

# 1997 in words and photos on The Dallas Post's pages

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Dr. Robert Szulborski of Dallas recounted his experiences on a trip to New Guinea, where he provided free eye examinations and cataract surgery to people in remote areas of the Pacific state. Many of the patients had received eye injuries while fighting in tribal wars.

Dallas High senior Scott Townsend said he would attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall, on a partial athletic scholarship. He planned to study biology, then head to dental school.

**April 30:** Back Mountain quilters were proud of Joan Ancin Rihan of Dallas, whose handiwork was accepted by the American Quilters' Society Show and Contest, the Olympics of the craft. Members of the "Meet to Eat" quilting club made blocks that she sewed into the final product. Another local quilter, Nan Bozentka of Trucksville, recently sent a quilt to the country singer Hal Ketchum, ordered by the singer's wife.

Donna Cupinski of Dallas was elected chairperson of the 1997 Luzerne County Fair, to be held in September.

Ray Ceconi and Tom Gauntlett won the Irem Temple Spring Classic golf tournament when Gauntlett drained an 18-foot putt on the final hole. They won in a 54-team field.

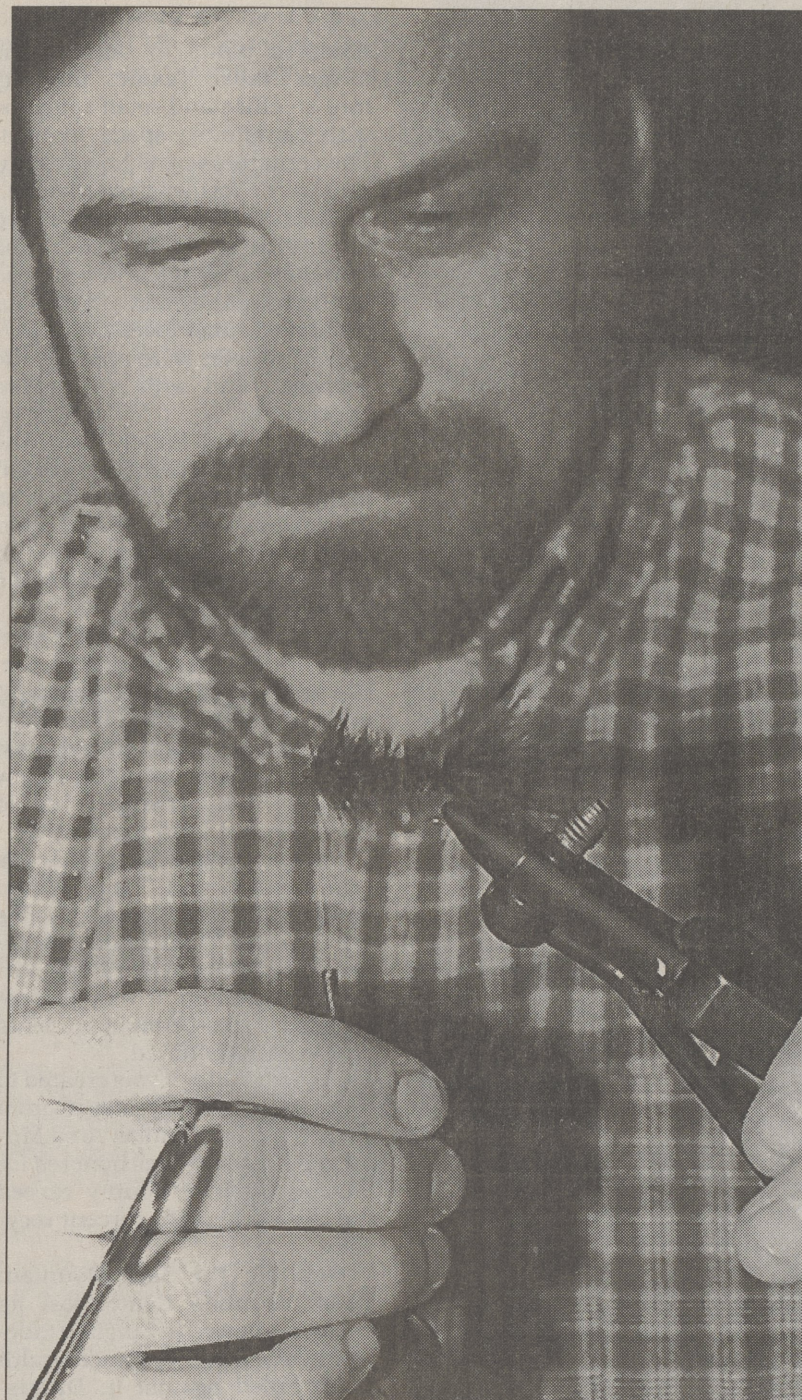
**May 7:** Shavertown Volunteer Fire Dept. members showed off the Spartan Gladiator 75 LT1 fire truck they had just acquired, after 1 1/2 years of fund raising. The 75-foot ladder truck is four years old and cost \$325,000, nearly \$200,000 less than a brand new one.

