

**EDITORIALS**

**Phosphate ban a positive step for Harveys Lake**

The Harveys Lake Borough Council has taken a courageous, progressive step to help preserve the lake by unanimously adopting an ordinance that bans use of fertilizers containing phosphorus. Proponents of the measure, especially members of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EVAC) were disheartened when it was tabled at a meeting last July, just as they thought it would be adopted. Francis Kopko, then borough council president, said at the time that the ordinance would have been unenforceable because it lacked details, including specific penalties for violation.

The council certainly took care of that in the final draft; violators face daily fines of up to \$1,000 if they use improper fertilizer. Equally important, though, council members recognize that they need the informed cooperation of borough residents to really make the stricture work, and are planning to send an explanatory pamphlet to every home owner. The pamphlet will lay out the reasons for the ban, and will ask that property owners sign a statement that they have read and understood its terms.

A restriction like this is unlikely to gain universal favor. There are people who believe they have the right to do anything they care to with their own land, even if their actions harm other property. That kind of recklessness will harm the lake and everyone who lives near it or uses it for recreation, and can't be tolerated.

As councilman George Andrews said, "Our greatest asset at the borough is the lake itself." The council has taken a worthwhile stride to enhance that asset.

**National Utilities finally gets the message**

National Utilities has proved it is not entirely without compassion or common sense. The company, which has left a legacy of poor service and low water quality behind in many communities, finally acknowledged that water flowing in the Midway Manor subdivision came from a break in its lines, and has begun work to make repairs.

This is, of course, the result people who have lived with the leak had expected long ago, but the company tried lamely to attribute the gushing water to a newly sprung spring. Whether shamed by a story in last week's Post or suddenly seeing the light, National Utilities decided to let go of that excuse and showed up late last week to track down the source of the problem. Now neighbors must keep up the pressure, so to speak, to see that the company follows through and restores their land to the condition it was before the backhoe started digging. If taking responsibility for its service has been National Utilities' worst fault, failing to finish work properly is surely second.

**Publisher's notebook**

Ron Bartizek



Call me a bleeding-heart liberal if you like, but I'm glad Theodore Kaczynski isn't going to the electric chair. I know he killed three people and injured more than a dozen, and that his actions are unforgivable. Still, I can't help but feel some pity for this highly intelligent man with the flawed psyche.

Kaczynski's brainpower actually may have contributed to his reign of terror, since people of high intelligence are able to mask their psychological disturbances. Of course, living in a remote cabin, he didn't have to do that often or for long periods of time. Instead he kept his own company, creating in his twisted mind an evil empire of technology and planning how to strike out against it, in the process killing and maiming innocent bystanders to his imagined struggle for mankind's future.

One real tragedy of this sorry saga is that someone who had the capacity to do so much good slipped through the cracks and became a killer. It's likely that had Kaczynski's illness been diagnosed and treated he could have lived a relatively regular life and contributed to science or education.

In principle, I am opposed to capital punishment; I believe the act of taking a human life demeans us and much prefer that life in prison without any chance of parole be the greatest punishment. There is also the chance that an innocent person could be killed, as some surely have. But I hold no illusions about rehabilitation of ruthless killers — I'm in the lock the door and throw away the key camp, no matter how well they behave behind bars.

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Take heart, spring is just around the corner. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

**LETTERS**

**S.P.C.A. sponsors 'Prevent A Litter' Month**

Editor:  
In an effort to decrease the number of puppies and kittens that flood animal shelters each spring, the SPCA of Luzerne County is joining The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and animal shelters around the country in proclaiming February 1998 as "Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter" Month. The goal of the event is to focus nationwide attention on the serious problem of pet overpopulation and to encourage pet owners to be sure that their canine and feline friends are spayed or neutered in February, before many unsterilized animals breed in the Spring.  
"There are more dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in our community than there are lifelong, loving homes," says Edward

Gross, SPCA Director of Development. Gross noted that in 1997, 7,932 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens were relinquished to the SPCA of Luzerne County. "The only way to reduce this number of unwanted pets is through responsible, committed pet ownership, and that must include spaying and neutering pets to prevent the births of puppies and kittens for whom there are no homes."  
The statistics are staggering: One female cat and her offspring can possibly produce 420,000 kittens in seven years! In just six years, one female dog and her offspring can possible produce 67,000 puppies! Those puppies and kittens who do find homes will need caring owners dedicated to 15 to 20 years of pet ownership. Owning a pet is a big responsibility, and animal shelters across

the nation are full of pets who were given up by owners who did not realize the amount of time, money and commitment they required.  
On Tues., Feb. 24 the SPCA of Luzerne County in conjunction with The Doris Day Animal League and HSUS will sponsor Spay Day USA at their shelter in Plains Twp. several local veterinarians have offered to provide free spay and neuter services to a limited number of pets adopted from the SPCA on this day.  
Make your resolution now to "Be a P.A.L." and "Prevent A Litter" in February 1998. For more information, contact the SPCA of Luzerne County, 524 E. Main Street, Plains Twp., at 825-4111.  
Edward Gross  
Director of Development  
SPCA of Luzerne County

**Library news**



Nancy Kozemchak

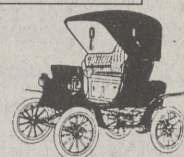
The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library held a luncheon meeting at Pickett's Charge on Monday, January 19. Mary Lou Swingle, secretary, read the previous months minutes and the treasurer reported a balance in the bank account of \$723.99 with a total of 124 members to begin the 1998 membership campaign. The dues remains \$15.00 for a double membership and \$10.00 for a single and entitles the members to borrow two books from the book club shelf each time they visit the library. Mary Panaway announced the new books added to the book club

