

EDITORIAL

Worth the effort to get through election ballot

The ballot that will confront Luzerne County voters November 6 will challenge even the most sophisticated elector. In addition to the usual array of choices, many of which are unfamiliar, this election contains a profound opportunity for residents to affect the structure and style of their county government. The process, however, isn't without pitfalls.

The most important question on the ballot will be the one that asks voters to approve or disapprove the formation of a commission to study the form of county government, commonly known as a home rule study commission. We won't be changing anything by voting to form a study commission, but we'll be taking the first step in a process that could bring more accountability, efficiency and fairness to Luzerne County government. The second step is equally important — selection of 11 commission members from a mind-numbing list of 33 candidates. This is where the ballot can get tedious and treacherous, as we attempt to pick from a list of people we largely don't know. The potential for confusion isn't lost on party hacks and insiders who don't want us to control our own destiny and dollars; nine of the candidates running as "Candidates for a True Study" have various affiliations with the present incompetent, corrupt power structure.

"Choose wisely" is an old adage that will be perfectly applicable next Tuesday; how we vote and who we choose will determine the course of county government — and to a very great extent county life — for years to come. We urge readers to vote "Yes" to form a study commission, and to choose members with care.

The Back Mountain can be proud of study commission candidates who reside here, and who are known for their commitment to doing good things in and for their community. You can be sure that Neil Allen, Rob Seeley and Ruth Tetschner will have a positive effect on the commission if they are elected to serve.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



There was a time, not so long ago, when a geographic euphemism was applied to newspaper editorial writers who too frequently addressed topics of international importance, but little local impact. They could be accused of "Afghanistanism," with the clear implication that no subject could be of less interest to readers who dwelled on the latest stock surge or sports contest. My how things have changed, or at least broadened.

One result of the September 11 attacks and our government's response has been to bring to the front pages — and editorial pages — news that had been relegated to the world briefs, if it was reported at all. Now we are being told about all the things our leaders and the media should have been paying attention to, and with 20-20 hindsight accused of misplaced complacency if not outright neglect for our own safety. But that's too easy a judgement to make after the fact; boundless criticism would have been hurled at a President, no matter of which party, who proposed spending billions on intelligence and foreign aid in the absence of an obvious threat.

It's interesting that, while there's a newfound hunger for world news, or at least that part of it pertaining to terrorism, there has also been an upsurge in popularity of "comfort" shows on television, and a concomitant drop for so-called reality programming. The shift is understandable; when there are no real crises to confront, we humans have a tendency to put trivia on a pedestal so there seems to be something important going on in our lives.

All this is probably good for weekly newspapers like the Post, since our stock in trade has always been news and pictures about local people and institutions. But even we can't ignore this tragedy and will attempt to relate the affect it has had on our communities as events unfold. If you have any ideas about how we can best do that, or if you know someone who is directly involved in the fight against terror, please call the office and let us know.

One promise, though, no editorials about Afghanistan.

Are you opinionated?

The Dallas Post is always pleased to hear from good columnists. If you have what it takes, we guarantee you a regular forum to write whatever you choose. (Unless it's libelous or tasteless, of course.) If you are the one person in 1,000 who can express ideas clearly and forcefully, send The Post a letter telling why you want to be a columnist. Mail it to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 607 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback).



Final fruit of the fall season. Photo by Jim Phillips.

ONLY YESTERDAY



70 Years Ago - October 30, 1931

GIRL SCOUTS HAVE BUSY WEEK

Girl Scouts of Dallas Troop 7 observed Girl Scout Week with a program of activities. Some of these activities included "Home Service Day", a day which the girls could relieve their mothers of some of the home responsibility, and "Handicraft Day", in which the girls brought magazines to make scrap books for children in the hospitals.

At American Stores Co., some of the items you could get were: sugar corn, 1 can 10¢; large walnuts, 1 lb. 29¢; preserves, 16-oz jar 17¢; eggs, 1 carton 39¢; butter, 2 lb. 79¢; potatoes, 15 lb. 15¢.

At the Himmler theatre, some movies that played: The Costello Case, with Tom Moore; The One-Way Trail with Tim McCoy; Sunrise Trail with Bob Steele.

60 Years Ago - October 31, 1941

DEFENSE BOND SALES DECREASE

Sales of defense savings stamps and defense bonds at the Dallas Postoffice aren't breaking any financial records, and have fallen off rather than increased. Highest sales in the past two years were in July 1940 when \$7,500 worth of

bonds were sold. Since that time the highest sales were in June 1941 when \$337 were sold.

Tommy Dropsinski, boxer from Lehman beat his opponent, Don Sandham in the best boxing he has ever done in Neward. Dropsinski was cheered for a good five minutes after the fight by a big crowd.

About 600 children will take part in the first annual Halloween parade under the joint sponsorship of Dallas Borough and Township Parent-Teacher Associations. Marchers will assemble at Sunset Hall and will move over to Lake Street, with the procession being led by Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire and Dallas Township High School Band.

