

EDITORIALS

Thanks, and a challenge to those who serve

Local school boards and municipal governments are seating new members this month and electing new leaders. While it's fashionable (and sometimes even a little fun) to criticize anyone and everyone in government, this is a good time to recognize the important contributions these men and women make to the betterment of our communities.

Conscientious elected local officials are financially compensated for only a fraction of the time and effort they put into their positions. We tend to think of them as people who sit at a meeting table once or twice a month, but there is far more to their jobs than that. The good ones — and most of them fit this category — spend hours each month reviewing documents, visiting sites in their areas and researching matters that come before them. They hold ultimate responsibility for our schools and roads, our parks and police, and take that task on because of a personal commitment to public service. Unfortunately, the only time many of them get any special attention for the effort is when something goes wrong, or a controversy arises. Then the television crews and daily paper reporters flock into town with eyes peeled for dissension and strife, missing the overwhelming majority of time things run smoothly.

We wish the best to new and incumbent officials alike, and hope they have the desire and courage to fix what is broken and the wisdom to know when to keep hands off.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Attention advertisers - don't waste your money on television. Ignore what that salesman in the cheap suit tells you about "reach, frequency and pairs of eyes." It's not true — his bosses say so.

I know this because whenever the suggestion is made that children who watch thousands of people being beat up, thrown from roofs and shot dead may be just the slightest bit affected by what they see on the boob tube, the network honchos react with horror at such wild speculation. But when they call on potential advertisers, there's not a doubt in their minds about how effective television is at persuading people to buy more potato chips or Internet stocks. I don't think Super Bowl advertisers are forking over millions for a minute of our time and not expecting to influence us.

Of course, I could be wrong. It wouldn't be the first time (I mean in the past hour). Perhaps, like executives of tobacco companies, who swore under oath they hadn't the faintest idea that smoking was addictive, the folks who give us kickboxing heroes and the WWF are shocked. . . shocked that anyone might think they would knowingly air shows that could appeal to our base instincts. Besides, they're just giving us what we asked for, right? Well, not really. Cable has certainly added variety to our viewing choices — now we can see dangerous weather or crazy car chases on five or six channels — but it's not as if we screamed in unison for more blood and gore. However, the people who watch the most television, unemployed housewives in curlers, apparently vote for this stuff, along with soap opera-like prime time shows whose theme is Sex, Sex, Sex. I don't have anything against that either, except that the portrayals are right out of middle school students' daydreams.

Anyhow, the next time your son's classmate body slams him on the playground, or when your teenage daughter starts trying to look like Buffy, don't think it's because of television. It's probably your fault.

About letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published on a single subject during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



Frosty in two dimensions. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Jones bids farewell, and says thanks to all

Editor:
As the last few weeks of this administration nears, allow me to thank the people of Luzerne County for their trust and support in giving me four years as a Luzerne County Commissioner. My sincerest appreciation to Luzerne County employees who work hard each day to do the public's work and uphold its trust. Also, my gratitude to the news media, who must daily balance fairness and accuracy and not abandon its principles for the sale of circulation and ratings. To my family and friends, simply, thank you, you know how much I value your support.



JOSEPH "RED" JONES

Four years ago, I promised "Progress Not Politics" and hope that this administration's accomplishments reflect that the goal was achieved. During the last four years, the Wyoming Valley Levee Project finally got underway, approximately 25 years after it was initially proposed. Arguably the most important and historic partnership project ever in Luzerne County, when completed it will provide a safer, more economically-attractive region.

In mid-June 1998, Luzerne County Enhanced 9-1-1 went on

line. The Emergency Communications Center operates continuously on a 24-hour, seven day a week basis and is staffed by over 50 trained telecommunicators. Simply put, Luzerne County is safer because 9-1-1 saves lives.

There was continued expansion at Luzerne County Community College, where quality, affordable education is offered to the young and the young at heart. In June 1996, a \$21 million campus renovation effort commenced, including the now open three-story Campus Center. I suggest that if you have not seen the wonderful campus in Nanticoke, take time to do so. It is truly a crown jewel in education.

There's so much more I could talk about. Creation of the Tourist Promotion Agency, a new parking garage to better serve those who use the courthouse, a County Greenways Initiative, the creation of a Farmland Preservation Study Commission, a new Voter Services Inspection Board to ensure ballot count integrity, enhancement of services at our Hazleton Annex, computers for our library system, new busses, creation of the Children's Alliance and aggressive economic development including the Keystone Opportunity Zones initiative. Note that each of these projects or programs helps develop a safer community, a better quality of life or a more attractive economic development

climate. And, yes, the magnificent Luzerne County Arena, opened its doors last month. It will for decades be a cornerstone for tourism and a beacon to a better way of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Much like the community college, if you haven't seen it yet, take the time and do so. It is a building all of Northeastern Pennsylvania can point to with pride.