Rev. William Cusick was laid to rest in a Mass of Christian Burial. He had died May 1 after nearly a year's illness. He was remembered not only as pastor but as the guiding force behind Gate of Heaven School, which thrived under his leadership.

Lake-Lehman high jumper Brad Dieffenbacher led the track and field team with a school record leap of 6'9" at the Penn Relays.

**May 14:** The campaign to build a new children's wing at the Back Mountain Memorial Library exceeded expectations, reaching \$812,187 in donations and pledges. Fund raising was led by Dr. Wallace Stettler, who put together a team of 80 volunteers to do the soliciting.

Lindsey Kelly, 12, was back from a two-week trip to Turkey, a last minute adventure with her sister, Wendy Waring. "I thought it would be like in 'Aladdin,'" she



Scott Brady of Sutton Hills, Jackson Twp., demonstrated the art of fly tying in the March 12 issue. He is a founding member of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

said, but instead found a thoroughly modern metropolis in Istanbul.

Responding to repeated vandalism, Dallas Borough removed the backboards from the Kenneth A. Young park, and vowed to keep them down until the summer recreation program began.

**May 21:** The Dallas Twp. Planning Commission sent Cellular One's plans for a 280-foot tower back to the drawing board because the land township land the tower would occupy was not formally subdivided.

Offset Paperback celebrated its 25th year in the Back Mountain. The plant, which is the region's

largest employer with 660 people, produces about 300 million paperback books each year. It is a subsidiary of Bertelsmann AG, a German company.

Firefighters mourned the loss of nine lives in a blaze at the Country Manor personal care home at Harveys Lake. Despite their heroic efforts the wood-frame building went up too quickly to save more than the 12 people who got out alive.

The Lake-Lehman softball team wrapped up a perfect season, beating Wyoming Seminary 10-2.

**May 28:** Amanda and Kathryn Palmatier, Dallas High School students, won first place in the state

History Day competition with a display that described the tra-vails of Jehovah's Witnesses in Nazi Germany.

People who live on the "wrong" side of Lakeside Drive at Harveys Lake complained that they were treated unfairly by borough regulations. When making home improvements, residents of the S-1 zone must get a variance, while those on the other side of the street simply need a permit.

The Dallas chapter of Kiwanis International was celebrating its 70th anniversary. "I'm happy when I can help people in need," said George McCutcheon, a 47-year member of the service organization.

The Lake-Lehman baseball team beat Dunmore, earning a berth in the District 2 Class AA title game. Win or lose they were headed to state playoffs. Mike Woronko was the winning pitcher, bringing his record to 9-0.

**June 4:** Instead of holding 73 houses, land off W. Center Hill Rd. in Dallas Borough would probably become a model development, with 15 to 20 homes clustered in one area, and the rest open space. The original property owner, Robert Post Sr., had sold the land to Paul and Melanie Lumia after first proposing the more intensive development.

Robert James, principal of Lehman-Jackson Elementary, retired after 33 1/2 years in the district, nearly all of them as principal.

Dallas Fire and Ambulance began construction on a new 7,000 square foot building, complete with drive-through garage bays for trucks.

Spurred by the plans earlier in the year to build a new school on land used for Little League fields, Back Mountain Baseball Inc. laid plans to buy the property from Dallas School District, so the 1,000+ youngsters who participate won't ever again have to worry about having a place to play.

