

EDITORIALS

Citizens stiffed by Lake Twp. supervisors

The 100 or so residents of Lake Township who showed up for a July 19 special meeting with the ostensible aim of discussing retention of the township police force were instead greeted by a board that came not to listen but to act. After about an hour of public comment, during which residents offered credible suggestions on how to keep the department going, David Walkowiak, supervisor chairman, moved to disband the force. A unanimous vote followed, the deed was done, and after July 31 township residents will be calling the state police in Wyoming, 20 miles away, when they hear or see something that threatens them. Neighboring departments can and will respond if asked, but only as backup to the state police.

With a year-round population of less than 2,000, it's clearly a fiscal balancing act for Lake Township to maintain a viable police force. But it's naive to think this decision came about solely because of sudden changes in the township budget. In its last two budget years, Lake Township saw revenues rise by more than \$101,000, or 30 percent. Spending went up as well, and police spending was \$30,000 more in 2000 than 1999. Spending on highways, though, nearly doubled from \$111,434 to \$207,173, and the supervisors contend they need the police department's money to spend even more on roads. Walkowiak and his fellow supervisors didn't seem to want to talk about these details, or about the possibility of raising taxes, which have been the same since 1972, saying both topics were too complicated to get into.

Some observers see something else in the move, an attempt to short circuit bargaining for a labor contract with the township's officers. Police Chief John Maslowski thinks that's the case, and the other full-time officer claims he was told weeks ago that he wouldn't have a job. This would have been the first time the department was represented by the Fraternal Order of Police.

The people of Lake Township deserve a better explanation and complete justification for an action that carries such important consequences. Supervisor Walkowiak insults their intellect when he says the details are too complex, and he underestimates their desire for local police protection.

Lake Township's citizens deserved to have more of a voice in this decision, and to have their concerns taken seriously. Unfortunately, by the time they have an opportunity to express their feelings at the polls, the damage will have been done.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Some officials in Washington DC apparently have decided to confirm in brick and mortar what we've often suspected - national institutions really are for sale. You might be surprised to hear that it's not Congress or the White House doing the selling, it's the Smithsonian Institution, our national museum. A story came out last week reporting that the Smithsonian was about to accept a \$10 million donation from General Motors Corporation, in exchange for which a new hall of transportation would carry the company's name. Not to worry, assured Dr. Spencer Crew, the museum's director, G.M would have absolutely no say in the content of the exhibit. Boy am I relieved; it would be embarrassing to have visitors to our nation's capital viewing a display of overturned Corvairs and exploding pickup trucks!

This announcement follows on the heels of the May release that the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation had offered the Smithsonian \$38 million to be used for construction of a hall of American achievers. The donor has suggested Martha Stewart and Oprah Winfrey as suitable candidates, although again, the Smithsonian assures us that it alone will decide who deserves inclusion. Or maybe they'll get \$1 million less for each of the sponsor's picks they leave out.

These two incidents immediately bring to mind other potential sponsors and exhibits, such as a hall of plumbing, sponsored by Roto-Rooter or a hall of animated animal films, sponsored by Disney and Alpo. Don't laugh; in 1992 the Museum of Natural History renovated its Insect Zoo using a \$500,000 donation from the Orkin Pest Control Company. It is now named the O. Orkin Insect Zoo, a bow to the company's founder. I'd say they got quite a deal, judging by the inflation in sponsorships since then.

The real money, of course, is yet to be made. When Congress starts selling naming rights to the Capitol and the President hangs a neon "Alcoa" sign over the front portico, the tab will make Ms. Reynolds look like a piker. Thankfully we haven't reached that point - our politicians may be for sale, but they haven't taken to advertising the fact - yet.



Display of patriotism over Harveys Lake. Photo by Heather B. Jones.



Carol King

The summer series of children's programs, "Animal Odyssey...make tracks to the Back Mountain Memorial Library!" continues with "Reptile Land and the Animals of the Tropical Rain Forest" on Friday, July 27, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Saxton Pavilion, Northampton St., Edwardsville. Registrations may be made through tomorrow, July 26, at the library. Call 675-1182.

On Tuesday, August 7, the next program will be "Birds!" It will take place at the library from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call the library between July 30 and August 3 for reservations. The final Animal Odyssey event will be a party on Friday, Aug. 10, between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. at the library. Please make reservations between August 2 and 8.

The Friends organization of



70 Years Ago - July 24, 1931

STATE TO OIL 31 MILES OF ROAD

Thirty-one miles of State roads in Luzerne County will be oiled for the first time starting Saturday, according to announcement by J.I. Gold, who is in charge of the State Highways in the county. The oil will be laid by a 1,000 gallon distributor to 16 miles of State Highway Route 171 from Harvey's Lake to Red Rock; the 10 miles on Route 369 from Lake Silkworth to pike's Creek; the 5 miles on 361 from Wolfe Corners to Mooretown School House. Anthracite male Chorus at Irem Country Club gave an enjoyable performance which was enjoyed by several hundred persons. John Williams, director, was in charge. David John Williams, conductor, accompanied the soloists at the piano. Walter H. Beynon, pianist, accompanied the male chorus. At the American Stores Co., some of the items you could get were: Shoe Peg Corn, 3 cans, 25¢; Deep Sea Lobster, can 171/2¢; jelly glasses, doz., 39 ¢; jar rings, 4 doz., 25¢; evaporated milk, can, 22¢; big can of tomatoes, 10¢.

