

EDITORIAL

# Major highway again a danger zone in storm

It seems to happen every winter. A big storm hits, people overestimate their driving skill and roads are blocked. That scenario is understandable on Follies Road in Jackson Township, Manor Drive in Shavertown or Outlet Road at Harveys Lake. But it was inexcusable for Route 309 north through the Back Mountain to be impassable at 8:30 Sunday night, as a line of cars waited nearly an hour for a plow to show up.

Help was needed because a truck and car had collided and the right lane was blocked. That wouldn't have been a problem if the roadway had been reasonably clear of snow and slush, but it was not. One could argue, as I'm certain the folks from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will, that snow was falling at a rapid pace and no plows could keep up. If this were an ordinary street, the argument might be acceptable.

But Route 309 is not an ordinary street — it is a mini-expressway and becomes the only passageway to and from the Back Mountain when a storm such as last weekend's has hit. That makes the inability to get through more than an inconvenience; danger to life and property increases dramatically when an ambulance, fire truck or other emergency vehicle can't reach its destination promptly. The bottleneck Sunday night was just north of Carverton Road, which was itself covered in snow, cutting off the Back Mountain at nearly its closest point to the Wyoming Valley.

A similar topographical setting exists on the far side of the valley, where Route 309 snakes its way up to Mountaintop. The grade is steeper there, but the population and traffic are less. Still, people who live in Mountaintop remark about how clean the roadway is kept during storms.

Here's a suggestion, which PENNDOT probably doesn't want to hear, but we'll make anyway. When a big storm hits, assign a plow or two to travel Route 309 from the Luzerne/Wyoming County line to Interstate 81 and back again until the flakes have stopped falling. That round-trip, of about 15 miles, would provide the consistent care that should be a priority for such an important stretch of highway, but which has been sadly lacking for years.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Read the other day that Pennsylvania is jumping on the Powerball lottery bandwagon. It seems the daily number and various and sundry other games no longer draw enough interest from ticket buyers. That's understandable, given the paltry winnings those games offer. Obviously, lottery players have become more sophisticated and don't have time to stand in a ticket line for a measly few million dollars payoff. Powerball, even though the odds of winning are about equal to those for being struck by a stray meteorite, offers a much more enticing challenge for these savvy investors.

You can bet your local weatherman won't let this happen again! For the first time in memory, television forecasters downplayed a storm that turned into a whopper, instead of building up a few flurries into a major event. The result? No panicked crowds in supermarket aisles or hardware stores. But local TV news, true to form, followed the storm with their usual assortment of startling reports that people bought shovels and ice melt. Imagine that.

I was stuck on Route 309 for nearly an hour Sunday night, right behind a fellow who had driven from Allentown without incident. His experience illustrated the frustration we feel with care of this important thoroughfare.

We both went on our way after waiting for a plow to arrive and open up a lane. But before we could leave, driving our two-wheel drive clunkers, we helped push a four-wheel-drive police vehicle out of the snow.

## Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



The old Schooley Farm in Shavertown was blanketed by Monday's storm. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



70 Years Ago - January 8, 1932

### COUNCIL REDUCES BOROUGH EXPENSES

Drastic reductions in borough police expenditures were made at the meeting of borough council. Officer Elwood Elston was retained as borough police officer but his salary was reduced from \$100 a month to \$50 a month for the period from January 1 to April 1. After that date the salary of the officer will be \$100 a month to \$50 a month until the first of October, because of the winter months.

At American Stores Co., you could get a loaf of bread for 7¢; 1 doz. eggs, 39¢; 2 lbs of butter, 69¢; 1 lb. coffee, 17¢; palmolive Soap, 3 cakes 20¢; pancake flour, 2 pkgs. 13¢.

Unless \$822.40 is forthcoming from the borough tax collector before the February 1 pay day, Dallas borough school teachers will have to wait until the tax is collected before they will receive their pay.

60 Years Ago - January 9, 1942

### WILLIAM BAKER NAMED STREET COMMISSIONER

William Baker was appointed

street commissioner for a period of two years at a salary of \$100 a month to succeed William Schmoll, Street Commissioner for the past five years.

Twenty-two youngsters exposed to measles when they attended Christmas exercises at Idetown Methodist Church were this week confined to their homes, all victims of the infantile disease.

Helen M. Williamson of Chicago Ill., a former resident of Noxen where she taught third grade for more than six years, has been appointed first grade teacher at Shavertown Building by Kingston Township School Board to succeed Louise Roushey who recently resigned to head Girl Scout activities in the Bloomsburg area.

50 Years Ago - January 11, 1952

### COMMONWEALTH WILL OPEN NEW HOME THURSDAY

More than 4,000 invitations have been extended to subscribers of Commonwealth Telephone Company to attend the formal opening of the company's new central office building on Lake Street. The entire engineering department will be moved from its Forty Fort headquarters to Dallas.

Peynton "Penny" Lee, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peynton Lee, Dallas, is believed to be the only boy who has ever passed the Army Qualifications Test at the Wilkes-Barre Induction Center with a perfect score. Penny attended Dallas Area Schools and graduated from Wyoming Seminary.

