

EDITORIAL

Property owners, governments must be on their toes as region grows

Despite our best efforts, no one has yet been able to disguise the messy work that must be done to sustain our modern society and economy. While we like the convenience and value of fast food, some of us are put off by the vast, dirty, smelly farms where cows, chickens and pigs are grown and slaughtered. We enjoy the bargains to be found in clothing stores, even as we object to exploitation of children and women in foreign sweatshops that turn out designer brands. And we wouldn't want to go back to the horse and buggy era, with its rutted dirt paths, although some of us are forced to put up with the noise, grime and disruption of a quarry or asphalt plant that produces the materials needed for pavement.

That's the case in Lehman Township, where people who live near Pikes Creek Asphalt and Crushed Stone are subjected to lengthy days and nights of blasting and truck traffic. Unfortunately for them, that's a price they must pay so all of us can enjoy the privilege of smooth highways that allow us to travel in hours to places that only a few generations ago took days to reach.

The new owner of the business recently welcomed neighbors to a tour of the operations, apparently hoping to blunt some of the complaints leveled against it for loud, long and annoying practices. That was probably a prudent move, and perhaps even a sincere one, but it won't make the critics go away entirely, nor should it. Both the state and Lehman Township have some power to regulate the operations of the quarry to a reasonable degree, and they must look after the interests of neighbors as much as practicable. That doesn't mean the business can or should be excessively curtailed, only that it be required to meet its obligation to take appropriate steps to minimize its negative effect on residents.

Compounding the problem, zoning maps of the township have been outdated for years, leading at least one family to believe there was a wide buffer area between their property and the quarry. It turned out the maps used by the township, Luzerne County and a realtor were inaccurate, a fact that came to light only when the mining and blasting operations moved closer to their home. That error has been found out, but not before this and other families made a huge investment that may now be compromised.

Perhaps if the realtor had been more prudent, or the family more diligent, they wouldn't be in this pickle today. But we'd like to think it's not necessary that everyone have the instincts of Sherlock Holmes when conducting their daily affairs. Times and personalities are changing fast, and Back Mountain communities, even small ones like Lehman Township, are compelled to keep up with large and powerful interests, particularly on matters that affect homes and property, usually people's most important asset, both financially and personally.

Ball field thieves sink low

Catch the creep! Or creeps! Someone has decided that the concession stand at the Back Mountain Baseball field is their personal piggy bank, and has broken in to the building four times in the past year. While the amounts of money stolen aren't large — a total of about \$1,000 — the victim deserves our assistance to stop the thief. Or thieves.

The concession stand is one of the organization's main funding tools, and it is run entirely on volunteer power. Parents of players donate their time to man the counter, with all proceeds used to support the league's activities that involve nearly 1,000 children. So, in effect, the thievery is making it harder to sustain this 50+ year old institution that gives kids and families the opportunity to share a summer afternoon at the diamond.

If you have any knowledge, or even a suspicion, of who is behind these crimes, call the Dallas Township Police Department at 675-5252 and let them know.

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.



In the summertime. Pond at Irem Temple Country Club. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

LETTERS

Accident victim's family thanks those who helped, cared

Editor,

A special thank you to each and every medic, fire, ambulance, life flight, police, parent, clergy, volunteer and friend who

responded to the accident July 9 at the intersection of Market St. and 118.

This is not only a "thank you" for your actions and response but appreciation for all the

prayers and decisions which helped all the individuals involved. Matthew and each of the passengers are at home and recovering and thanks to your help are able to join us in thank-

ing you for the special care received.

Matthew and The Feehan family
Sweet Valley



Carol King

The final party in the series of reading programs this summer will be held Friday, August 2, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the children's room at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Local artist Leigh Pawling Mathers will give a demonstration of painting. She received her BFA degree

Children's reading program final party Aug. 2

from Wittenburg University in Ohio, and has studied art with Sue Hand in Dallas, in New York City and Vermont, and in Florence, Italy. Her paintings have been displayed in many exhibitions, and she has received numerous awards. Leigh has a studio, Artfulleigh, at 239 Schuyler Avenue in Kingston.

The party tomorrow will also feature Star Bingo, for prizes, and certificates will be awarded to children who have completed their eight books for the summer. The Old Country Buffet's "O. C. Bee" will bring cookies, and other refreshments will also be served.

New book discussion group forming: The Back Mountain Memorial Library is pleased to

announce that "Life Stories," a new book discussion series, will meet in the Community Room at the library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, starting on Monday, September 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The discussion leader will be Dr. Rebecca Steinberger, Assistant Professor of English at College Misericordia. The September selection is "Angela's Ashes" by Frank McCourt.

The three additional books in the series are: "When I Was Puerto Rican," by Esmeralda Santiago, October 7; "Miriam's Kitchen: A Memoir," by Elizabeth Ehrlich, November 4; "Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster," by Jon Krakauer, December 9.

