

EDITORIALS

Veterans' Day reminds us of history; may we learn from it

In parts of France and other European nations, old artillery shells are found occasionally, some of them still able to claim a leg, arm or life. Combatants' bones sometimes make their way up through the soil, to be found by children four generations removed from the first Great War. And, fortunately, there are a few people who still recall the horror of that conflict, and the enormous loss of human life that accompanied it.

World War I was, at the time, the costliest in human history. More than 50,000 American troops died in combat, and even more from the flu and other diseases. As great as they were, our losses paled in comparison to the Europeans, with nearly two million German and Russian soldiers, more than one million French and Austro-Hungarian and nearly a million British troops left dead in battle and millions more civilians suffering a similar fate, whether from wounds, starvation or deadly gas attacks.

Out of that holocaust came Armistice Day, November 11, a day that was thought at the time to mark the end of massive killing. Little did the survivors know the world would plunge into the next Great War only 20 years later, and this time the killers' skill would be even greater.

Still, it is fitting that we set aside time each year to honor those who have gone to battle in our stead, or those who fought beside us. Armistice Day lost its meaning after the onset of World War II, and was renamed Veterans' Day, so that the participants in all wars could be included in this commemoration, grim as it may be.

Unless we learn from history, the scholars say, we are doomed to repeat it. It would appear we have much more to learn, but as we pause to recall those who have protected our freedom in the past, perhaps we will gain new appreciation for how far we have come, and how far we have to go before observances like this one are no longer necessary.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



In the course of photographing youth sports events over the years, I've been exposed to all manner of coaching styles. (And all manner of rooting styles, for that matter.) Some coaches — probably most — are of the controlling temperament. By that I mean players are on the receiving end of a constant barrage of directions: go this way, cover that guy, move up, move back, move sideways, guard closely, guard loosely... well, you know what I mean. This is perhaps understandable at the beginning of the season, when it's presumed the coach and his charges are getting to know one another, or with younger players who need to learn the basics of their sport. What amazes me, though, is how many high school, college and even professional coaches, at the end of the season, are still at it, micro-managing each player's every move. It's exhausting just to watch, and I imagine the players are on pins and needles wondering which way they'll be told to go next.

That's why it's so refreshing to see a coach who sits back and lets his kids play, as Mark Stroney, who has led Lake-Lehman to the district soccer championship the last two years, does. For most of the game, he'll be perched on the back of the bench, intently watching his team win, as it has done every game this season. Oh, there are times when he stirs, and makes a few comments, usually to his assistants, but then he's back on the bench. His demeanor carries over into halftime. During the break in the title game against Dallas, he let his players cool their heels and calm their minds until about two minutes to the start of the next period. Then he had a quiet talk with his players and sent them onto the field. And this was when Lehman was down 1-0!

I wasn't able to talk to Mark before writing this column, so I must assume what his actions say, always a dangerous proposition. But if I had to guess, I'd say he feels the players ought to know how to play the game at this point in the season, and it's up to them to use the skills and knowledge their coach has transmitted, without the distraction of someone yelling at them from the sidelines. They have to win the game, and they ought to know how to do it. Apparently, they do.

Do you know what's news? Tell us

A lot of interesting stories go unreported because we never hear about them, but maybe you do. We'd love to have you tell us what you think is news, and where to find more of it.

You'd be surprised how many articles get their start from readers' tips. While we try to get around as much as possible, the people who are out and involved come in contact with ideas we never hear about — unless someone tells us about them.

If you have a tidbit, a story lead, or just a hunch, please pass it along. We'll follow up, and maybe you'll see your idea in print. Please include as much

detail as you can, and your name and phone number if you'd like to be interviewed, or have more to say.

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Pretty kitty in a spotlight of sunshine. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The Back Mountain Memorial Library circulated 7,868 books during the month of October. Adult fiction 2,466; juvenile fiction 2,410; young adult fiction 52; adult non-fiction 1,858; juvenile non-fiction 1,072. Reference questions answered 139; Book Club books circulated 264; Inter-library loan transactions 59; CDs 57; audio tapes 481 and videos 401. New books added to the collection adult 151; juvenile 135; books withdrawn, adult 124; juvenile 110. Total active borrowers as of October 31, 1998 11,655.

Barbara Lemmond and Martha Butler attended the Luzerne County System Board meeting on

The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

A new report has been published recently titled "Land Use Management Plan for PG Energy Lands in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys." The 80 page report is an excellent guide to the future of thousands of acres owned by PG Energy. The report was reviewed and advised by a Land Use Committee serving as volunteer professionals from Northeastern Pennsylvania working with staff and PG Energy and its consultants "CECO Associates and Conservation Advisors." The plan results from an order of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission as part of a joint settlement agreement authorizing the sale of the water supply business of PG Energy predecessor Pennsylvania Gas & Water Company, to the Pennsylvania American Water Company. PG Energy proposed the plan and process as a way of promoting the better use and stewardship of its watershed resources.

PG Energy is one of three largest land owners in Northeastern Pennsylvania, with approximately 45,000 acres of land. A great majority of the acreage was studied as a result of the watershed land use planning process. The plan examines properties considered generally suitable for devel-

Children's book week to begin November 16

Oct. 14, the automation project is targeted with a completion date of April or May 1999. The Northeast Chapter of PaLA met at the library on Oct. 23. Librarians, retired librarians, state officials, and the president made up a group of 20 and toured the library and the children's room. October story hours were well attended, the children enjoyed dressing up and having special treats and parading for Halloween on October 27 and 28.

Saturday, Oct. 24, Linda Major conducted the first of three holiday story hours in the children's room sponsored by "Arts at Hayfield". The program for children 4 through 8 years old was attended by 12 children.

