

**EDITORIALS**

As we have done in the past, we'll stick our necks out with some hopeful headlines we'd dearly love to write in 1997:

**Commission forces sale of National Utilities**

The state Public Utilities Commission has mandated that National Utilities, the water company customers say doesn't deserve to stay in business, be sold to a utility with a better track record.

**School board changes vote, school will stay put**

A majority of the members of the Dallas School Board has voted to place a replacement for Westmoreland School on the land the school now occupies, reversing an earlier action to put it on fields used by Back Mountain Baseball.

**New beach will offer lake access to all**

A newly-developed public area at Harveys Lake will make a day at the beach possible for anyone who can get to it. Until now, only a tiny portion of the state-owned lake was accessible to the general public.

**Land owners donate rights of way to trail**

In a show of local philanthropy, owners of property traversed by the former Lehigh Railroad line have donated rights of way to be used for a hiking/biking trail that will stretch from Luzerne to Dushore.

**Winter comes in and goes out like lamb**

Unlike two of the previous three years, the winter ended as it began, with cool temperatures, but little snow. (We tried this one last year, and it backfired. If we're wrong again, we'll give up.)

**Office/commercial park ready to break ground**

Building on the success of established businesses such as ENCON and Offset Paperback, a new office/commercial park will be built in the Back Mountain. Hundreds of good-paying jobs are expected to result.

**Schools buck trend, scores up, troubles down**

Going against the national tide, both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts have posted impressive gains in academic performance, while problems of violence and other bad behavior have declined.

**And now,** for careful readers, a scorecard on last year's hopeful headlines. Believe it or not, the most accurate forecasted that PennDOT would finish work on new traffic signals by June. They were close.

We suggested that National Utilities would improve service. Alas, nothing of the sort has occurred, but at least the PUC is paying attention and has denied them a quick and easy rate increase.

The library children's room wasn't completed as we envisioned, but the fund drive is in pretty good shape, and we hope to see ground broken in 1997.

The office/commercial park is a carryover from last year. It may be wishful thinking, but we would strongly support an effort to build that type of facility, as long as it's done in a way that doesn't destroy the Back Mountain's natural charms.

That's all for this year folks. We hope you have a happy and prosperous 1997, and that your personal headlines match your hopes and dreams.

**Hometown news • Hometown product**  
**The Dallas Post**

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**THANKS**

**Kiwanians brightened holiday at Meadows**

*Editor's Note: The author requested that this letter be published so that readers could be informed of its content.*

Kiwanis Friends:  
We express our heartfelt thanks to your community spirited group who has done so much for the Meadows and our residents this past year.

To drive onto the grounds of

the Center at night and look at that beautiful lit tree is a sight to behold - we thank you! Your generous donation to our "Giving Tree" so that our residents could have special gifts they need - we thank you! A walk throughout our center displays many decorated trees - we thank you for assembling those trees and helping with the decoration! Several months ago when our Auxiliary

needed help with parking for their annual "Market on the Pond" fundraiser for our residents, you were there - we thank you!

Our community is indeed fortunate to have such a caring and devoted organization to be there to answer the call.

Marilyn Gregorski  
Meadows  
Volunteer Director

**Westmoreland parent appreciates hometown paper**

Editor,

After two years of being publicity chairperson for Westmoreland Elementary School, I've come to appreciate what true community newspaper is all about.

Westmoreland and your paper are very similar. They are not the

"biggest fish in the pond," but are the best examples of what this community needs to pay more attention to.

It's true, Westmoreland events would not be appropriate for national news, but it means the "world" to the students when they see their pictures in the paper.

Thank you for building up their self esteem and for making them feel important and newsworthy.

I applaud your newspaper and its staff for keeping the "little guy" in mind.

Bev Hetro  
Kingston Township

**A Case for conservation**



Alene N. Case

When I set out to sample the world, I take along bottles, meters, chemicals, and measuring devices. When Robert Hass sets out to sample the world, he takes only his senses and a keen mind. When I interpret the world for others, I use charts and graphs and scientific terms. When Robert Hass interprets the world for others, he uses poetry.

Robert Hass is the Poet Laureate of the United States, following the tradition of those who held the post previously such as Robert Frost, Robert Penn Warren and Rita Dove. He is a native Californian in his mid-fifties. His poetry has always reflected his relationship to the landscape of northern California. As Poet Laureate, Hass has taken it upon himself to encourage nature writing among people of all ages.

One of his most exciting ideas is the *River of Words* - a poetry and art contest for children from kindergarten through high school. As he says, "We need both a living knowledge of the land and a live imagination of it and our place in it, if we are going to preserve it. *River of Words* hopes to nurture responsible, informed future watershed stewards by encouraging children to learn their 'ecological address' and to express through

**Poets, teachers encourage natural creativity**

word and image their own 'place in space'." The first contest took place in the spring of 1996 and involved students in 41 states. It was sponsored primarily by the Poet Laureate, the Library of Congress, the Orion Society, and the International Rivers Network (IRN).

A second *River of Words* National Environmental Poetry and Art Contest has been announced for this school year. Teacher's Guides and entry forms can be obtained by visiting the IRN website at <http://www.irn.org>. The four winners in each category - art and poetry - are treated to trips to Washington DC where they are honored at the Library of Congress. The deadline for 1997 is February 15.

