady said her failing vision was markedly improved by a "near-miss" lightning bolt, and a man claimed his poor memory was greatly improved after he was struck in the head, while another said the "crack" of a nearby lightning strike restored his damaged hearing. Where else are you going to read stuff like this?

Cottages now on display

John Hine was born and grew up in an English village. Everybody in the village had pride in being a much-needed member. He was working with David Winter on a project and David became extremely interested. He, as an artist and sculptor, has recreated a long lost feeling about how people lived and what to them and to me was the good life. The cottages will be at the library until December 18.

New books: "The Law of Love" by Laura Esquivel tells the tale of a passion that survives from the fall of Montezuma's empire to the 23rd century. The story is set in Mexico City three centuries hence. Our heroine is Azucena.

"Alias Grace" by Margaret Atwood takes us back in time and into the life and mind of an enigmatic and notorious woman of the 19th century. Grace has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer.

ONLY YESTERDAY

60 Years Ago - Dec. 4, 1936

BLAZE DESTROYS HOUSE
A roaring blaze fanned by a stiff wind ruined the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Richards of Lehman last Saturday leaving the family only the clothes it was wearing. Mr. and Mrs. Richards and their three children were in Wyoming Valley shopping when the fire started. Neighbors formed a bucket brigade but were unable to save the home which was completely destroyed.

A meeting of Dallas Borough Business Men's Assn. has been called for tonight at Suburban Inn to discuss possible action toward stimulating interest in Main Street as a Christmas Shopping Center.

You could get - Boneless veal roast, 21¢ lb.; chuck roast, 20¢ lb.; A&P Bread, 8¢ loaf; lettuce, 2 hds. 17¢; carrots, 3 lbs., 10¢.

50 Years Ago - Dec. 6, 1946

ROD & GUN CLUB RECEIVES NON-PROFIT CHARTER
Carverton Rod & Gun Club, a newly organized Back Mountain Sportsman's organization has recently received its Charter as a non-profit corporation interested in the advancement of better hunting through restocking and conservation of game, protection of farm property owners through mutual understanding and agreement and the sponsorship of competitive trap shooting matches.

Seniors of Laketon High School under the direction of Miss Margaret M. Dunn will present "Apple Blossom Time" by Eugene G. Hafer, on Dec. 12, 8 p.m. "Apple Blossom Time" is a plan with one mission - to entertain.

Shaver Theatre - now showing "Bells of St. Mary" with Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 30, 1956

ROTARY HOSTS GRIDDERS
Deadline for entry in the Back Mountain Christmas Lighting Contest is Dec. 20 according to an announcement by James Kozemchak chairman. Judging will take place Dec. 27, over a route laid out in advance by Mrs. Harry Goeringer Jr.

All three Back Mountain High School football squads comprising 120 young men with their managers, coaches and faculty managers were the guests of Dallas Rotary Club at its annual football dinner last night at Irem Temple Country Club. In previous years, the club entertained only the championship team of the Back Mountain area at its old football shoe trophy dinner but this year there being no champion, decided to entertain all of the boys.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 1, 1966

LINEAR OFF THE HOOK
Latest word on the Linear deadlock is that on Nov. 5, the charge that Linear was guilty of unfair labor practices was not sustained. The matter of whether the company is liable for unemployment compensation is yet to be decided. In the meantime, work stoppage is entering its fifth month with a skeleton office force and pickets still plodding, while 350 people are still out of work.

The 25th Annual Bundle Day Program of Save the Children Federation will be conducted in schools of Dallas School District Dec. 5-9. Wearable clothing in clean condition should be brought to the schools on the above dates. There's a special need for footwear, blue jeans and jackets.

20 Years Ago Dec. 2, 1976

FIRE CO. PLANS FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PLAN
The Daniel C. Roberts Fire Co., Harveys Lake, is proposing a family membership plan for residents who may wish to use the ambulance service provided by the volunteer fire company. Members will be entitled to unlimited free emergency ambulance service on call initiated from within the Harveys Lake area. Non members will be charged \$25 per call.

The Mountaineers kept the Old Shoe trophy by defeating the Knights 13-7 in an exciting and well played game. More than 3,200 fans most of them supporting the gates after 9:30 a.m. on a cold snowy Thanksgiving morning saw Dallas quarterback Steve Skammer turn in a tremendous performance.