

EDITORIALS

A step back, and one forward at Harveys Lake

It's unfortunate that Harveys Lake borough council president Francis Kopko tabled a ban on use of phosphate fertilizers, which was expected to be adopted at the July 15 council meeting. Kopko said lawn care companies had questioned how the ban would be enforced and what penalties would be applied against violators, and he was reluctant to proceed until those details were ironed out. People who support the ban - including diehard environmentalists and others who love the lake - are questioning Kopko's action. Let's hope he really means to present a clearer and more enforceable regulation at the next meeting of council.

On the positive side, council voted unanimously to give the municipal authority power to enforce the sewer ordinance. It has been rumored for years that scores of homes are not hooked up to the sewers, having avoided the costly connection by being friends with or perhaps making a payment to the right person. Rick Boice, who holds the title of mayor as well as being manager of the Authority, has taken the brunt of these accusations. Now he is in the best position to quiet them, by taking quick and decisive action against unconnected properties.

The sewers and the fertilizer ban have in common their contribution to restoring Harveys Lake to at least a semblance of its former glory. They won't avert all pollution of the lake, at least not as long as hundreds of motorboats race around it, but taken together can probably put an end to the algae blooms that have appeared in recent years. The borough must continue to support these and other positive steps that can save the lake from further degradation, or risk losing the town's most valuable asset.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Being a golfer, or at least trying to imitate one, I was interested in reaction to the passing of Ben Hogan, one of a handful of golfers universally placed at the top of the game. I never saw Hogan play, but his record speaks for itself: 63 tour victories including nine major tournaments; the only player to win the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in the same year; one season in which he played six tournaments and won five of them. Makes Tiger Woods seem small by comparison, at least so far.

But what I found curious was how commentators of all stripes seemed reluctant to say much about Hogan, the man, other than to overuse the word "mystique" trying to describe him. From what I've heard over the years, Hogan was a driven, dour, perhaps even mean guy who cared only about winning on the golf course, and practiced relentlessly to reach his goal. Nothing wrong with that, at least in the context of sport. Also a club designer, he was once asked for a tip by Gary Player, the great South African pro. Hogan asked Player what brand of clubs he used. "Dunlop," Player replied, to which Hogan said, "Then call Mr. Dunlop."

Much was made of how he was referred to as "Mr. Hogan" by nearly everyone, even in death. I found it odd that a front-page story in the *Hartford Courant* used that construction throughout, while an article about U.S. Representative Nancy Johnson referred to her only as "Johnson" after the first mention of her full title. That must say something about modern-day priorities, or at least about one large newspaper's willingness to allow Ben Hogan to determine its style, even from the grave.

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Pretty pond patterns. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

I have been writing seriously for more than half a dozen years. Before that, I wrote and edited newsletters for various organizations. My maxim throughout all of this has been that in order to write I absolutely must have time to read. Then came the summer of '97 - a summer in which I have done just about everything except read.

First, our yard and gardens have taken much of my time. The sweet peas that drape over the front wall and the splashes of color in the back yard may look like they got there by accident, but they require mulching and pruning and weeding occasionally. And, many of the vegetables that now are beginning to produce were once tiny seedlings in my living room window.

We feel the effort in the garden was well worth it each time we make borscht from our very own beets or season spaghetti sauce with fresh basil. And then, there are the berries! Our larder is beginning to fill with currant/red-raspberry jelly and quarts of frozen blueberries. My husband and I have enjoyed doing all sorts of things together this summer. Some of our togetherness has been strictly for fun - birding, hiking, exploring PA by car. Some has been for work (see details below) and some has been time spent on the ultimate of recycling projects - repainting and re-caulking the outside of our 12 (yes, that's TWELVE) large windows on our front porch. We figure if we do

A conservationist's summer: No time to read

this (and replace the furnace) this nearly century-old house will stand well into the next millennium.

Just because my husband's official duties as a professor ended in mid-June does not mean that I can stop working. In fact, this year he has offered his assistance with many of the ecological and scientific endeavors in which I am involved. I was teaching a two-day advanced water quality session for two of the staff members at ECOLOGIA (Harford PA). The first day we concentrated on field work, discussing sampling techniques, differences between streams and lakes, nutrient problems, etc. The second day, Mike lent his chemical expertise as we explored the complexities of interferences and metals analyses. And, a week later, we all worked together to prepare the portable testing equipment for its transit to Budapest, Hungary, where one of the ECOLOGIA staff will help others with their environmental problems.

We have also begun the systematic completion of the scientific work begun by Dr. Charles B. Reif 30 years ago at the Nuangola Bog at the southern end of Lake Nuangola. Students and professors have conducted a wide variety of studies there, but no one has taken the time to assemble the data and to try to fill in some of the blanks.

I think Nuangola Bog is one of the best studied and least published ecosystems in the northeastern USA. Thanks to the support of Dr. Reif (Professor Emeritus of Biology at Wilkes University) and the hard work of Dr. William Tarutis, Mike and I are determined to change this situation and to bring to public view

the historical and ecological importance of this special place.