**Book Club in full swing**

shelf for January. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 16 at 1:30. Guests are invited to attend.  
The library has two new student pages, Alycia Roberts and Tracy Malkemes, Dallas and Tunkhannock students. They work after school and on Saturdays to check book cards and pockets in the books for accession number matches. They check the books on the carts for matching numbers and then shelve the books.  
**New books at the library:** "Charming Billy" by Alice McDermott tells of Billy Lynch who one summer years ago fell in love with a beautiful young Irish woman who had come to America to work for a wealthy family from Park Avenue.  
Billy wanted to marry Eva, even gave her a ring; she went back to Ireland to care for relatives, promising to return; however, she died of pneumonia.  
"Come The Spring" by Julie

Garwood continues the Clayborne legend as the author weaves together a magnificent tale with a touching new love story. Adam, Douglas and Travis are each happily married, and their beloved Mama Rose is overjoyed with the ladies who have joined the family. However, their restlessness lies with the brother, Cole, wondering which side of the law he will land.  
"The God of Small Things" by Arundhate Roy takes place in the state of Kerala, on the southernmost tip of India; a skyblue Plymouth with chrome taillins is stranded on the highway amid a Marxist workers' demonstration. The year is 1969. Inside the car sit two-egg twins Rahel and Esthappen, so begins the tale.  
"The Prince and the Prosecutor" by Peter J. Heck is a Mark Twain mystery.  
This mystery, rich in humor and historical detail is praised as as thoroughly enjoyable mystery. The author solves the mysteries in a delightful manner.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



**60 Years Ago - Feb. 4, 1938  
NEW SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES AT FIRST NAT'L. IN DALLAS**

One hundred new safety deposit boxes have been purchased by First National Bank of Dallas to be installed in its modern vault. The bank which needed only 20 safety deposit boxes two decades ago, has had to add year by year until it now has more than 310.

The building occupied by the Shavertown Post Office was sold yesterday by Wilkes-Barre Deposit and Savings Bank to Frederick J. Eck of Shavertown. The building is a two story frame structure near the Shavertown street car station. Brace's gas station, Jackson's store and the post office quarters occupying the first floor and there are apartments on the second floor. The sale is another evidence of new real estate activity in Shavertown. Eck's building is only a stone throw from the site upon which Dan Shaver is building a new \$15,000 theatre which will be opened in April.

**50 Years Ago - Feb. 6, 1948  
FERNBROOK PARK SOLD TO MAKE WAY FOR OFFSET**

Purchase of 17 acres of ground in the Fernbrook Park area, including Fernbrook Park from Wilkes-Barre Railway Corp. for the erection of a giant new textile plant employing between 450-500 persons with annual payroll of more than \$1,000,000 was confirmed this week by Robert Bair, Asst. Treasurer of Bloomsburg Mills.

The building will be a one story construction entirely under one roof and completely air conditioned.

You could get - Center cut pork chops 65¢ lb.; steak, 75¢ lb.; potatoes, full peck 61¢; lettuce, 2 lg. hds. 19¢; bread, lg. loaf, 13¢.

**40 Years Ago - Jan. 31, 1958  
POLICE SOLVE MYSTERY ABOUT A STORE ROBBERY**

Interrogation yesterday by State and local police of seven Back Mountain teenagers has solved the mystery of Dallas Hardware & Supply Co. robbery Sun. Jan 5 as well as the brief disappearance of several autos in the area. Acting on a tip that two Dallas Borough boys both 14 were seen carrying a loaded .38 calibre pistol at Dallas basketball games and in Dixon's and Evan's Restaurants. Chief Russell Honeywell investigated and uncovered a nest of home talent gangsters with their own headquarters in a well-equipped cabin in Shavertown. Though none of the five Kingston Township boys were involved with the Dallas robbery, all are implicated in other escapades which police are investigating.

Shavertown stayed in the running for top honors at its easy 68-40 win over East Dallas. Ernie Widmann was the big noise as he collected 26 points. Bob Hontz and Bill Oney also chipped in with 25 between them for the winners. Dick Clemow led the losers with 11.

**30 Years Ago - Feb. 8, 1968  
U.G.I. TO SPONSOR L-L BAND ON TRIP TO D.C.**

U.G.I. is staking Lake-Lehman Band to bus transportation to Washington. According to Dick Demmy, vice president and manager, arrangements are being made for four Martz buses to leave the high school April 5 at 7 a.m. to return after the Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade the following day.

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital, Wellsboro has announced the appointment of Ralph C. Antrim Jr. as Assistant Administrator. A resident of Dallas and a graduate of Dallas High School, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Antrim of Oak Hill, is a retired Lt. Colonel, Regular Army July 1967 after 22 years of service.

**20 Years Ago - Feb. 2, 1978  
STATE REP. CRITICIZES PENNDOT'S SERVICE**

There's no question in my mind that PennDOT's overall road maintenance program is sub-standard" said Rep. Frank O'Connell Tuesday afternoon in a telephone conversation. "I also agree that there is not proper drainage along many of the state's highways. But there is no way that can be corrected until warm weather." Road work during the past week has been intolerable and PennDOT has come under heavy criticism.

**Q. Where do you find the most Back Mountain news and photos each week?  
A. Only in The Dallas Post**