

EDITORIALS

# 'Tis the season . . . to think of less-fortunate neighbors

Everyone in the Back Mountain has an opportunity until Friday to show just what kind of community we are. Six sponsors have organized the third annual Back Mountain Food Drive, which will accept donations of non-perishable food until Friday, Nov. 20.

The drive grew from a desire to fill the shelves at the Back Mountain Food Bank, which were perilously bare just before Thanksgiving in 1996. After an article describing the food bank's plight appeared in *The Dallas Post*, the Dallas High School Student Council and other groups responded with a rapid and successful drive that filled the bank to capacity within a week. Since then, food drive participants have vowed never to let the shelves become empty again, and the collection is bigger and better organized than ever.

There are now three convenient dropoff points; Dallas High School, Back Mountain Harvest Assembly and Grange National Bank, so it's easy for most people to stop by with canned goods, boxes of cereal and other important, inexpensive, nutritious items. The food bank is administered by the Trucksville United Methodist Church, and is a supplier of last resort for people who have met with misfortune or are simply down on their luck. There have also been benefactors in past years who supplied the means to provide holiday meals for those unable to do so for themselves.

It's true that one measure of a society is how those who enjoy abundance treat those who do not. There is certainly plenty of evidence of good fortune in the Back Mountain. It is our fond hope that some of it will be shared with those in need, and this food drive is a great opportunity to do so.

# Pity poor Berwick, where winners can be losers

You've probably heard stories about a little burg with nothing much to be proud of except a high school sports team, a place where winning on the field supplants pride in more meaningful and humane activities. Perhaps you thought this was just another urban rumor, like the otherwise pristine Corvette that can be bought for \$500 because the stench of a dead body that was found in it can't be removed from the fiberglass body. But, after Dallas High School's game against Berwick Saturday, it's our duty to report the story about the pathetic townspeople may be all too true.

The Mountaineers, always a potent force in local football, visited Crispin Field, home of the Berwick Bulldogs for the first time Saturday. No one really gave Dallas much of a chance, and the "Dawgs" had their day, winning 42-13, not an unusual score for a Berwick game. But Dallas played hard all the way, and the players and coaches could hold their heads high as they left the field.

It would be nice to say the same for Berwick head coach George Curry and the Bulldogs' fans, but we can't. Not when the fans, who apparently gain some perverse satisfaction from sitting on their behinds watching a winning football team, go out of their way to taunt and harass visitors, and Curry, supposedly a great mentor, stalks off the field without meeting Dallas coach Ted Jackson for the traditional post-game handshake at midfield.

It would be natural to feel angry at Berwick fans and its coach for their behavior. But really, there is nothing to feel but pity for the town and its people, too many of whom place a questionable high school football program before common human decency and sportsmanship. For them, winning on the football field is apparently the only thing. Unfortunately, that attitude makes them losers when the final whistle blows.

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**State Representative Phyllis Mundy (D)**  
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## The Dallas Post

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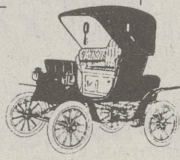
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## ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - Nov. 25, 1938 DALLAS BOROUGH NAMES NEW POLICE CHIEF

Aside from its announced intention of taking some action to relieve the serious water shortage in Dallas, Dallas Borough Council is expected to name a new chief of police tonight. The post has been vacant since the death of Chief Leonard O'Kane, a month ago. A flood of applications have been filed with the councilmen.

With industrial recovery gaining ground in many sections of the state, an optimistic outlook was expressed this week by a number of local businessmen and a Chamber of Commerce official. A slow but stable rise in business conditions is generally predicted because of the belief that the new Republican Administration will provide a sound base for commercial and industrial improvement. Favorable legislation and more equitable taxation will give business impetus towards recovery.

