

EDITORIALS

Gerry Wycallis leaves a legacy of giving to the community

Gerald Wycallis, who died over the weekend, did not have an easy tenure as superintendent of schools in the Dallas School District. His term began with the district in turmoil, and ended that way as well. Through it all, friends and associates say he was a man who put the good of students above all other considerations, and who had a vision for the district's future based on what was best for students.

That vision is most easily seen in the computers found throughout the school district. Wycallis saw the potential value of computers as a teaching and learning aid, and spearheaded efforts to make them easily accessible to all students. He also was savvy about the schools' foundation, their curriculum, having served as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction before taking the lead role in the district.

But vision isn't everything. The world is littered with creative failure, the frequent result when good ideas lack the basic support system to implement them. In a school district, the financial footing must be firm or the governing body will be reluctant to venture into new areas. That hasn't been an issue in Dallas for many years, because Wycallis was also a skilled fiscal manager whose administration hadn't required a tax increase for six years.

Today's school superintendents must satisfy diverse constituencies, and that sometimes leads to complaints of "politics," the universal condemnation of those who recognize that compromise is the path to progress in a democratic society. That charge was hurled at Wycallis many times, but those who knew him best testify that he consistently worked for the betterment of the schools, not his own position.

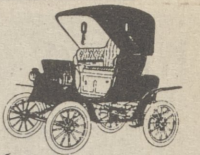
Perhaps most impressive, Gerry Wycallis recognized that he and the schools were part of a larger community, and that his role as citizen wasn't limited to his work, no matter how important that might be. He helped young athletes in baseball and basketball, was an active member of Rotary, and could be spotted at any number of school and community events, as often as not lending a hand on the front lines. And he was a good friend and champion of others, both in and outside the school family.

Gerry Wycallis's life was too short, but he leaves a legacy of family, friendship, professional accomplishment and community involvement that will be sorely missed.



Winter scene, pond at Newberry Estate. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Jan. 29, 1937 COMMUNITY HELPS FLOOD VICTIMS IN NEED

A volunteer organization was formed quickly in Dallas this week to collect contributions of money to be forwarded to the Red Cross for flood sufferers in the stricken Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. With the memory of the Susquehanna's rampage last march still fresh in their minds, local citizens responded generously.

You could get - Round steak, 33¢ lb.; rib end pork loins, up to 3 1/2 lbs., 21¢ lb.; Gold Medal Flour, 24 1/2 lb. bag, \$1.11; oranges, doz. 25¢.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 31, 1947 LOCAL OFFICERS ATTEND FBI COURSE IN PLYMOUTH

Five local officers are attending an FBI course being held at Plymouth High School during the next 10 weeks. The course is designed to teach all phases of police work that a small town officer will encounter. It's spread over a period of 12 consecutive Tuesdays, to enable all officers to attend as many meetings as possible.

With a promise to do "the best job that I can" Joseph Hand will assume his duties as Dallas Borough Street Commissioner, Feb. 1. He fills the vacancy left by the resignation Jan. 18 of Ralph Eipper, Street Commissioner for the past three years.

Petitions bearing the signatures of 500 citizens who want a traffic light installed at the Center Street intersection will be presented to Kingston Township Supervisors at their meeting tomorrow night.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 25, 1957 BROWN ACCEPTS JOB AT HANOVER NATIONAL BANK

Robert Brown, note teller at the Dallas Branch of Mine's National Bank has resigned to accept a position in the installment loan department of Hanover National Bank, Wilkes-Barre. An employee of the local institution for the past seven years, Mr. Brown's resignation becomes effective Feb. 1.

Dallas Methodist Church Building Fund chairman Lawrence Updyke, in close cooperation with Rev. Russell Lawry is setting the wheels in motion for the intensive two week drive which is expected to raise \$115,000 for expansion and an additional \$15,406 for the annual budget.

Bowling news: Evelyn Roberts has the highest woman's score that's been recorded a terrific 243 game. Cliff Garris has posted a 256 score in the men's division.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 26, 1967 60 APPLY AT NEW GARMENT PLANT ON LOWER DEMUNDS

Approximately 60 applicants turned out on Friday to apply for jobs at the new garment plant opening in the Fernbrook area on Lower Demunds Road. Operations are expected to begin Monday morning with about 20 operators placed on the job.

Billy Berti followed in the footsteps of his dad Nort, Tuesday evening by being elected fire chief of the Dr. Henry M. Laing Volunteer Fire Co. Berti succeeded Donald Shaffer.


Dallas remained in contention for North League Class B honors Tuesday when they downed Wilkes-Barre Township 71-50. Winner of tomorrow night's game will take the first half championship in Class B.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 27, 1977 DALLAS MAYOR STEPHEN HARTMAN DIES

Stephen F. Hartman Jr., 50, Dallas Mayor died Jan. 25 at Valley Crest following an 18 month illness. He was originally a patient at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, before he was transferred to Valley Crest. A former councilman, he held the office of mayor for two terms.

