

EDITORIAL

'Last dance' may mark end of an era at Harveys Lake

It was only a generation ago that one of the treats of summer was a trip to Hanson's Amusement Park at Harveys Lake. Last weekend's "Last Dance of Summer" may signal the end of Hanson's as an entertainment venue, and that is yet another step — perhaps the final one — in the transformation of Harveys Lake from an accessible community treasure into a closed enclave.

A century ago, trains carried visitors from the valley to the lake, where they could spend a day "bathing" or begin an extended stay at one of the resort hotels. They might disembark the train to ride a steamboat to their destination. Other tourist destinations were thriving as well, and access to the lake was available to the public, not just property owners.

Hanson's was a big draw, and its roller coaster and other rides thrilled generations of people from around the area, while its stage featured some of the biggest stars of the 1950s and 1960s. But bigger parks with more rides were springing up at the same time the railroads and hotels were fading, and before long thrill seekers could hop in their car for a ride to Hershey or Six Flags for a day.

While the economic changes that drove Hanson's to close probably couldn't be overcome, it hasn't helped matters that the lake has become essentially private, even though the taxpayers own it. Harveys Lake is a public body of water, which you would never guess on a drive around its shoreline. Boathouses of all size and description cover nearly every inch of the shore, while easy access is found only at the state boat launch — hardly the place for a refreshing swim or tanning session.

The state has let its citizens down by allowing development to encroach on the lake, with the result that, like Hanson's, public use of a public resource appears to be a thing of the past. And there doesn't appear to be anyone who cares.



A sign of days gone by. Photo by Elizabeth Anderson.

Local SPCA accepts, places all breeds of dogs

Editor,

The reports from a local television station regarding the Danville S.P.C.A.'s adoption policy left many viewers confused and angry. The phones in our offices rang off the hook over this issue. Many callers, without adequate information assumed that all SPCA's have a breed specific (pit bill) adoption refusal policy. Although I did an interview over the phone with the reporter, my commentary was not aired. To clarify for all who read this letter, the S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County is a private,

non-profit organization that is not affiliated with any other organization. Our adoption policy does not discriminate against any breed of dog. All pets turned into our shelter are judged individually. They are evaluated by trained staff members to determine their adoptability. All breeds of dogs have the propensity to bite given the right set of circumstances.

The S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County makes every effort to assure that a healthy pet as well as one that is well mannered is matched during the adoption process. A pet is a lifetime com-

mitment that should not be taken lightly. Responsible pet owners, regardless of the pet's breed, socialize their dogs at an early age, invest in obedience lessons, make regular visits to a veterinarian for health checkups and vaccinations, obey all state dog laws and local ordinances, license their pet, spay/neuter their pet to help curtail pet overpopulation and should their pet become lost, immediately search their neighborhood and call their local shelter.

We are pleased that this story had a happy ending for "Baby" the pit bull. All shelters nation-

wide rely on public support for the work they do on behalf of homeless, unwanted, neglected and abused animals. Imagine what your community would be like without one to care for them. The S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County shelters and cares for approximately 9,000 animals a year. Change happens when people care. This was evident in the case of "Baby". Call your local shelter and ask to volunteer. You can make a difference.

Edward Gross
Director of Development
SPCA of Luzerne County

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Dear President Bush,

America has been through some tough times recently. The attacks of September 11, 2001 were a tragic reminder that our nation is not universally loved and that our citizens are not immunized against aggression. The death toll was the greatest since the Vietnam War, and the fact that the victims were civilians gave 9/11 a unique and dark twist. In response, U.S. troops were dispatched to Afghanistan where some have died or been injured as we drove out those who sponsored the attacks and condoned the presence of hateful "evil-doers." There is every reason to believe more casualties will be taken in the months and years ahead if we are truly committed to restoring that pathetic nation to respectability.

Even before last September, clouds were forming on the economic front as a frantic decade of expansion came to a screeching halt. An economy that had begun to cool six months before the attacks was rocked by those events, and has been further weakened by revelations of fraud and deceit at the highest levels of business. Now, your administration seems poised to go after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in what could be the first unprovoked attack by the United States on another sovereign nation.