Harold G. Payne, vice president and general manager of

Commonwealth Telephone Company was elected a director of First National Bank of Dallas at its forty-sixth annual stockholders meeting recently. The newly elected director is also a director of Sordoni Construction Company, and Harvey's Lake Light Company.

40 Years Ago - January 11, 1962

### JOINT COIN CARD DRIVE BRINGS IN OVER \$6180

Dallas Community Ambulance Association and Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company report a successful conclusion of their recent coin and campaign. In this joint effort a total of \$6,180 was realized plus an additional amount of \$300.25 for the Ambulance Association in the Kunkle area.

Edwin L. Johnson, Dallas, has been commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Coast Guard Reserve. He is the son of Mrs. E.M. Johnson, Dunmore. Mr. Johnson is guidance counselor and English instructor at Lake-Lehman High School.

Homer B. Moyer, Dallas, president and comptroller was elected director of Miners National Bank at the annual meeting. Mr. Moyer is a member of the Back Mountain Library Association.

30 Years Ago - January 20, 1972

### DALLAS EARNS \$54,000 FOR LANGUAGE PROGRAM

A grant of \$54,000 for ESEA Title 3 program for the Dallas Team Approach to Language was allotted recently to Dallas

School District. The board approved two recreation programs for children and adults.

Lake-Lehman secretaries and cafeteria workers were granted salary increase following the regular monthly meeting of the school board. The motion, which was passed unanimously, approved a wage hike totaling \$.15 per hour for cafeteria employees and set \$2 per hour as the minimum wage for secretaries.

Marine Lance Corporal Eugene M. Steele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Steele, Dallas was promoted to his present rank while serving with the First Marine Air Wing in Okinawa.

20 Years Ago - January 13, 1982

### BLOOD DRIVE IS A SUCCESS

The first Blood Drive organized at the newly formed Back Mountain Blood Council of the Red Cross was a success, said Rev. Douglas Akers, Co-Chairman of the Council. The Council has asked for 180 pins and 231 people registered.

Former athletes of Dallas and Lake-Lehman High School have organized the Lake-Noxen Adult Basketball league. Officers of the league are: Kent Jones, president; Bub Kern and Bill Kanasky, vice presidents.

John Kasko, tubist, and Edward Havrilla, trombonist, are members of the Lake-Lehman High school Band who have been designated as two of Pennsylvania State's finest student musicians and selected to participate in the 1982 PMEA All-State Band Festival.

## New books added 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

- "He Sees You When You're Sleeping" by Mary Higgins Clark & Carol Higgins Clark
- "Meeting of the Waters" by Kim McLarin
- "A Shared Dream" by Jayne Ann Krentz
- "Jerusalem's Heart" by Bodie Thoene
- "The Phoenix" by Henning Boetius

### NON-FICTION

- "Journey Through HeartSongs" by Mattie J.T. Stepanek
- "SAT Prep Course"
- "Say it Like Shakespeare" by Thomas Leech
- "Love Stories of World War II" compiled by Larry King
- "The World War II Reader" edited by the editors of World War II Magazine
- "The 7 Greatest Truths About Successful Women" by Marion Luna Brem
- "Fodor's New Mexico"
- "Fodor's Scotland"
- "Fodor's Great Britain 2002"
- "Fodor's Florida 2002"

### Fodor's Germany 2002"

- MYSTERY
- "Natural Suspect" by William Bernhardt
- "Wreck the Halls" by Sarah Graves

### LARGE PRINT NONFICTION

- "Around America: a tour of our magnificent coastline" by Walter Cronkite
- "My Journey: from an Iowa farm to a cathedral of dreams" by Robert H. Schuller
- BOOKS ON CD
- "Isle of Dogs" by Patricia Corn-

- well
- "The Fiery Cross" by Diana Gabaldon
- "Good Harbor" by Anita Diamant
- "Funeral in Blue" by Anne Perry
- "Icy Sparks" by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

### VIDEOS

- "Endless Night" by Agatha Christie
- "Sister Wendy's American Collection"
- "Lance Armstrong: racing for his life"
- "The Songmakers Collection"

**The Dallas Post**  
 TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group  
 P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, TX 75201 • 570-675-5211

Ronald Bartizek GENERAL MANAGER	Heather B. Jones REPORTER
Brenda McDonough ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.	Ruth Proietto PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darlene Sorber OFFICE MANAGER	Ron and Charlotte Bartizek PUBLISHERS EMERITUS

Stephen Peterson  
 PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
 1-800-427-8649

**Winter parking in effect in Kingston Twp.**

Kingston Twp. Police reminds residents that the Township Winter Parking Ordinance is effective Nov. 1, and runs through March 31, 2002. Under this ordinance residents are prohibited from parking vehicles on township streets between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. daily. Vehicles are not permitted to be parked on township streets during snow storms or for eight hours after the end of a storm. Residents with questions about the ordinance may contact Police Chief James Balavage at 696-1175.

**Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?**

**A: Only in The Dallas Post**