

EDITORIALS

# If you want your opinion to count, stand behind it

Far too frequently, callers to The Dallas Post spend several minutes describing an issue that upsets them, only to request that their names not be used in any subsequent article that appears in the paper. In many cases, they are the principal party affected by the issue, and their reluctance to go "on the record" means their story will never see print. In a similar vein, anonymous letters arrive, sometimes with provocative claims or insights, but they cannot be published. This newspaper isn't the only institution that discounts nameless accusations; many organizations share the belief that points of view shielded from scrutiny cannot be trusted.

If the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon do nothing else, we hope they remind citizens how important it is that each and every one of us stands up for the values we hold dear. Freedom of speech is at the very top of the list of American rights, but like a muscle, it must be exercised to remain healthy and strong. We don't need to be strident or extreme in our statements — in fact, the wrong tone or approach can interfere with the message. But we must be consistent about letting those in authority know where we stand, and why. Only if we do so can like-minded citizens band together to right the wrongs of society, or to find fresh new approaches to solving old problems.

Terrorists may be able to bring down our buildings and murder our countrymen, but they cannot take away the fundamental rights that make America a beacon of freedom around the world. Only we can do that, and the process begins when we are easily intimidated into silence. Don't let that happen.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Speaking of bombs, how about the 73 of them Barry Bonds sent into the outfield stands this year? Just three years after Mark McGwire shattered the old Major League Baseball record for home runs in a season, Bonds topped Big Mac by three, despite also setting a single-season record for walks. Bonds was on a torrid pace almost from the start of the season, and played like a man obsessed with helping his team win down the stretch, even if it meant taking pitches that had the potential to add to his homer total. But that wasn't good enough for many observers — throughout the year the sports media was peppered with stories about how reclusive Bonds was, maybe even nasty; about his special locker room space, and about how much his teammates disliked him. The coverage makes one wonder how other important figures in history might have been reported on today, when how we feel about someone seems to have become as important as what they do. Let's have a look.

Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 19, 1863 - President Lincoln delivered an abbreviated but stirring speech today at the Gettysburg battlefield, site of more than 50,000 casualties over the three-day clash that may prove the turning point of the war. But observers were distracted from Lincoln's message by his gaunt appearance, which approximated a walking, talking cadaver. "He just doesn't make a very good picture," said Matthew Brady.

Munich, Jan. 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler took charge of the Weimar Republic this morning with a forceful speech emphasizing the superiority of the Aryan race. "His views may be a little out of the mainstream," reported Walter Winchell, "but, boy, can he connect with an audience!"

Bern, April 25, 1905 - A frumpy patent office worker today announced his "special theory of relativity," purporting to explain one of the great mysteries of science. Albert Einstein's announcement caught the scientific world by surprise and was greeted with immediate skepticism. "He'll be the next Aristotle," another scientist, who asked to remain nameless, said. "It won't be long before a real researcher proves him wrong."

On the moon, July 20, 1969 - After a fractious flight in which his cabin mates complained bitterly about his unwillingness to share Tang, Neil Armstrong became the first human being to walk on the surface of the moon. They groaned as he made the pretentious statement, "That's one small step for man, one giant step for mankind."

"He may be first to the moon," said Walter Cronkite, "but he's not at the top of anyone's list to invite for a house party."

Makes you wonder what history would have been like if Caesar had a better public relations aide.

**Q. Where do you find the most Back Mountain news and photos each week?**

**A. Only in The Dallas Post**

## The Dallas Post

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Still alive and kicking. Photo by Jim Phillips.



Carol King

**Librarian's report** - Martha Butler and Janet Bauman attended an LSTA grant meeting at the Osterhout Library in September. An LST grant was awarded to the Wilkes-Barre District Libraries. The grant will be used to provide and promote services for young adults aged 12-18 years. Martha also attended an all-day retreat for library directors at the Kirby Episcopal House in Mountaintop. They discussed long-range



70 Years Ago - October 9, 1931

### WALLS COMPLETED ON BANK BUILDING

The construction of the new building for The first National Bank, at Dallas continues quickly. The exterior walls are completed. The next stage in the construction will be the applying of the Metal lath and plaster. Earl Monk will install the heating system. Electrical work is being done by Paul Shaver.

Many farmers in the vicinity of Noxen have leased their oil and gas rights of their farms to drilling companies. Among those who have leased their farms in the Noxen valley are Thomas Wright, Severn Traver, and Elmer Crispell. On investigation a number of farmers have found that the mineral, oil and gas rights to their farms were reserved many years ago when the farms were originally sold.

