

EDITORIAL

## Take extra care driving now that school's in

The opening of school seems to occur earlier with each passing year. It doesn't, really, and perhaps we just don't want to let go of the summer vacation season; particularly when it feels too warm and too soon for school to be back in session. But it is, and that calls for a reminder to all drivers, especially those who travel the many secondary roads that wind through the Back Mountain.

Our society has tended recently to shift more responsibility onto children, and there may be nothing wrong in that, at least when it comes to respecting others' property and the rule of law. But the difference between legality and real life could bring tragic consequences if motorists don't think beyond the basics of speed limits and rights of way as they make their way past children walking to and from bus stops, or to visit friends. Every parent knows that kids, no matter how aware they may seem of the rules for safety around roadways, are still kids and don't always grasp the seriousness of their actions. And, like adults at the water cooler, when congregating at bus stops they tend to fool around and try to impress one another, often with the suspension of common sense.

It's up to drivers to not only obey the traffic laws by controlling their speed and stopping for buses, but to stay alert for kids who aren't watching out for them as well as they should. It would be cold comfort to know that you haven't broken the law, but still a child has been injured or killed in an avoidable accident. Don't be an unintended victim of tragedy; take the extra measures required to be an especially safe driver now that school is open again.

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



I'm something of a sports fan, and more of a baseball fan, but I think we need to draw the line on what constitutes "big-time sports." I'm talking about the broadcast of the Little League World Series, which took place for a couple of weeks on ESPN and ESPN2 television, complete with effusive commentary on the skills and character of the children on the diamond, before wrapping up with the title game on ABC. I see this as evidence either that sports fans are shamelessly hooked on any contest no matter how meaningless, or that broadcasters are more than happy to exploit any event as long as they can sell advertising around it. Maybe this phenomenon is evidence of both.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy Little League baseball and played it for all four years I was eligible. And I was an all-star, playing in games that are the starting point for teams trying to make it to Williamsport. I recall being a powerful hitter, a flawless fielder and having a rifle arm, but my memory could be slightly off. Anyway, I had fun playing, and learned some valuable life lessons, such as to avoid the coach if he'd been drinking before practice and to not get too close to a swinging batter. That was a painful lesson. But the idea that I and my teammates might someday play a televised game while still wearing child size uniforms never crossed our minds. That was something real players did, not kids who were thoroughly annoyed that coach wouldn't let us go swimming before a game.

If a bunch of 11 and 12-year-olds is good enough to be on TV, what's next? Could it be pre-teens romping across pads in the gym? Oops, that's already being done in gymnastics. How about a rope jumping competition? That, too, has made it to prime time. Perhaps Fox will come up with something novel, like baby walker demolition derby.

Maybe I've got it all wrong, and televising Little League simply confirms what we've known all along — that professional sports is nothing more than overgrown kids playing children's games, and we should take them just that seriously. All except golf, of course.



Standing watch on Susquehanna Avenue in Dallas Borough. Photo by Heather Jones



70 Years Ago - August 28, 1931

#### TROLLEY SERVICE TO BE DISCONTINUED

Street car service to Idetown will be discontinued and will be replaced by busses of the Traction Company. The twenty minute schedule now in effect from Wilkes-Barre to Dallas will be the same during the early morning hours. The United States Civil Service Commission has announced open competitive examinations as follows: School social worker \$2,300 a year, and assistant radio operator (airways) \$1,800 to \$2,160 a year. At the American Stores Co. you could get: Campbell's baked beans, 3 cans 30¢; sweet peas, 3 cans 25¢; Eagle Brand condensed milk, 1 can 19¢; bread, 1lb, 4 oz loaf 7¢; sugar corn, 3 cans 25¢; coffee, 1lb 17¢; tomatoes, 3 med. cans 25¢.

60 Years Ago - August 29, 1941

#### WORKMEN RELAY 850 FEET OF PIPE

The large scale relocation of water mains in Dallas to make way for highway construction should be finished soon. Water Company workmen are now lowering a 100-foot section of main crossing Toby's Creek below Deyen's Mill. Largest project of all was the relocation of 450 feet of water main beyond Center Hill road to one side of the lake boulevard. Michael Kuchta, district manager for Commonwealth Telephone Company, Dallas, leaves for Clarks Summit to take over the management of Commonwealth line there. He has served Commonwealth for 13 years, beginning as clerk and succeeding Bert Stroh as manager. At the Himmler Theatre in Dallas, some of the movies that were playing were: "Blood and Sand" with Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell; "Sis Hopkins" with Judy Canova; "Crime Does Not Pay"; "Cowboy and the Blonde" with George Montgomery and "Here Comes Happiness" with

## End of line for walleys

Mildred Coles.

50 Years Ago - August 31, 1951

#### BOROUGH SCHOOL BREAKS RECORD WITH 86 DONORS

Red-Cross Bloodmobile Day at Dallas Borough school established a record of 86 donors. The most interesting event of the day was registration of twenty employees from Coal-O-Matic Stoker Co., including Paul Gross, manager of the plant. Col. Norman Smith, for twenty five years coach and Director of Athletics at Wyoming Seminary, has resigned to become Recreational Director at Spring Lake Camp, Cuttingsville, Vt. Col. Smith and his family had made their home in Huntsville. Members of Dallas Township Veterans' Agricultural Training Class and the Upper Luzerne County young Farmers' Club under floodlights helped Wilson Furr, a 100 per cent disabled veteran, erect a new poultry house on his farm at Beaumont.

