

EDITORIALS

Compromise is the best course in fields dispute

Despite the rantings of people at the extremes of American democracy, this is a system that thrives on compromise. That's as true at the local level as it is in the halls of Congress, and there's a perfect opportunity to exercise this tradition in the matter of new fields behind Dallas High School.

The school district has planned for years to use the empty land for sports fields. That use is made urgent by the impending construction of the Gerald Wycallis Elementary School in the space now used by middle school teams and youth soccer. Ground breaking is scheduled for early April, so the middle school fields will be off limits after that date. In the meantime, school teams will make more use of fields developed behind the old Dallas Township school by Back Mountain Baseball, presently used for softball, tee-ball and minor league baseball.

Youth baseball and soccer leagues each have about 1,000 members, so the timing of all this means some disruptions are inevitable, and any more delays in constructing the new fields will only add to them. Unfortunately, there's more at issue than scheduling; some people who live on Westminster Drive adjacent to the new fields have sued to block construction, claiming a variance that reduced the setback from 100 feet to 15 feet is improper. While there may have been a lapse in the procedure for granting the variance, it seems certain it will stand and the fields will be built as planned, except a little later.

Most of the home owners aren't trying to prevent the fields' construction, but they are legitimately worried about the impact on their property and peace of mind. One thing some of them ask is that the district install a fence around the school grounds, so that fans won't park on Westminster and cut through their yards to get to games. That's a real possibility, since the district maintains rights-of-way off Westminster. The school district has already agreed to place a buffer zone of trees between the fields and homes, and adding a fence doesn't seem too much to ask.

Some residents want the full 100 foot setback from their property lines to the edge of a soccer field, but that seems unlikely to occur. The district says the closest field will start 50 feet from the line, a reasonable figure, if a fence and trees are in place.

Most people wouldn't want to give up the private back yards and shade trees home owners on Westminster have enjoyed for years, but preserving their private Edens can't be the school district's priority. The district and property owners have room to negotiate, and we hope they will use it, so disruptions of youth sports are kept to a minimum.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



So, someone has decided to take on WILK radio bigmouth Fred Vopper (aka Fred Williams) in a place they can get a fair shake, a courtroom. Luzerne County District Attorney Peter Paul Olszewski Jr. has filed what is reported to be a multi-million dollar defamation suit against the malicious and reckless Williams, citing dozens of comments taken from broadcast tapes. Actually, this is the second such action in recent months; Williams and the radio station settled an earlier suit out of court just a few weeks ago.

Olszewski's lawyer says this is the strongest case of this type he's ever seen, and apparently he's been involved in some big ones. But the DA is only the most recent target of Williams' venomous attacks. Durelle Scott, who was president of the board of directors of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, had an equally compelling case, but his gracious nature saved Williams from certain defeat had Scott pursued legal action. To refresh your memory, Scott's tenure coincided with a time the library reluctantly let go a part-time employee whose work had deteriorated. Williams lambasted Scott, a physician, suggesting to his listeners that Scott was an incompetent doctor and people would be fools to go to him with a medical problem. This about a man who has generously donated his time and talent to causes in his hometown and throughout the Wyoming Valley, information Williams couldn't be bothered with, since it would have spoiled his one-sided diatribes.

Fred Williams doesn't care about good works any more than he cares about accuracy or civility. He and the station that employ him care only about ratings, and they know there's a small audience for the rantings of someone who regards himself so poorly he can't stand that anyone else be considered respectable. Yes, small audience — the number of people who listen to a "top rated" daytime radio show is tiny, but it's enough to be on top when 30 or more stations are vying for attention in a time slot when only a minority of people have radios turned on at all.