Another of Mike's colleagues at Wilkes, Dr. Sid Halsor, is the manager of the Ratchford Field Station near Hunlock Creek, PA. This is an old farm that was donated to the University by William Corbett and his late wife to be used for research and other purposes by students and faculty. Dr. Halsor is a geologist and needed some help from a couple of itinerant biologists (that's us) to identify trees and other plants along a proposed nature trail. I can truthfully say that I can't remember ever having more fun "botanizing." I can't wait to go back!

Many summers in the past my volunteer activities have slackened as people went on vacation. Not this year. The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust has been just as busy in the summer of '97 as it has ever been. There are committee meetings (two per board member) once a month in addition to the monthly board meetings. We are reviewing documents of all kinds related to conservation easements or to potential gifts of property. We have a large newsletter that is being put together for publication before the county fairs at the end of the summer. And, my personal favorite activity of visiting properties whose owners are interested in working with us has continued all summer. What a wonderful way to meet good people who care for the land! And, what a wonderful way to stay in shape (?).

Now you see why there has been precious little time for reading. Perhaps my new maxim will have to be the one our high school English teachers used to spout, "Write about what you know."

ONLY YESTERDAY

60 Years Ago - Aug. 6, 1937

COAL CONTRACTS AWARDED AT BOARD MEETING

Hundreds of dollars worth of supplies and coal contracts were awarded at a meeting of the Dallas Borough School Board, Wednesday evening. Among successful bidders were B.N. Anderson, Norman C. Hoyner, J.B. Holcomb Co., all for janitor supplies. Kurtz Bros., school supplies. Dorracne DeWitt, 25 tons of egg coal and William Cobleigh, 150 tons of buckwheat coal.

Three new teachers were elected at a meeting of Dallas Township School Board, Monday evening. Miss Evelyn Van Antwerp, Montrose, music; Miss Margaret Lynn, Phillipsburg, mathematics; William Banks, Wilkes-Barre, geography. The board appointed William Meiers as janitor for a year at \$90 and elected Atty. G.J. Clark as solicitor at a salary of \$100 per year.

50 Years Ago - Aug. 8, 1947

DALLAS BORO TRAFFIC LIGHT RELOCATED

In compliance with a State decree, Paul Shaver relocated Dallas Borough traffic lights, Wednesday. The light standard on corner near Kuehn's Drug Store was cut down by Dallas Portable Welding Co. and a double set of lights erected some time ago and closer to the corner, put into operation. This has the effect of shortening the intersection by approximately 10 feet and eliminating confusion on Church Street motorists who will now be directed by a signal directly across the highway from that street.

40 Years Ago - Aug. 9, 1957

MONROE TWP. JOINS TUNKHANNOCK DISTRICT

The directors of Dallas Area Schools freed Monroe Township to join Tunkhannock at Wednesday night's adjourned meeting, held in the library at Dallas Franklin-Monroe Township High School. Action on support of the petition for a Union School District was postponed until next Tuesday's regular meeting. Frederick Weiss, Monroe Township brought out in discussion that even if Monroe were released at this time, there was no surety that it would be accepted by Tunkhannock.

Increased police activity tending toward better control of highway traffic was reflected Tuesday evening at the meeting of Dallas Borough Council by the receipt of the highest amount of fines turned in this year. Police Chief Russell Honeywell asked Council to establish a minimum fine for offenders who drive the wrong way on Mill Street between Memorial Highway and Main Street, now a one way street.

30 Years Ago - Aug. 3, 1967

FIRE DESTROYS ROAT'S BARN IN LEHMAN

A large barn on the farm of Harry C. Roat, Dewey Hoover Road, Lehman, was completely destroyed by flames early Thursday morning. Farm equipment including a tractor were consumed in the blaze which was discovered by Lehman's new Police Chief Lionel Bulford shortly after midnight. Jonathan R. Davis Fire Co. battled the inferno for over three hours. It is not known what triggered the blaze.

Business was brisk at the office of Dallas Borough tax gatherer after a notice had been printed in the Dallas Post warning residents that their 2% discount was about to run out as of July 31. Tom Reese reports that 104 accounts were eligible for discounts including those sealed in an envelope and postmarked July 31, received the following day. Next date to remember Aug. 31, when school tax discounts meet their deadline.

20 Years Ago - Aug. 4, 1977

SCHOOL BOARD SEARCHES FOR SUPERINTENDENT

Members of the personnel committee of Dallas School Board have advanced 15 for further consideration of the 35 applicants who applied for the position of superintendent of the school district left vacant by the recent resignation of Dr. Linford Werkheiser. Three of the applicants are from Luzerne County and a fourth is James Brokenshire, former assistant superintendent in the Dallas School District. Brokenshire is presently superintendent of Western Wayne Schools.

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Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms. Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

- Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:
- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
 - No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
 - Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
 - Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
 - The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.