At your local A&P store, some of the items you could get: 1 lb. cheese, 19¢; 15 lb. peck of potatoes, 19¢; 2 cans of corn, 19¢; pancake flour, large pkg., 31¢; 8 O'Clock coffee, 1 lb., 17¢; 2 bot. ginger ale, 29¢; Ivory Soap, 2 cakes, 23¢.

60 Years Ago - October 10, 1941

### HUNTSVILLE CHURCH OBSERVES ITS NINETY-EIGHTH YEAR

Huntsville Christian Church will observe another anniversary of its founding. The history of the church reaches far back into

## BMT Library to share in district grant

plans for both the district and county and resolved several budget and state aid issues.

**Children's program** - Mrs. Rudolph announces a special program in celebration of Children's Book Week, November 12-18. On Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m., Mark Piazza will present a Reading Is Fun Magic Show, open to families and children. Further details will be given later -- mark your calendars for now!

**Book report** - "Hanna's Daughters," by Marianne Fredriksson, was discussed by the members of the Monday morning book discussion group at their September meeting. Its central characters are three generations of a Norwegian family: Hanna, who grew up in

a farm setting, and her daughter and granddaughter, who moved to urban settings and ways of life. There is a lot of soul-searching as Hanna's descendants try to understand her and each other and the traits which they see coming down through the generations. Our discussion was enhanced by the comments of our mem-

ber of Norwegian-Swedish descent, who gave us some interesting sidelights on Norwegian characteristics. Some in the group found the novel easy to read and interesting, but others in the group found the genealogy confusing and were lukewarm about the book as a whole.

## BMT Library memorial books

Back Mountain Memorial Library announces the addition of New Memorial Books

In memory of Elva Ranier, "Dawn Powell: Novels 1930-1942" by Dawn Powell, presented by The class of 1942 Kingston Township High School.

In memory of Nancy Kozemchak, "Dawn Powell 1944-1962" by Dawn Powell, presented by The Book Club Steering Committee.

In memory of Aine McDowell Goeringer, "Barefoot Contessa Parties" by Ina Garten, presented by Eileen McDowell.

In memory of Joseph Bonsignore, "Hughes" by Richard Hack, presented by Ben and Debbie Maskalis.

40 Years Ago - October 12, 1961

### GROUND BROKEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL AT LAKE-LEHMAN

Bulldozers a quarter mile away provided a fitting background for ground-breaking ceremonies at Lehman as construction crews went methodically about their work while officials performed the traditional ceremony of turning the sod. Breaking the sod were Edward Ashford, president of the school board, and Edgar Darby, member of Lehman Authority Board. Raymon Hedden, general contractor, received the sod.

Ed Buckley, local postal employee, will be installed as Commander of Daddow-Isaacs Post, American Legion. Mr. Buckley has been a member of Dallas Legion for sixteen years, and served as president of the Home Association for a number of years.

Inducted by Dallas Rotary, were four new members: Tom Hillyer, Petroleum Products distribution; John Law, Petroleum production real estate; Tony Zachary, Cement distribution; John Thomas, Convalescent Homes.

30 Years Ago - October 14, 1971

### UGI FILES FOR HIGHER RATES; FACES OPPOSITION

UGI Corporation filed increased electric rates with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in Harrisburg, which would raise the bills over 50,000 customers in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties by an average of 20 percent. Speaking for the Back Mountain Protective Association, Solicitor James Lenahan, Brown said he had sent a written request to PUC for forms on which to make official protests to the commissions.

Walter Weir Sr., was named at a meeting of the Dallas Town-

ship Board of Supervisors, to serve as a representative to Dallas Area Municipal Authority. Mr. Weir replaced David Coyle, a former resident, who has resigned.

The Luzerne County Ambulance Association at its last monthly meeting selected a committee for the review and possible revision of the County Ambulance Association Bylaws. Atty. William Degillio, president of the association, has named Robert Besecker, member of the Dallas Community Ambulance Association as chairman of the by-laws committee.

20 Years Ago - September 30, 1981

### DALLAS TAX PAYMENTS STABLE SAYS REESE

Although the amount of unpaid property tax cases has increased across Luzerne County in recent years, Dallas area tax delinquency cases have remained relatively stable. Dallas Borough tax collector, Tom Reese, said that the number of tax delinquent parcels referred to the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, has varied by only 10, more or less, in recent years.

Dallas High School Band under the direction of David C. Benn, participated in their second competition in the Tournament of Bands at Hanover Memorial Stadium. The Mountaineers received three awards-taking first place overall in music and general effect; first place overall in Marching and maneuvering, and second place in Class II bands.

Lake-Lehman High School walked away with six 1st place trophies in the 7th Annual Sound of Patriots Band Competition at Harrisburg. The Lake-Lehman musicians took first place in their class and outscored all bands in the competition.