Williams has the easiest job of all; sitting in front of a microphone and criticizing anyone he chooses to, with a cutoff switch readily at hand when the going gets tough. He should be thankful for the opportunity, but instead he and the station that employ him choose to bite the hand that feeds them. Now someone has bitten back and it will be interesting to see what happens next.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Jessica Appolo
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Kylie Shafferkoetter
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala
CLASSIFIED/TYPESSETTING

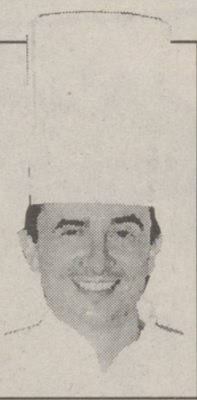
Jill Gruver
OFFICE MANAGER



On Bunker Hill, a business from days gone by. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Food 'n' fun

Jim Phillips



While I was on a photo assignment for The Post last week, I dined at the Westin Hotel's Casa Hauana Restaurant on Grand Cayman Island. (I can dream can't I?)

I must say I was never one for "Island Food". Oh sure I'm always game to try a new dish, but after this meal I have definitely developed another side of my palate.

Our meal began with a complimentary appetizer of a lightly grilled herb pancake on which

Getting in the mood for island food

rested an extremely delicate slice of smoked salmon topped with the thinnest sliver of onion. The flavors complimented each other perfectly and provided us with a taste of things to come.

We decided to move directly to our salad course. I chose a baby bibb salad served in a Costa Rican pineapple ring with apple mango salsa and champagne vinaigrette. My wife chose a fresh mozzarella and mesclun salad laced with balsamic vinaigrette. The mozzarella was creamy fresh and crusted with cracked black pepper and fresh herbs.

The intermezzo was freshly made mango sorbet full of flavor and icy sweet to cleanse the palate. For the main course my wife opted for the nuevo salmon, which was coated with blue corn meal and lemon pepper and served with

garlic mashed potatoes and papaya guava beurre blanc sauce. I took the adventurous route and selected the Cayman turtle manicotti (yikes!, now that's different!).

I must say this dish was wonderful, the delicately seasoned turtle meat was wrapped in a super thick pasta shell and then lightly browned under the broiler. The entire manicotti was then placed over blackened tomato sauce and served with fresh vegetables.

Finally, it was time for dessert and what would dessert be without chocolate. How about one named "Decadent Chocolate Torte"? There were layers of bittersweet chocolate sponge cake, alternated with a creamy chocolate mousse. The entire cake was then covered with a thick chocolate shell. It was served with

orange infused cream and dark chocolate sauce.

This was a fitting end to a perfectly perfect meal. One meal I am certain to remember for some time.

Here is a recipe that will get you into "that island mood".

PINEAPPLE DAIQUIRI serves two

- 1 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- 4 1/2 ounces light rum
- 1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
- 1 tsp. orange flavored liqueur sugar

Combine the pineapple juice, rum, lime juice and orange liqueur in a blender, blend at high speed for about 20 seconds. Taste, add sugar as necessary. Pour into two chilled glasses filled with ice and serve at once.



60 Years Ago - Jan. 28, 1938 WOMEN OWNS LETTER FROM CIVIL WAR

Relic of a day when families waited impatiently for word from sons who were away fighting to preserve the Union, a yellowish letter owned by Mrs. Frank Harvey, Cemetery Street, Dallas, grows in value as the years pass. It was written on Jan. 2, 1862 by Kersey Hower, Mrs. Harvey's great uncle to his brother, Sylvester Hower, her grandfather. Kersey a Union soldier was killed in the first battle of Petersburg two years after the letter was written.

You could get - Sugar, 10 lb. paper bag, 48¢; loose eggs, 26¢ doz.; apple butter, 2 lg. 2-lb. jars, 25¢; prunes, 4 lbs., 25¢; lettuce, lg. hd., 5¢.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 30, 1948 ROTARY TRYS TO GET YMCA IN BACK MOUNTAIN AREA

Dallas Rotary Club meeting held last night at Irem Temple Country Club, heard a report of the Rotary Committee which is working to help establish a Branch YMCA in the Back Mountain area. Committee chairman David S. Williams reported that he had contacted most of the local religious, civic and fraternal organizations and the proposed project has been favorably received.