All sessions are conducted

from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Members of the group will receive free copies of all the books. They must commit themselves to reading all four titles and participating in all the meetings.

"Life Stories" is part of "Read About It," a new book discussion series developed by the Pennsylvania Humanity Council, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Registration is limited to 30. For further information, and to register for the series, call the library at 675-1182.

New displays needed: If you have a collection that you think will be of interest to library patrons, please call the library and make arrangements to display it in the case at the library.



70 Years Ago - July 29, 1932

STERN MOVE TO COLLECT TAXES IS CRITICIZED

Dallas borough and school district, through F.M. Gordon, tax collector, took action toward selling a portion of the household goods of two Dallas families, where housewives have been unable to pay. As a result of the action frequent criticizing of borough officials has been heard.

Gardens in Dallas and vicinity, were visited by about forty members of Wyoming Valley Garden Club. Among those visited were Frank Martz farm, Mrs. Jerome Marshall, Kunkle, A.L. Stull, and Hayfield farm.

At a special meeting of Kingston Township school district held at Trucksville High School, directors accepted the price set by John Kaschenbach for the site of the new high school and ordered a check for \$8,750 drawn in favor of Mr. Kaschenbach.

Only Yesterday is compiled from the back-issue files of The Dallas Post.

60 Years Ago - July 31, 1942

LOCAL DRAFT BOARD 1 CALLS MORE MEN

Draft Board No. 1 at Wyoming has received a call for 65 men to be inducted into the army. Among them are Alan Montross, clerk at Dallas Post Office, Roy Veraillie, "Mickey Haslinski, proprietor of Fernbrook Inn; Dan Evans, painter, Shavertown; Alfred Glahn, painter Trucksville, and Ralph Finnen, accountant.

Howell E. Rees, former editor of The Post, and now a publicity man in the Bahama Islands, is stationed at the New Cumberland induction center where he will be interviewed on a State-wide radio hook-up.

Harold C. Thompson, son of Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Dallas, received his commission as Second Lieutenant.

50 Years Ago - August 8, 1952

LITTLE LEAGUERS TO SEE SERIES IN WILLIAMSPORT

Back Mountain Little League Al-Stars deprived of their chance to play in Williamsport in the semi-finals by their defeat at the hands of St. Therese's, will go to Williamsport to see the Little League World Series.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company were called out to a fire at Dallas Dairy, ignited by an overheated smoke-pipe. Very little damage was done.

The Trucksville Mill Poultry Shop, owned by Stanley Moore,

was robbed of \$16.55 in change. This was the fourth time in 15 years that Mr. Moore's shop has been broken into, and the first time Mr. Moore had insurance.

40 Years Ago - August 2, 1962

BACK MOUNTAIN ALL-STARS WIN REGIONAL TITLE, 10-1

Ed Dubil's home run; Kern's one-hit ball and the base running of Ken Jones were big factors in the All Stars copping their first District Championship. The crowd that attended was estimated at 1,500.

Harry White, Dallas, top eliminator in Forty Fort Airport drag-races for the last three years, registered the fastest time in his D & H Automotive Special with 115.61 miles per hour.

Some of the items you could get at the A & P Supermarket were: apple pie, 39¢; pound cake 15-oz, 39¢; raisin bread, 1-lb. loaf, 25¢; Eight O'Clock coffee, 1 lb bag, 55¢; eggs, 2 doz. 79¢.

30 Years Ago - July 27, 1972

PRISONERS CALL STRIKE

Approximately 600 inmates at State Correctional Institution, Dallas, remained in their cells and refused to go to their assigned work for the day. During a part of the negotiation, Supt. Leonard J. Mack had agreed to 10 immediate demands made by an eight-man "Resident Peace Committee" which represented the population.

American Asphalt Paving

Company, Chase, has been awarded 20 contracts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a total of \$822080.40. The local concerns contracts were let for post-flood cleanup, repairing of breaches in the river dikes and repairing a bridge in the Back Mountain.

Disaster forces will be at work for as long as two years in some areas flooded by Hurricane Agnes. One of the hardest hit areas is the Wyoming Valley, where entire cities went under water as the Susquehanna river reached a record 41-foot flood level.

20 Years Ago - July 28, 1982

KILLEEN SAYS \$43,000 NET

It will be several months before the Library Auction Committee will know the exact amount of net profit raised during the 1982 auction but General Chairman Joe Killeen expects it to be approximately \$43,000.

Back Mountain police departments are planning the purchase of a breathalyzer machine in the near future. Kingston Township has applied for a Department of Transportation Highway Safety grant to pay for the machine and accompanying equipment, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$5,500.

Marine Staff Sgt. Janine M. Reese, daughter of Thomas M. and Lorraine J. Reese of Box 77, Rt. 7, Shavertown, has been promoted to her present rank while serving at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California.

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