

## EDITORIALS

## Give county government reform a chance

A group of people dedicated to the principles of American democracy are trying mightily to give citizens a chance to reform Luzerne County government. There is no need to list here the deficiencies of the present system; they have been well-documented elsewhere. And it has become abundantly clear that no amount of exposure will convince the people who control this corrupt, wasteful structure to improve it.

A petition drive that, if successful, would allow the creation of a committee to study alternatives is winding down in a few days. We can't imagine any good reason not to give voters the opportunity to make their feelings known about such a study. While the minimum number of signatures has been reached, the more people sign on, the more compelling the case becomes to put this question on the ballot in November.

If you haven't already signed a petition, and you think voters should have more to say about county government, try to get your name on paper before the August 28 deadline. Then be sure to vote in November.

## Student commitments off the field

Sports come to mind when most people think of extra-curricular activities for high school students. After all, there will soon be daily news coverage of football and to a lesser extent soccer, field hockey and other "minor" sports. If they're really good, golfers and tennis players may get their 15 minutes of fame. But even if all the sports were covered well, an enormous number of students would be left out. They're the ones who march in the band, put on the plays, work on special projects and participate in innumerable other activities that enrich their educational experience and those of others. And, curiously, it's those interests that are likely to stay with students throughout life, and give them an edge when it comes time for college and the working world.

The next time you're planning to run for a hot dog at half-time, think again, and perhaps you'll choose to stay in your seat and watch the music program. Or, keep an eye out for the school play announcement, or History Day, or engineering competition. You might discover a whole new group of students who don't get weekly headlines, just satisfaction at learning and growing. What more could we ask of them?

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



My family just returned from vacation hotspots, and I'm armed with inspired thoughts about how to turn the Back Mountain into a destination that will attract thousands of oohing-and-ahing visitors — and their pocketbooks.

We were on Martha's Vineyard, off the Massachusetts coast and then made a brief stopover in Providence, which no one outside New England had ever heard of until the television show of the same name. Along the way we saw a number of attractions that could be easily replicated — or at least imitated sufficiently to convince passers-by to swing off I-81 for a day trip or more. Who knows, with the right promotion, we might soon be home to multi-million dollar vacation homes and hordes of moped-riding tourists.

Martha's Vineyard, being an island, has beaches. But hey, we've got Harveys Lake, the largest natural lake in PA; there must be some promotional value in that. What the lake doesn't have is waves, but there are machines that can raise a swell of any desired size, and with a little imagination visitors can feel as if they're sunbathing on the Riviera. And, a big plus, there are no sharks in the lake as far as I know.

The vineyard also has picturesque lanes that wind past cute little cottages and quaint shops. If we change local zoning laws to allow construction on 1/10 acre lots, we can fill up every available square inch of real estate in no time to offer the same experience, but at a very big discount compared to a place where a cup of soup goes for \$5.95. Come on, what would you rather have at lunch, an overpriced sesame flavored hunk of some fish you can't pronounce the name of, or a plateful of Jones's potato pancakes? No contest.

Providence offers other lessons, which may be more applicable to Wilkes-Barre than to the Back Mountain. (Or, "the Mountain," as we would become known.) But, given the shared political philosophies and principles, I think we could adapt their winning formula. I noticed that half the streets in Providence seemed to be under repair and vacant buildings were as common as pigeons, so there's not much difference there. And, Providence has a riverfront. Theirs, however, is thriving, with walkways and trendy eating places, even gondola rides. No reason why the Susquehanna can't be made just as attractive. And we have an advantage; one of the most popular attractions in Providence is "Waterfire," which takes place when gas torches situated in the river are set alight. My son is eager to show me how to do the same thing by spreading lighter fluid on the surface of Toby's Creek and tossing in a match, but I'm wondering if acid mine drainage might work just as well, and it's free! Rep. Kanjorski, take a note; burning off the acid may clean up the river while drawing visitors with cash burning holes in their pockets, so to speak.



Colorful sights of summer. Photo by Heather B. Jones

## Back Mountain Memorial Library adds new books

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

## FICTION

"The Woman next Door" by Barbara Delinsky  
 "The Perfect Family" by Patricia Potter  
 "Betrayal in Death" by J.D. Robb  
 "Justice: Crimes, Trials, and

Punishments" by Dominick Dunne  
 "Mutant" by Peter Clement, M.D.  
 "The Bishop and the Beggar Girl of St. Germain" by Andrew M. Greeley  
 "Shades of Justice" by Fredrick D. Huebner  
 "French Lessons" by Peter Mayle  
 "Any Way the Wind Blows" by E. Lynn Harris  
 "Among the Missing" by Dan Chaon

"Aztec Blood" by Gary Jennings  
 "What You Owe Me" by Bebe Moore Campbell

## REFERENCE

"The Complete Learning Disabilities Directory"  
 "The Film Encyclopedia" by Ephraim Katz

## BIOGRAPHY

"At Home in the Heart of Ap-

palachia" by John O'Brien  
 "Stolen Lives: twenty years in a desert jail" by Malika Oufkir

## FICTION

"The Program" by Stephen Walsh White  
 "The Reaper" by Peter Lovesay

## YOUNG ADULT

"Beware, Princess Elizabeth" by Carolyn Meyer



Years Ago - August 21, 1931

## WORK STARTED ON FUNERAL CHAPEL

A.C. Kelly, prominent funeral director of Trucksville, is constructing a combined chapel and morgue. Mr. Kelly is modeling his building after a similar institution, which has a Spanish design similar to one in California. The chapel will accommodate 160 persons.