A hard fighting Lehman team went down in defeat by the hands of the mighty Borough team Tuesday evening. The Borough took an early lead and kept it up all through the game. Final score was 40-28.

Two new hybrids of field corn developed by workers of the Agriculture Experiment Station at Pennsylvania State College will be available in limited quantities for 1948 planting.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 24, 1958 LIBRARY ASSOC. TO ELECT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The 13th annual meeting of the

Back Mountain Memorial Library Association for the election of directors and officers will be held next Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Library Annex. Any Back Mountain resident who has paid \$1 or more dues to become a member of the Association is welcome to attend and to vote.

Scores of friends, old neighbors and relatives gathered for a buffet supper at the Huntsville Christian Church Sunday to honor Rev. and Mrs. Charles H. Frick, who celebrated their 58th year of service to the church and his 80th birthday anniversary.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 1, 1968 DALLAS POST PAPER ROLLS OF THE TRUCK

An 845 lb. roll of paper destined for the Dallas Post burst out of the Mercury Freight delivery truck, narrowly missing a woman pedestrian on the Exeter-West Wyoming back road. A motorist seeing an explosion of paper, flagged down the truck. "Hey you lost something." The driver was shocked. He explained to The Dallas Post "you're minus one roll of paper." Matt Ross called the Dallas Post, "I've got a roll of your

paper in my yard. Rolled it off the road." Don Weidner left the Post in haste with a camera.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Ide will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 8 with an open house at the Huntsville Christian Church. Lifetime residents, they're parents of 12, 11 of whom are still living. All graduated from Dallas Borough High School. They have 28 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mr. Ide, former superintendent of Fern Knoll Cemetery is now retired.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 26, 1978 SNOWSTORM LEAVES ROADS BARELY PASSABLE

Back Mountain was no exception last week as local, county and state work crews worked long hours, many of them around the clock to remove the heavy snow and make roads passable for motorists. Back Mountain residents reported local crews kept main roads passable but complained about state roads. Residents living along secondary roads in some sections were not plowed out until late Saturday. Back to back snowstorms of the week left 24-28 inches on the ground.

Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is open to the public on the regular schedule after having been closed for the holidays and construction.

The library has a new staff member, Mary Krehely, who was hired as a cataloguer for the new books which includes the book cards and pockets to be typed for

Library is back to regular schedule

each and the catalog cards for the card catalog which are now done on the computer. She will also fill in as a front desk attendee when needed.

The library circulated 3,224 books during the month of December; adult fiction, 1,748; juvenile fiction 549; adult non-fiction 908; juvenile non-fiction 19. Reference questions answered 167; Book Club books circulated 165; Interlibrary loan transactions 8; CDs 57; audio tapes 334; and videos 101. New books added to the collection 161; 83 adult and 78 juvenile; juvenile books withdrawn 72. Total active borrowers as of Dec. 31, 10,894.

New children's books at the

library: "Gabiella's Song" by Candace Fleming starts with "Among the winding canals and streets of Venice, something wonderful is happening!"

There's a sweet song on everyone's lips—a song that began with a little girl named Gabiella. A beautiful story about the power of music.

"Cowboy Bunnies" by Christine Loomis begins with "Ride 'em, Cowboy! Cowboy bunnies wake up early, ride their ponies, hurly burly. Off they go, on the range whooping and hollering, roping cows, mending fences, tossing hay. When their work is finally done, then the bunnies have some fun, then home with sleepy sighs.

"Burn Toast on Davenport Street" by Tim Egan proves that life on Davenport Street will never be quite the same for the Crandalls.

When a magic fly grants Arthur Crandall three wishes, he's not very impressed, especially since he does not believe in magic flies. Therefore, he's not very particular what he wishes for.

"Mouse Mess" by Linnea Riley begins with "There's a mouse in the house, and when he wakes up, he's going to be hungry for a snack. From cookies and crackers to olives, cheese and sticky jam. Mouse joyfully munches his way through the kitchen and makes a big mess!"

Do you agree? Disagree?

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