Children's Book Week will be held during the week of November 16-22. The theme for 1998 is "Books go Everywhere". The pur-

pose of children's book week is to get kids and books connected by encouraging reading. To read to a child is one of the most important activities you can do with a child. The Back Mountain library will present a special program, "It Feels Good!", a sing along with Bill Frye on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 in the children's room. This is a different entertainment experience. Bill leads and plays his guitar and the audiences sing songs they know by heart, dance, clap, laugh and reminisce.

He sings familiar standards, traditional country, western, children's songs and takes requests. Bill Frye is absolutely captivating when he is entertaining children. He keeps his presentation fresh and entertaining. Families and children of all ages are invited to attend. Reservations are requested.

A plan for best use of former water co. lands

opment; other properties held for resource management and conservation purposes; and properties with both resource and management potential. A resource inventory was developed for each of 20 watershed parcels in the study. A mapping system displaying a variety of geographic information data sets was produced and analyzed. In addition to reviewing and discussing all of this data, the Committee and staff conducted several field trips through the watershed to view and discuss various sites, and proposed land use and management programs.

The plan's key elements include general land use recommendations, best management practices for a variety of activities and uses, public use management, water quality management, and proposals for conservation - oriented development and subdivision designs. The plan suggests that procedures are proposed to be implemented on PG Energy lands with the cooperation of municipal planning agencies, public and private economic development and conservation management agencies.

Most important, the Land Use Committee will continue to function with support provided by PG Energy to review and monitor future land management and land use activities on the lands that are subject of this study. Land use recommendations were based on three broad general categories:

parcels with development potential; parcels with resource management potential and parcels with both development and resource management potential.

Over 28,000 acres of PG Energy lands were incorporated into the study.

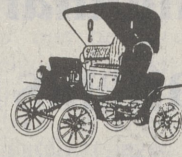
A variety of incentives and best management practices had been suggested.

PG Energy has issued a "Land Use Management Policy" that represent its willingness to seriously consider the Committee's recommendations. A key statement within this policy typifies this attitude as follows: "When considering development, the company will seek to employ current state of the art zoning alternatives designed to utilize less land while accomplishing maximum effect."

PG Energy has done a great service to the regional community by establishing a land use planning process, organizing a professional citizen committee to review and advise on the development of the land use plan, and continuing this committee as an important link to the regional community. The future of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the role the region will play in the 21st century will be dictated by the efforts being undertaken by organizations such as PG Energy.

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

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Nov. 18, 1938

JEFFERSON NICKEL IS HITTING LOCAL POCKETS

The latest addition to the coins of Uncle Sam's realm, the new "Jefferson Nickel", is its finding its way by dribbles into local pockets. First National Bank of Dallas ordered none of the nickels because it generally has more small change than it can conveniently use. Collectors learned they will have difficulty securing new nickles until the left over supply of 1938 "buffalo" nickels is put into circulation by the mints.

A warning from Harrisburg that Gov. George H. Earle will consider no one over 50 years of age as a candidate for Judge William S. McLean's vacant seat on the Luzerne County Court narrowed the race to a handful of hopefuls this week. Announcement eliminated several several highly respected, elderly attorneys who have been considered likely choices for the position and opened the way for several prominent younger lawyers who were not carefully considered up to now.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 19, 1948

THE OLD SHOE GAME GETS ITS START WITH ROTARY

In a concerted effort to bring Back Mountain Communities into closer relationships with one another the Dallas Rotary Club will sponsor a football trophy to be awarded each year to the outstanding football team in the area. The trophy will be a bronze football shoe and will be properly inscribed each year with the name of the winning team.

Members of the Dallas Parent Teachers Association chose as their project for this year at the meeting, improvement of the school playground and appointed a committee to find an ice skating rink to be used by young and old of this community. Reports show that the organization now has 127 members.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 14, 1958

STRETCHER NAMED IN MEMORY OF BERTI

Purchase of an adjustable ambulance stretcher capable of being raised to four heights to accommodate itself to almost any bed level was voted in memory of the late Nort Bertl by member of the Dallas Community Ambulance Board. The board has been considering for some time a suitable memorial for its first president and most faithful member.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ide, will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 15, with a family dinner served in Lehman Methodist Church and open house for friends and neighbors at their home on Sunday. The couple have three children and four grandchildren.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1968

KINGSTON TWP. BATTLES BAD WATER BLUES

Atty. Merton Jones newly appointed counsel to assist in the water crisis in Kingston Township announced at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors last week that the best plan of action will be to file a complaint with the PUC and he expected to do this early this week, avoiding any court injunction at this point. The complaint will be made by the supervisory board against Trucksville Water Co. designating insufficient supply as its main item.

You could get - Lancaster turkeys, 20 lbs. up, 31¢ lb.; boneless chuck roast, 65¢ lb.; sauerkraut, 2 lb. bag 25¢; fresh cranberries, 1-lb. box, 29¢; tangelos, 49¢ doz.; Bounty towels, jumbo roll, 19¢; mixed nuts, 1-lb. bag, 59¢.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 16, 1978

TEN RESIDENTS FAIL TO PAY SEWER ASSESSMENTS

At Thursday meeting the board of DAMA authorized solicitor Merton Jones to bring judgement against the owners of 10 Back Mountain properties who have failed to pay their sewer assessments. These properties will be sold at the next sheriff's sale.

Lehman Township Taxpayers will hold their regular meeting Nov. 15 at Lehman Center Fire Hall. Following a special meeting held Nov. 1, the group met with Ben Orfaly, president of Harveys Lake Tax Association to determine whether residents of Lake-Lehman School District are for or against the proposed elementary school.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
OFFICE MANAGER

Jessica Appolo
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Kylie Shafferkoetter
REPORTER

Ruth Proietto
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Olga Kostrobala
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