Shavertown firemen have completed plans for their first annual bazaar to be held at Shavertown school house grounds. With many people out of work and unable to meet present taxes, the firemen decided to hold this event to raise the funds for the dues needed.

William Price of Dallas has purchased the interest of Raymond Farver in the Long & Farver store on Parrish Heights and now the store will be known as Long & Price; Mr. Price has been a resident of Dallas the past four years.

60 Years Ago - August 22, 1941

## THREE RESCUED FROM HARVEY'S LAKE WATERS

Three people were saved from the rain and waters of Harvey's

Only Yesterday is taken from the files of The Dallas Post, which reach back as far as 1929.

Lake by Patrolman Fred Swanson and John Hanson, lake restaurant owner, who came to their aid in motor boats. A sailboat occupied by Celia Price and William Landarcher of Harvey's Lake and Louis Carney of New York capsized during the severe storm and were clinging to the boat until rescuers arrived.

Predicting that the new Dallas-Harvey's Lake boulevard will be paved as far as Castle Inn before winter sets in, road Superintendent William Butler of the Central Pennsylvania Construction Company gained permission to close Machell Avenue to traffic until the bridge at the foot of the street has been completed.

Rev. Charles Henry Frick of Forty Fort, pastor of Huntsville Christian Church and now serving as chaplain with the 109th Field Artillery at Indiantown Gap, has been promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel.

50 Years Ago - August 24, 1951

## WORK PROGRESSES LEHMAN-JACKSON ON SCHEDULE

Three classrooms at Lehman-Jackson School, located in the old gymnasium, will be ready for occupancy by September 10. Installation of sound-proofing tiles in the ceilings is under way, and fluorescent lighting ready to install. Fire escapes for the grade school building are now being installed. Walls for the immense gymnasium are going up.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mead, Lehman-Idetown Road, next to Idetown Church, was damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars by smoke and fire caused by flames from an oil stove. The fire started when a pan of water boiled over on the two-burner stove causing flames to shoot to the ceiling.

Bobby Rice, Orchard Farms, Dallas, and Roy Evarts, Lehman, attended 4-H Club Week at State College, part of a group of 1100 boys and girls from all over Pennsylvania. Bobby and Roy are members of Luzerne County Dairy Judging Team.

40 Years Ago - August 24, 1961

## MARCHING UNITS BRING HOME HONORS FROM V-J DAY PARADE

Key Club Rifle Team took first place, Keyettes second place, Dallas Junior High School drill team third, in competition at Norwich, N.Y. where they took part in the Annual V-J Day parade.

Herbert A. Smith Jr., Dallas, owner of H.A. Smith painting and Decorating Contracts, has accepted the chairmanship of the Building and Construction Division of the 1962 Torch Campaign of the Wyoming Valley United Fund.

Three stores will have their grand opening on Main Street, Dallas. They are: The Jones & Richards Merle Norman cosmetic Studio and Beauty Salon; Polly's Shoe Store; and Maria's Apparel Shop. The oldest of the three stores is Maria's Apparel which has been open since April.

30 Years Ago - August 25, 1971

## ROADS, SEWER CONSTRUCTION AREAS TO BE IMPROVED

Representatives of Roy Weston Engineers and Maona Construction Company, at a meeting with Dallas Borough Council members, assured council that roads and other sewage construction areas will be improved. Machell Avenue will receive a base topping, special grading will be

done around manholes, dust areas will be watered down frequently; calcium will be spread.

For the second consecutive year, Dallas Senior High School will have a record enrollment. When the school term starts, an anticipated 176 students are expected. The senior class to date has 223 pupils. An even larger junior class—some 256 boys and girls—is awaited. Robert Dolbear is principal at the Senior High School, and Edgar Hughes is assistant principal.

Thomas C. Schreffler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Schreffler, Dallas, is participating in a U.S. Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC) field training encampment at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.

20 Years Ago - August 12, 1981

## DALLAS MAN CREDITED WITH SAVING BOY'S LIFE

Sean Bunney, a two-year old boy, from Mehoopany was reported improved thanks to Robert Besecker, Dallas who applied CPR and averted what could have been a drowning. Besecker, who is an emergency medical technician with the Dallas Ambulance Co. and a member of the fire company.

At the August board meeting of the Lake Lehman Junior High Parents Teachers Students Association, plans were made to order and stock merchandise for the opening of the new 'School Store' in the Junior High building. The store will open one half hour before school begins each morning.

James T. Wallace, son of Carol Wallace of Dallas, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of airman first class. Wallace is an aircraft fuel systems mechanic at Ramstein Air Base, West Germany with the 86th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

## The Dallas Post

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