50 Years Ago - November 2, 1951

REV. J.J. O'LEARY CHOSEN THE MAN OF THE YEAR

Rev. John J. O'Leary, Pastor of St. Therese's, Shavertown, was named Man of the Year recently at a joint dinner meeting of Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. Winner of the annual Frank H. Hemelright Award was determined at a meeting of seventy-three delegates at Prince of Peace Church, with Rev. William Williams, rector, as moderator.

Harry A. Peiffer announces the opening of a new plumbing and heating business in Dallas. He and his family have occupied their new home in Dallas for the past year. They have one child, Patricia.

New street signs for every street in Dallas Borough have been completed by Sev Newberry and J. T. Jeter, Borough engineer. The signs were built and painted by Mr. Newberry and given to the Borough without charge.

40 Years Ago - November 2, 1961

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDS \$283,000 FOR NEW BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT IN TRUCKSVILLE

More than a quarter million dollars communications installation will be placed in operation when Commonwealth Telephone Company cuts into service its new Dallas South dial exchange. J. N. Landis, district manager announced, Dallas South will serve 950 customers in the growing Trucksville area of Dallas exchange.

There is a battle on for Tax Collector in Kingston Township. Two men are running for the position—Henry Kann, Democrat, and Vern Pritchard, Republican. In the Primaries Pritchard beat out the veteran Ted Poad.

Local Catholic Boy Scouts received the coveted Ad Altare Dei award at the Cathedral in Scranton. Charles Glawe Jr., Joseph Stager, Richard Pryor, Richard Konnick, John Ruckno, all of Gate of Heaven School, and John Butler, John Kritchen and Jerry Lickasavage received the bronze cross suspended from a ribbon.

30 Years Ago - November 4, 1971

REPUBLICANS WIN BOARD SEAT HARVEY VICTORIOUS

Leonard D. Harvey, magistrate in District 3-8 once again proved his vote getting abilities as he had an impressive victory over his Democratic opponent, Richard Tattersall. Harvey received 2,666 votes in the communities comprising District 3-8—the townships of Lehman, Lake, Jackson, Plymouth and the boroughs of Dallas and Har-

veys Lake. Tattersall received 921 votes.

United Penn Bank has announced plans to construct two additional drive-in windows to accommodate customers at its Dallas Branch. The two brick and stained wood buildings will be erected adjacent to the present drive-in window. Additional parking space will be given the lot. Landscaping is also planned.

Barbara Wazeter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander J. Wazeter, Trucksville, has successfully passed the examination for registered dietitians. She is a graduate of College Misericordia.

20 Years Ago - October 21, 1981

NEW FALL CHAIRMAN

Robert Kelly, Trucksville, has been named chairman of the 1982 Luzerne County Fall Fair. Kelly is assistant to the director of development for King's College. The following persons have been nominated for the committee: Clifford Parker, Glenda Pomrinke, David Phillips, John Sobock and Chester Szalkowski.

Marine Pfc. Charles L. Kasko, son of Marion E. and Andrew Kasko Jr. Shavertown, was designated Honorman of his training unit during graduation ceremonies at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He is a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School.

In response to recent criticism of the Kingston Twp. Police Department concerning the lack of arrest of speeders on Center Street and Harris Hill Road, Mark Kinkle, township manager, pointed out that many arrests have taken place recently.

New books at Back Mountain Memorial Library

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

FICTION

- "The Next Accident" by Lisa Gardner
- "Kentucky Rich" by Fern Michaels
- "Close to You" by Mary Jane Behrends Clark
- "Parallel Lies" by Ridley Pearson
- "Under the Color of Law" by Michael McGarrity
- "Firefly Beach" Luanne Rice
- "Aftermath" by Peter Robin-

- son
- "Big Cherry Holler" by Adriana Trigiani
- "The Scandalous Summer of Sissy LeBlanc" by Loraine Despres
- "Wild Cats and Colleens" by Morag Prunty

NONFICTION

- "Patience and Fortitude" by Nicholas A. Basbanes
- "Germs: biological weapons & America's secret war." by Judith Miller
- "Patches of Godlight" by Jan Karon
- "Crossing Over" by John Edward
- "Cultivating Delight: a natural history of my garden" by Di-

- ane Ackerman
- "Down the Great Unknown" by Edward Dolnick
- "Am I Pig Enough for You Yet?" by Valerie Shaff
- "The Soul of Rumi" by Jalal al-din Rumi Maulana

LARGE PRINT FICTION

- "House of Sand and Fog" by Andre Dubus
- "The You I Never Knew" by Susan Wiggs
- "The Bride and the Beast" by Teresa Medeiros
- "The Babysitter" by Diana Diamond
- "Claws and Effect" by Rita Mae Brown
- "The Priestess of Avalon" by

- Marion Zimmer Bradley
- "Stranger in Paradise" by Eileen Goudge
- "Plain Jane" by Fern Michaels
- "The Jury" by Steve Martini

REFERENCE

- "Books in Print 2002-2001"
- "Subject Guide to Books in Print 2001-2002"
- "Guinness World Records 2002"

BOOKS ON CD

- "Envy" by Sandra Brown
- "Money, Money, Money" by Ed McBain
- "Hostage" by Robert Crais

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