Hass emphasizes our connection with the watershed in which we live. Teachers and students spend time getting to know the rivers near their home. They also connect with environmental groups to discuss concerns, special attributes, and current projects in the local area. They come to an understanding of the links between people and nature, the physical and spiritual, and then attempt to tell the world about these links.

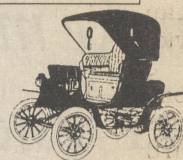
The results are truly wonderful. One third grader from Wyndmoor PA wrote this line in his poem: "The creek of coldness / shakes your hand / as it turns /blue." Another student began "The mud shall cover our sins..." A young artist from Florida de-

vised a lady standing knee deep in water, bent over at the waist with lips touching the surface and titled it "My Precious Water, I Kiss You." (All of the winning entries are available on the website listed above.)

But, the discrete works of art or poetry are only a part of the success of this contest. The project director, Pamela Michael of the International River Network, was immediately struck by an unintended outcome. She states it this way: "What the project generated, to our surprise, was a unique and encompassing view of our United States, as seen through the eyes of its children." Somehow, I doubt if Robert Hass was surprised. This is simply the result of learning one's "ecological address." In an interview with the staff of *Land and People* magazine, he elaborates on his hopes for this approach to environmental education: "It could actually make a difference, in that when we talk about community, our children would immediately understand that it has to do with the place they live, how they live there, what they value. Wouldn't it be great if the next few generations of kids understood that part of what they're going to be doing with their lives is helping to create a community and its values? And that natural ecosystems will be a big part of how the community shapes its own future?"

I couldn't have said it better myself! My hat goes off to our Poet Laureate and the *River of Words!*

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



**60 Years Ago - Jan. 8, 1937**  
**KINGSTON TWP. SCHOOL ADDITION WILL COST \$28,808**

A contract for \$28,808 to construct an 8-room addition to Kingston Township High School was awarded to W.J. Kear at a meeting of the board Monday evening. Work on the annex will begin next week with the Works Program Administration assuming labor costs, estimated at \$21,273. The WPA grant was approved last Oct.

Stanley Davies was elected by Dallas Borough School Board on Wednesday evening to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Harry Pittman. Mr. Davies is the president of Royer Foundry Co. It is his first time to hold public office.

**50 Years Ago - Jan. 10, 1947**  
**HUNTSVILLE RD. STORE GETS NEW OWNER**

Announcement was made on Monday that Harry Lee Smith, Mill St., former Red Cross field director with the 82nd Airborne Div. has purchased Schmerer's Economy Store on Huntsville Road. Schmerer who has owned the store since 1936 but who has been in ill health for the past several months, plans to retire. He will continue his residence in Dallas.

The January Grand Jury will receive for study today a transcript of the arraignment of Mrs. Pearl Habblett, Chase, charged with the murder of her husband, William Habblett at their combination store and home on the morning of Jan. 2. Mrs. Habblett was given a hearing at the office of Squire William Roberts of Kingston Wednesday afternoon.

**40 Years Ago - Jan. 4, 1957**  
**ALFRED MOORE, GENIAL STORE OWNER, DIES**

Customers of the Economy Store of East Dallas will miss the proprietor's cheerful presence. Everybody who ever walked into the store recognized Alfred A. Moore as the most even tempered of men, never annoyed by trifles, always willing to chat with a customer, never in a hurry. Mr. Moore, 53, died at General Hospital Saturday at 11 p.m.

James A. Martin, principal of Dallas Area Schools will speak to members of Trucksville PTA Monday of benefits obtained by the larger jointure and explain plans for the proposed new high school to serve five school districts Dallas Borough, Kingston, Franklin, Dallas and Monroe Townships.

**30 Years Ago - Jan. 5, 1967**  
**DALLAS BOROUGH LOWERS PROPERTY TAX**

Another portion of the Dallas Post Office went into action on Tuesday when the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Soil Conservation Services moved into the wing which had been awaiting it. Larry W. Corson, Conservationist says that Dallas is the logical center for his unit as much of the work is done in the Back Mt. The agency provides technical assistance to landowners who want to develop a conservation plan.

Dallas Borough Council became the first municipality in the Back Mountain to lower the millage in anticipation of the revenues from the 1% wage tax. Council was unanimous in its decision keeping a promise to the public that if they were forced to adopt the wage tax that they would cut the millage for residents of the community.

**20 Years Ago - Jan. 6, 1977**  
**TOWNSHIP TURNS DOWN 'DEPLORABLE' ROADS**

Dallas Township supervisors discussed at length the matter of accepting 9.43 miles of road from the state, at their reorganizational meeting this week. Chairman Phillip Walter instructed Glenn Howell to write Rep. Frank O'Connell, and PennDOT telling them that the proposed roads named for takeover by the township are in worse than deplorable condition. The roads named are Ellsworth Hill Rd., Sgarlat Lake Rd., 42nd Street, Lake Catalpa Road, Upper Demunds Road and Warden Place.

Kingston Township Police arrested two persons in connection with the burglary of Jack Givens home RD 3, Wyoming on New Year's Day. Stolen from the home was \$1000 to \$1500 in old coins, two hand guns, two 22 pistols, a pair of binoculars, metal detector and a gold shaving outfit. Police recovered the guns and most of the coins.