**June 11:** Commonwealth Telephone was 100 years old, and present and past employees talked about how communications have changed. "Today there might be a phone in every room," said Betty Hutchenson. "But back then (1938, when she began working as an operator) there might have been one phone on a street."

Sr. Sponsa Beltran visited St. Therese's Church to thank parishioners for their support of her mission in Liberia. "The love of good people in Shavertown helped a generation or two," she said.

"No. 1 Trucker Buddy" Wayne Frederici visited his pals at Lake-Noxen Elementary, and shared his experiences on the road. He stays in touch with first graders in Mary Foltz's class while on the road, sending cards and letters.

**June 18:** Opponents of the proposed 280-foot cellular phone tower in Dallas Twp. vowed to continue fighting the tower, after the planning commission approved it and zoning officer Len Kozick issued a building permit.

A barking dog woke Pat and Carol Deats of N. Lehigh St., Trucksville, and they noticed suspicious activity behind their neighbor's house. When police arrived they found parts of the Noon family's trampoline scattered about, and most of it missing. But Dallas Twp. patrolman Jeff Dennis noticed a car on Rt. 309 with long items sticking out its windows, and pulled over two juveniles who had the missing parts.

The Lake-Lehman band hit a high note at a competition at Sherburne, NY. The concert band and indoor guard earned first place, while the marching band tied for second and finished second overall in field show. Katie Martin won best drum major in the field show and Matt Link won best parade drum major.

**June 25:** Lake-Lehman school directors struggled to bring down a tax increase that started at 14.3 mills. Business manager Kathleen Williams hoped to get the hike to no more than 8 mills.

Rev. John C. Lambert was heading to Gate of Heaven Church to replace Rev. David Cappelloni, who was being transferred to Muncy. Fr. Lambert had been at the Church of St. Luke in Jersey Shore.

Molly Guntli was the winning pitcher and added some hits as the White Sox beat the Yankees 16-6 to advance to the Major League Softball title game against the Athletics.

**July 2:** Melissa Saxon, the first female member of Dallas Rotary when she joined the group in 1992, became the first female president. "She gets things done and she likes to do the job," said Ron Fitch, outgoing president.

Lake-Lehman's final budget held no money for raises for teachers or administrators. Passed 5-4, it raised taxes 8 mills.

Joel Lesinski smashed a grand slam homer in the top of the sixth inning to give BMT National a 15-10 win over Miners Mills in Little League all-star action.

**July 9:** Former Harveys Lake councilman David Abod thought he was helping his case when he videotaped a confrontation with neighbor James Pugh. Instead, after police viewed the tape they charged Abod with stalking and criminal trespass.

The Dallas school board voted to install security cameras and other devices on all schools before September. Visitors would have to be buzzed in, and only the front doors would be used for entry.

"It's good here, I like getting the dogs," said William, a 7 year old from the Bronx who was staying with a local family for a few weeks. Fresh Air Fund families like the Fords of Harveys Lake play host to city kids from ages 6 to 12.

**July 16:** People who live in the Westmoreland Hills subdivision in Kingston Twp. rallied to fight a proposal to develop three new lots. Dr. Diane Lowe and Dr. Robert Budin say the steeply-sloped land is unsuitable for housing and should be zoned conservation.

The 51st annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was a ringing success, taking in about \$95,000, with the net projected at about \$70,000. Joe Stager was chairman, and Ernie Ashbridge announced it would be his last year as antiques chairman.

The Back Mountain Senior Softball all-star team won the District 16 title, beating Nanticoke 5-3. Back Mountain scored three times in the bottom of the seventh inning to take the victory.

**July 23:** Michael Shisko, chairman of the Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Committee, was one of the people disappointed when the borough council tabled a proposed ban on phosphate fertilizers. Borough council president Francis Kopke said the ban was unenforceable.

Dry conditions were making water users and water companies skittish. Water advisories were in effect, and some officials wondered if the long-dormant plan to create a regional water authority might be revived.

Janine Marie Clark of Dallas was one of 20 high school students participating in the Young Scholars program at College Misericordia. The 16-year-old junior was gaining exposure to what college had to offer.

**July 30:** Sailors from the Harveys Lake Yacht Club were in the middle of another season on the lake. "I enjoy the freedom and challenge of the wind," said Karl

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