Increased unemployment in the Back Mountain area, a fluctuating stock market, and concern over high interest rates did not prevent construction of new homes, non-residential buildings or remodeling and renovations by local residents during the year 1976.

Publisher's notebook



Ron Bartizek

As I write this, I'm listening to a wounded but game UConn men's basketball team play Kansas, which sits at the top of the NCAA rankings. For my money, college basketball is the most exciting spectator sport, although I may be prejudiced since it's the one my home state team is best at. The Huskies hold the best winning record in the past five years, even if they haven't yet won the national title. But, like all big-time college teams, they've recently had problems, in this case with two star players accepting gifts. That seems like a petty offense when compared to the roster of criminals on some top college football teams, but NCAA rules for scholarship athletes are extremely strict.

For those who think they have a budding college star in the house, there's a cautionary tale in a preview of this year's Final Four hopefuls published by *The New York Times*. The paper listed 24 teams thought to have the best chance of making it to the championship game, along with the graduation rate for scholarship players enrolled from 1986 through 1989. Kansas was listed as a Final Four team, but had a graduation rate of only 30 percent. That sounds pretty bad until you compare it with Cincinnati, home to hoop thugs, which graduated not a single scholarship player. Providence was at the top of the list with a 91 percent graduation rate, followed by Stanford at 86 and Villanova at 79 percent. I was surprised that Duke graduated less than 60 percent of student-athletes.

So, choose a school wisely if your son or daughter is a sports standout, and don't forget that very few players from even the best teams will make their living playing games.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post, and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

Who speaks for the silent in Northeastern Pennsylvania? Is the region blessed with prosperity so that the so called silent majority does not have to be spoken of or for in relation to their future? Clearly, the answer in the Back Mountain, the Abingtons, Mountaintop, and the urban centers is that the region contains people who have the ability to take care of themselves but also contains others who cannot.

There is a need to continue an aggressive strategy of finding the resources to help the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. These include the poor, the disadvantaged, the disabled, the unwanted, the handicapped, the illiterate, even the gifted, all of whom who have a need which is constantly being challenged by the falling distribution of resources.

The best legislation, the best intent, the best volunteer commitment cannot replace the financial resources which are required to meet the needs of these components of the region's society. For example, despite the strength which exists today relative to Northeastern Pennsylvania and its strategic position on the Atlantic Seaboard, and despite substantive changes which have occurred over the last 40 years to warrant great optimism about the region's future, the statistical base of the region shows that as a metropolitan area, the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton metropolitan statistical area ranks as the second lowest income based region in the Commonwealth.

NE PA must help give voice to silent majority

It has a gross regional income which includes approximately 15% in the form of transfer payments or direct payments by the government such as Social Security, Black Lung, and veteran benefits to individuals. The region becomes significantly hard hit if subtle, let alone significant shifts are made in the available financial resources at the federal level as well as state level, to support badly needed services.

This is not to say that organizations have not identified problems along this line in the past. For example, a recent publication of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, (EDCNP), as part of its award-winning NEPA 2000 Regional Visioning Reports, identified human services as one of the five most critical affecting the 21st Century Pennsylvania. In this landmark publication, a series of recommendations were made for each of the five critical areas as well as specific recommendations dealing with human services.

Sometimes, in the heat of passion for taking care of personal needs, forgotten is the action necessary to strike against poverty and the other manifestations of the silent.

While United Ways do an extremely effective job of helping to find private sector resources to combat major human service issues, they are only part of the financial apparatus necessary to meet the great demands facing Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The volunteer movement in Northeastern Pennsylvania is not dead. In fact, it is vibrant, alive, and an astonishing link to the chain of actions needed to meet the needs of the silent. On the other hand, it is increasingly difficult to obtain volunteer support at the level and capacity necessary to meet late 20th Century, let alone futuristic century needs.

A new, bold, and ambitious plan should be undertaken built around the NEPA 2000 Regional Visioning Project to create a human services strategy, region-wide, which would meet all of the needs of Northeastern Pennsylvania well into the next Century, whether they be urban, suburban, or rural.

It is particularly striking that rural Northeastern Pennsylvania was identified in the regional visioning process as being an underserved part of the region. This may not be unique to Northeastern Pennsylvania, but it is something which needs dire attention. It becomes even more striking when the statistical base of the region shows that the rural areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania are the major growth areas of the state, including Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties.

How the region copes with the meaning of its human service function may well be the measure by which Northeastern Pennsylvania is held up in society as a hopeful, striking example of dealing with the needs of the silent in the life and times ahead in the 21st Century.

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

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