40 Years Ago - August 31, 1961

#### LAKE-LEHMAN BOARD RELUCTANTLY CUTS \$89,000 FROM NEW SCHOOL

The Lake-Lehman Joint School Board voted 16-2 to cut \$89,000 from their building program bond issue in order to avoid an injunction which could imperil plans for the proposed new school. There was strong opposition to cutting the bond issue, however, and several members voted in the affirmative only because they feared losing the whole program. New teachers will be employed by the Dallas School District. They are: Mrs. Leila Gerhart Anskis; Miss Emma Elizabeth Engler; Mrs. Ruth M.V. Fossedal; Arthur D. Hontz; Alan Davenport Husband; Leonard Kozick; Mrs. Lena Misson Moore; Louis Joseph Palermo; William E. Price; Miss Judith Ann Richards; Mrs. Manta Ruth Steele, and Gerald J. Stinson. Lake-Lehman High School Band, will give a nationally televised performance of precision marching at the Philadelphia Eagles-Cleveland Browns National Football league game in Franklin Field, Philadelphia. This is the first time that a local

band was chosen on a national television hook tip.

30 Years Ago - September 2, 1971

#### BOY SCOUT PLANS BEAUTIFICATION EFFORT

Brett Slocum, a young would-be Eagle Scout, Troop 281, has been considering several difficult community service projects to fulfill requirements for his Eagle Scout award. The overgrown triangle of land at the junction of Routes 309 and 415 has received a face-lift thanks to Brett.

The hard work consisted of picking five bags of trash, mowing, planting shrubs.

Five new teachers have joined the Gate of Heaven School faculty. They are: Carmela Cavan, fourth grade; Susan Hand, fifth grade; Sister M. Lucian and Mrs. Thomas Jenkins in the eighth grade.

Mrs. Ronald A. Ertley of Country Club Road, Dallas, has captured the 1971 Irem Women Golfers title for the third consecutive year. The final round in the 54-hole event was played at the Irem Country Club course.

20 Years Ago - August 19, 1981

#### NEAR TOTAL LOSS FOR BUSINESS AT LAKE

The summer of 1981 seems to have been a near-total loss for businesses at Harveys Lake. The decline started with news that a potentially damaging form of algae had been found in the lake water, and with the closing of the six public beaches business owners have agreed that they have now lost the summer on which they were counting on.

Jim Finengan and John Prate, both 1979 Dallas grads, traveled to upstate New York to compete in the AAU championship marathon, a 26.2 mile race over a course which is being considered for the Olympic marathon trials.

Harry Zacharias, 3d., of Beaumont was elected president of the Bob Horlacher Memorial Leagues held at meeting recently. Zacharias, who had been serving as vice-president of the league, will succeed Richard Hislop of Orange.



## Story Hour registration Sept. 4-8

**Fall story hour registration** Marilyn Rudolph announces that registration for the Fall Story Hours will take place September 4-8. The story hours will begin the first week in October; 3 to 5-year-olds on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and toddlers on Thursdays.

**Book Store re-opening** The store will re-open on Saturday, September 8. They have a large number of action comic books, many puzzles, and a complete turnover in children's books since the auction. Hours are Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays, 1 to 7 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Book discussion groups** The Monday morning group is reminded that the first book in our series, "Hanna's Daughters," is available at the front desk at the library. The other three books will also be available after Labor Day — ask at the desk if you may pick up your set in the Community Room. Payment will be due at the first meeting on September 24.

The evening group met recently to discuss "Little Women." Pam Oliveira sent this report: "The problem was none of us could bear to finish the book. We found the characters to be shallow and void of any emotions. Several of us remembered reading it in our youth, but as adults the book did not hold the same appeal.

So we would not recommend this book, although I hear the movies are somewhat better. I think Louisa May Alcott's Little Women just didn't compare to our last of characters from Jodi Picoult's "Plain Truth." Jodi is a tough act to follow".

The group will meet Thursday, September 13, at 7 p.m. at the Stax to discuss "Bag of Bones," by Stephen King. Pam says, "This book is apparently the Stephen King of the Millenium and a departure from his typically horror-filled books," and adds, "Come one, come all!"

**Golf tournament** The tournament to benefit the library will be held at Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas on September 17. For information, call the library at 675-1182.

**Engraved bricks** It is once again possible to order an engraved brick to be placed at the library entrance. The cost is \$100 and profits benefit the library. The Back Mountain Memorial Library Organization of Friends has order forms available at the front desk.

**Display** Sally Stager has placed in the case a selection of Cranberry Opalescent ware made from 1930 to 1977 by the Fenton Art Glass Company.

Her note explains that "Cranberry Opalescent is difficult to make in press-blown shapes because it is cased glass (Ruby over French Opal). Most pieces of Cranberry Hobnail, such as baskets, vases and jugs, were mold-blown. Actual gold is used to make this color of glass."

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