### 50 Years Ago - Nov. 26, 1948 \$100,000 NATONA MILLS BUILDING ALMOST FINISHED

The \$100,000 home building project of Natona Mills is rapidly nearing completion. Doug Kulp, contractor said that just 10 weeks from start of construction, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vanderhook, formerly of Rhode Island, moved into their new home this week.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. and Auxiliary will hold a joint meeting tonight at the hose house to discuss purchase of a resuscitator. Various demonstrations have been given by Emerson and Stevenson companies in the operations and recognizing the need for equipment of this type in this area. Firemen are making plans to obtain one. Cost of unit is \$365.50 including apparatus and tanks for working on two people at the same time.

### 40 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1958 MAN DIES AT WHEEL, 80-YEAR-OLD PREVENTS CRASH

Quick action on the part of a man nearing 80, averted what might have been a major traffic accident at Harris Hill intersection in Trucksville Wednesday morning when he wrenched the steering wheel from his son-in-law's dead hand and brought a

heavily laden coal truck safely to rest at the side of the highway. Dying instantly at the wheel from a sudden heart attack, Bly Porter, 55, of Canton, was taken to Disque Funeral Home after Dr. Michael Bucan had ascertained the cause of death. Irving Knapp, also of Canton, Porter's father-in-law, assisting in hauling a load of coal was deeply shocked by his death but equal to the emergency.

You could get - Center cut pork chops, 79¢ lb.; rump roast, 98¢ lb.; pascal celery, 2 lg. stalks, 25¢; Ocean Spray Cranberry sauce, 2 15-oz. cans, 43¢; sharp cheese, 8-oz. pkg, 29¢.

### 30 Years Ago - Nov. 28, 1968 STUDENTS TO BE PICKED UP IN BAD WEATHER

Several complaints were solved during the past week when Dallas School Directors adjusted some bus troubles. Parents had requested that children who waited at corner of Harris Hill Rd. and Oak Street be picked up in stormy weather. This will be done except when the hill is slippery and presents too great a hazard to those already aboard.

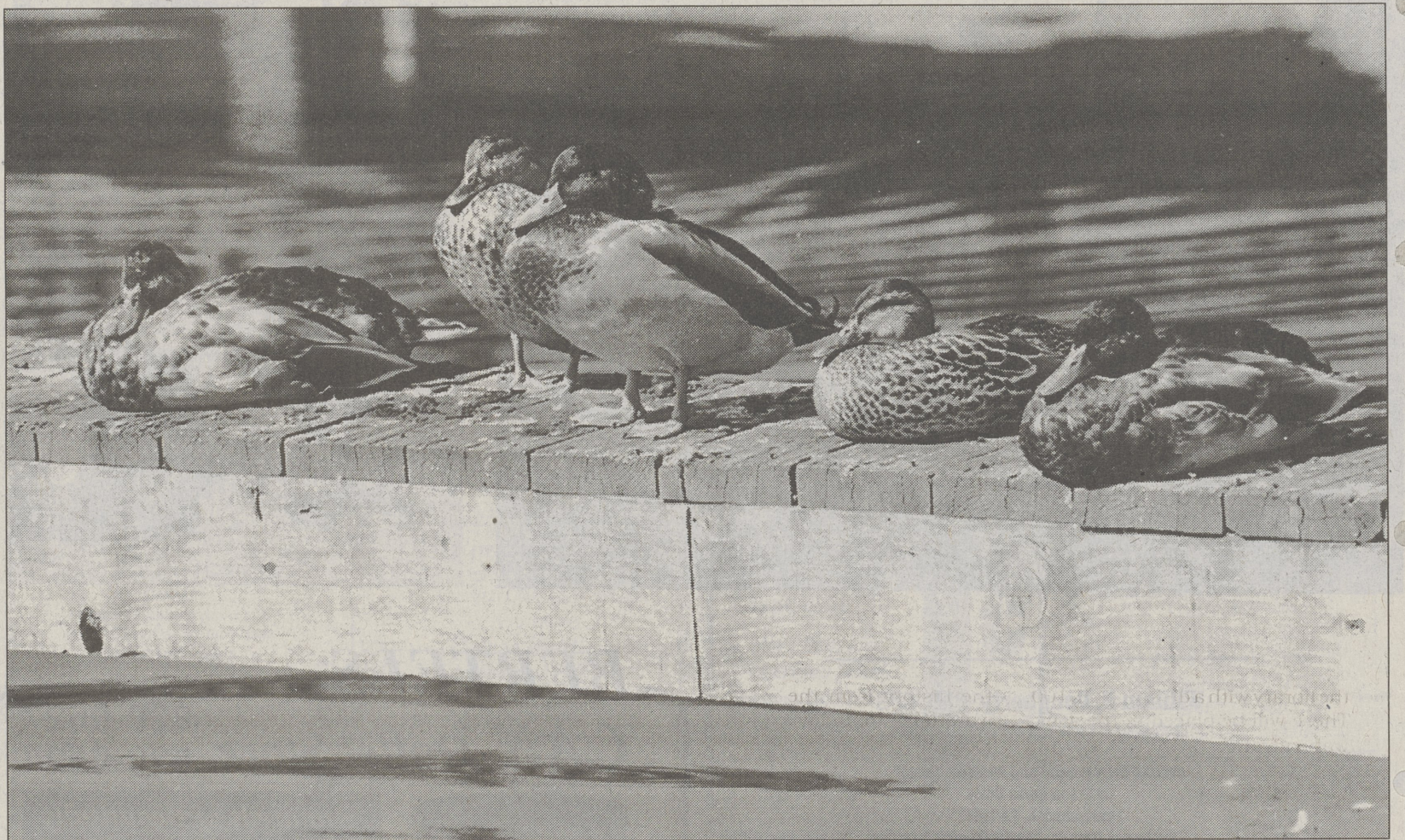
"For Years of Faithful Service to the Community" reads the plaque for 1968 Citizen Award. The plaque was presented to the Staff of the Post Wednesday evening at