These programs and projects were started or completed because of your trust and support. You gave me four years and my only hope is that the time was utilized to enhance the quality of life in Luzerne County. Remember my goal: that Luzerne County residents would be better off today than they were four years ago. That is what was meant by "Progress Not Politics." I will let the record speak for itself.

In closing, I am most thankful for having had the opportunity to serve. For having had interaction with good citizens, who share the same vision of a better of Luzerne County. For the friendships that were established. For the work that was accomplished and the services which were enhanced.

To my colleagues, Tom Makowski and Frank Crossin, it was a pleasure to work with you. To the people of Luzerne County, it was an honor to serve you.

Joseph "Red" Jones
Commissioner

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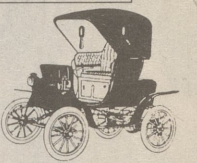
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Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

ONLY YESTERDAY



**70 Years Ago - Dec. 14, 1929
MODERN HARDWARE STORE
WILL OPEN IN DALLAS**

An announcement was made this week that W. B. Risley of Noxen and Stuart Major of Kingston have purchased the bankrupt stock of hardware of the former Dallas Hardware and Supply Co. and will open a thoroughly modern hardware and farm supply store in Dallas. The sale of stock which does not include the present building was made at the offices of the referee of bankruptcy in Wilkes-Barre.

Talking motion pictures will soon be heard in Dallas. Wesley Himmler, owner of Himmler Theatre placed an order with Vitaphone Corp. this week for one of its latest and most modern theatre talking equipments.

**60 Years Ago - Dec. 15, 1939
MRS. MABEL ALLEN STANG
DIES AT HOME**

A daughter of a man who was born while George Washington was president, Mrs. Mabel Allen Stang, 82, died Tuesday evening at her home on Shagbark Drive in Shavertown. Seldom does the span of two lives stretch over such a historic period as that which was included in the generations represented by Mrs. Stang and her father Augustus Allen. Mr. Allen was born Oct. 29, 1796 while Washington was president. His life and the life of his daughter covered the terms of all the presidents of the United States.

**50 Years Ago - Dec. 15, 1949
NEW WATER PUMP HELPS
FIRE CO. BATTLE BLAZES**

There will be an important meeting of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. for nomination of officers. At the same time the company will purchase a new auxiliary pump to be used in areas where the only source of water supply is a stream or a spring. A pump of this sort would have been of invaluable service at the recent Pauling fire in Parrish Heights. Placed at the source of supply the pump will furnish water for the truck booster tank. The company will also purchase two flood lights with a 1,000 watt generator and 150 ft. of coiled wire on a reel. These lights will provide illumination for night fire fighting and or accident and disaster work.

**40 Years Ago - Dec. 17, 1959
GATE OF HEAVEN REACHES
OUT TO SCHOOL IN NEED**

As a neighborly gesture and to assist a parish that has suffered severe financial loss through recent mine subsidence in Forty Fort, Gate of Heaven Parent Teachers Guild will repeat its successful minstrel High Pockets and Crackerjacks in Forty Fort High School auditorium for the benefit of Holy Name of Jesus School. Funds raised from the minstrel will go toward repairs to the damaged school which amount to approximately \$50,000.

You could get - Turkeys, 49¢ lb.; butt half hams, 69¢ lb.; sweet potatoes, 3 lbs., 19¢; Ocean Spray cranberry sauce, 2 lg. cans, 55¢; Breyers Ice Cream, 1/2 gal. \$1.00.

**30 Years Ago - Dec. 18, 1969
NEW ACME MARKET TO
OPEN IN DALLAS**

Acme Market, long a Dallas landmark will have a new home this summer when work is completed on the huge new market now under construction at the corner of Church and Foster Streets, Dallas. The market will be built on property previously owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Culver and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Culver as well as on the ground where the old Ben Franklin Five & Dime Store and now defunct Harveys Lake Light Co. presently stands. The new market will house a delicatessen, as well as a complete selection of gourmet foods.

**20 Years Ago - Dec. 13, 1979
LEHMAN BUDGET INCLUDES
TWO MILL INCREASE**

Lehman Township supervisors passed a proposed budget of \$152,497 for 1980 at their meeting Monday evening. Proposed budget for 1980 shows an increase of \$16,178 over 1979 budget of \$136,178. It includes a two mill increase over nine mills of 1979 which is expected to be used for purchase and repair of fire department equipment for the township's three fire companies.

The Dallas Post helps you feel at home in the Back Mountain

The Dallas Post

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