60 Years Ago - July 25, 1941

NEW PRINCIPAL APPOINTED FOR DALLAS TOWNSHIP

A new supervising principal for Dallas Township High School, fill-

Children's summer programs continue

the Back Mountain Memorial Library announces that it is again possible to order an engraved brick that will be placed at the library entrance. The cost is \$100 per brick. The duration of this offering is limited. Stop by the library to pick up an order form.

The Slightly Read Bookshop is closed until after Labor Day. The \$1-a-Bag Book Room is open.

The Monday evening book discussion group met and discussed the book, "Plain Truth," by Jodi Picoult. Pam Oliveira sent the following report: "It is a story about an Amish girl accused of murdering her newborn. The story took many twists and turns and came out with an ending that no one saw coming and had us talking about for a long time! Many of us had read (and loved) her previous book, "The Pact," and this book lived up to all of our expectations. We recommend it to everyone. It has great lessons about the world of 'plain' living and the ghosts that we all confront in our lives."

The next book is "Little Women," by Louisa May Alcott, for the meeting on Monday, Aug.



"Donuts and Discussion" group meet at library - The most recent meeting of the "D and D" group of 9 to 12-year-olds met last week to discuss "Jacob Have I Loved," by Katherine Paterson. Seated, left to right, are Janet Bauman, children's library assistant; Lauren Kelly, Katie Gilligan, Hannah Grube, Mallory Kern, and Lauren Yurko. Standing are Kevin Price, Molly Gilligan, and Tom Henick.

6, at 7 p.m. at Little Nicky's. As always, anyone is welcome, whether or not they have read the book.

A new collection of dolls awaits your inspection in the library's display case.

Drive-In Theatre, some of the movies that showed were: "The Showdown", starring William Elliott, Walter Brennan, Marie Windsor, Henry Morgan; "Born To Be Bad" with Joan Fontaine, Robert Ryan, Zachary Scott; "Abilene Town", starring Randolph Scott, Ann Dvorak, Edgar Buchanan; "The Outlaw" with Jane Russell, Jack Buetel, Walter Huston.

DALLAS ROTARY INVITES APPLICANTS FOR YEAR OF GRADUATE STUDY ABROAD

Dallas Rotary Club has an opportunity to nominate for a "Rotary Foundation Fellowship for International Understanding" a qualified college graduate or graduate student, for one year of advanced study overseas. David Vann, a graduate of Westmoreland High School and Wilkes College, recently studied in South Africa under a Rotary Foundation Fellowship. Ann Wills, a student in Sister Miriam's class at College Misericordia has been named a winner in TIME magazine's 25th annual Current Affairs Contest. TIME's Current Affairs Test, was given to more than 150,000 college and high school students in the U.S. and Canada, and consists of 100 questions on national and foreign affairs. Clifton Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewellyn Williams, Dallas, is serving his two years active duty in the US naval Reserves on the USS Topeka. Cliff is a graduate of Westmoreland, class of '59.

30 Years Ago - July 29, 1971

IDETOWN HORSE SHOW SCHEDULES 66 CLASSES

This year the J.R. Davis Fire company will hold its annual horse show at the Lehman Show

Grounds featuring 66 classes which will include six different walking horse classes. The North-eastern Pennsylvania Ripcord Diving team will make two jumps each day. The Back Mountain were eliminated from competition when they were defeated by scores of 3-2 on their home field of Dallas, and 4-2 at Plains by the Plains' nine. Despite the losses, the boys played good defensive and offensive. Coaches were R. Monk, L. Reese, and Dave Zimmerman, manager. Navy Airman Apprentice Anthony R. Yurksis, son of Anthony Yurksis of Shavertown, was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Fla. He is a 1969 graduate of Dallas High School.

20 Years Ago - July 15, 1981

DALLAS WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

The Community Church of Dallas welcomed into its fold Pastor Fred I. Clifford on July 3. Pastor Clifford, his wife Irene and children Freddie, Eddie, and Rebecca, come to Dallas from Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he pastored for eight years.

The Dallas Recreation Center recently hosted a Western Night on the grounds. Approximately 90 children and some parents participated in square dancing with caller Cindy Lefko. Jim Richardson took the children on hayrides around Huntsville Dam, while other children bobbed for apples, tossed horseshoes and toasting for hotdogs and marshmallows.

Dr. Joseph R. Fink, President of College Misericordia, announced the appointment of Dr. James J. Pallante as academic dean of the College. Dr. Pallante succeeds Sister Marie Dolores Moore, RSM in that position.

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