the annual Joint Service Club Dinner. It was received by Mrs. T.M. Hicks, who was caught off center, her pencil poised in mid-air when Leo Corbett, president of the host Kiwanis Club made the announcement.

### 20 Years Ago Nov. 23, 1978 OLD SCHOOL BELL TO STAY IN NEW BUILDING

Lake-Lehman School District Solicitor Charles Lemmond delivered the deed to the Noxen School Building to Harold Bennett, chairman of the Noxen Board of Supervisors at the school board meeting. All school property with the exception of the bell has been removed from the building. The bell will be placed in the new Lake-Noxen building upon completion as a memento of the old Noxen School.

There will be no increase in taxes for Dallas Township residents in 1979 according to a tentative budget prepared by supervisors Monday evening. The amount set for financing the township needs is \$389,000 an increase of \$50,000 over the '78 needs. Revenue for the budget will come from taxes, approximately \$242,000, and from other sources such as Federal and State revenues.



All your ducks in a row. Photo by Charlotte Bartzek.

## LETTERS

# Lake-Lehman band should be proud of accomplishments

To the Award Winning Lake-Lehman Marching Knights Band, This is a letter to congratulate you on such a successful season. There is no more dedicated group of students and instructors that deserve such praise. From early June when everyone is enjoying summer vacation, you are there at the school, learning and practicing for your big show. From

that time until November, you give 100% and it is recognized. You finished up your competition season with a 2nd place win. How great, maybe it is not 1st, place, but you are the best in nine states, not just Pennsylvania. I do not think you know how good you are. You are at the top. Your big worry is whether you will be in 1st or 2nd place. You have never

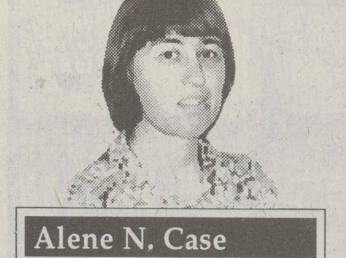
fallen below that. You have pressures on you no one understands, but other musicians in your shoes. When you leave a place of competition, you always leave in the same style, heads up, in formation following your award winning drum major until you reach your buses. You are a band with class, even this weekend the 1st place winners stood back and com-

mented how you are the classiest band going, and they clapped for you! Keep up the good work, this entire community are proud of you (band members and instructors).

Take some time off and relax, you deserve it...until next year!

Tom Miller  
Trucksville

## A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

The other morning I was shuffling through fallen leaves filling our three bird feeders with seeds. It was obvious that winter was just around the corner, if not yet on the calendar, at least judging by the weather. And, I paused to reflect on the many treasured memories this autumn has held for me.

There was the day I drove alone toward Albany New York to visit my elderly parents. Somewhere between Oneonta and Cobleskill, I noticed some movement in the grassy ditch alongside the interstate. Before I had time to react, a large raptor lifted itself and began to fly slowly in front of my car. As I applied the brakes to avoid hitting this magnificent bird, it turned to reveal a broad red tail. Perhaps it had just finished dining on a mouse and was feeling lazy, but this adult red-tailed hawk never got more than 10 feet above

# Low flying hawks and other joys of nature

the ground as it crossed the highway and disappeared into the woods on the other side.

Sometimes autumn memories are made in the company of others. The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust sponsored a walk at the Seven Tubs Nature Area off of Rt. 115 last month. The leaves had just begun to turn and the day was cloudy and drizzly. However, our guide was describing things much more basic than plants or weather.

Dr. Sid Halsor is a geologist at Wilkes University and he tried to help us understand that the processes that make our region so beautiful have been working for millions of years. We could clearly see that powerful forces had caused ancient bedrock to tilt (you've seen the effects as rock slides along I-81) and fold, creating the ridge and valley formations so common in eastern Pennsylvania.

Although most of our group had lived in the valley for many years, few of us had actually visited this wonderful little park before. The Tubs are a series of potholes carved in the rocks through which Wheelbarrow Run flows just before it meets Laurel Run. The potholes are thousands of years old (post-dating the last

glacier to cover this area) and there is considerable controversy as to how they formed. But, there is nothing controversial about the beauty and wildness of this short section of stream. The sound of water plunging into deep pools and the sight of black oaks and hemlocks clinging to the steep slopes in thin soils made me want to return many times in the future.

Late on a Sunday afternoon in October, my husband and I went for a drive out toward Shickshinny. We came home along the road from Muhlenburg Corners to Route 11 north along the river. Let me quote from my journal: "The sun (which had not been out all day) was setting in a clear slit in the west. The hills to the east were bathed in color and light so as to defy description. Some looked golden - like Midas had drawn his finger along the very tops of the trees - and some looked more like glowing amber. Every time we'd think the display was over, we'd drive a little further and see an even more spectacular view. The weird part was that, although we were tempted to find a place to pull off the road and sit in one place, it really was more impressive because we were moving."

Just last week, we drove out

past Harveys Lake toward Beaumont. As we passed a lovely pond, we noticed that the "ducks" on it this time were not the usual mallards or Canada geese that we had seen there in the past. A small flock of Buffleheads had decided that they would rest there on their way south for the winter. More than a dozen males, females and juveniles dipped gracefully underwater to feed. As they surfaced, they often spread their white and black wings. We stopped to watch for several minutes, not needing either binoculars or bird book to enjoy the surprising display.

I am sure you have your own treasured memories of this fall season. Maybe you shared these experiences with friends or family. Maybe you enjoyed them by yourself. We all need to remind ourselves of the wonders of nature and to connect as often as possible with the Earth. Otherwise, our conservation efforts become just that - an effort - instead of the joy that good hard work should bring. I, personally, am looking forward to Monday night when I hear there will be a large meteor "storm" as our planet passes through some leftover comet debris.

What will be your next cherished memory?