Given these circumstances, we expected you to request help from us, the citizens who bankroll every government action, whose children die in battle and whose bank accounts shrivel in a recession. But that hasn't been the case; you have asked little or nothing from us except to max out our credit cards. Even a tax reduction, which many economists saw as ill-advised from the start, appears to be secure despite growing deficits and overseas commitments of troops and equipment that appear to multiply like rabbits.

So I'm asking this, Mr. President; please call for sacrifice in the face of adversity. Don't tell us everything's okay and you'll take care of it. It isn't, and you can't, and by leaving us out of the equation you risk failure on all fronts.

You may think, Mr. President, that we love our leaders only when the stock market zooms skyward and frappuccinos flow like tap water, but that's not the case. We want to — need to — be a part of the important events that take place during our lifetimes, and we're not afraid to give up a few luxuries for the good of the nation. What we don't want to sacrifice are our liberties, or the lives of our countrymen in a meaningless cause. That's why it's important that you justify any military action to all of us, not just your inner circle.

We're not stupid, or as selfish as you might think. If you can convince us of the need to invade Iraq, we'll be behind you 100 percent, and we won't mind giving up a dinner out or a trip to the mall in support of the troops. But you have to invite us in, or your causes will not be ours, and the suffering of casualties and their families will appear to be for nothing. That's not a good state of affairs for the American people, or for a President.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?
A: Only in The Dallas Post

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Carol King

The summer series has just ended, and now Marilyn Rudolph announces that registration for the Fall Story Hours



70 Years Ago - August 12, 1932

TRACEY HEADS CAST FOR WARNERS' DOCTOR X

Lee Tracey of Shavertown heads an all-star cast of Warner Brothers' players that has completed Doctor X, a feature technicolor production to be ready for exhibition in a few weeks. Other forthcoming pictures in which Tracey will be seen in the principal roles are Phantom Fame, produced by RKO; Night Mayor and Washington Merry-Go-Round, by Columbia.

A seventy-five foot flag pole has been erected by Luzerne county committee of American Legion on the soldier's plot at Evergreen cemetery at Shavertown.

Arthur E. Uber of Hillards, Pa., was elected supervising principal of Dallas borough schools at the meeting of the school board.

60 Years Ago - August 14, 1942

LOCAL MARINES ARE STATIONED IN BATTLE AREA

At least four local Marines

Fall story hour registration scheduled

will be held September 9-13. The Story Hours will begin during the first week in October.

New evening book discussion group: "Life Series", a new book discussion series developed by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, will meet one Monday a month, starting in September, to talk about contemporary American memoirs. The schedule is September 9 - "Angela's Ashes;" October 7 - "When I Was Puerto Rican;" November 4 - "Miriam's

Kitchen: A Memoir;" and December 9 - "Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster." Free copies of the books will be given to those who register and commit themselves to reading all four titles and participating in all four sessions.

All meetings will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the library. Call the library at 675-1182 to register for the series.

Librarian's report: Statistics

for the month of July include: total circulation, 10,017; books added, 205; new borrowers, 58; and active borrowers, 14,781.

Slightly Read Bookshop: The bookshop will re-open after Labor Day. Call the library to make certain of the Fall schedule.

Displays: We remind you that the library would welcome loans of collections to be shown in the display case. Again, call the library for details.

may be seeing action for the first time in the Solomon Islands battle. They are Willard M. Kocher and Willard E. Shaver of Dallas, and Private Shaver's cousins, Elwood and Howard Whitesell of Pike's Creek.

Steps were taken for the establishment of a permanent salvage set-up in the Dalals area to supervise the regular collection of tin cans, scrap iron and rubber.

Some of the items you could purchase at the Acme Supermarkets were: peaches, 4 lbs, 25¢; potatoes, 15 lbs., 35¢; chickens 1lb., 35¢; bread 2 large loaves, 17¢; Waldorf Tissue, 2 rolls, 9¢.

50 Years Ago - August 22, 1952

JACKSON TEAM AGAIN WINS 19 GAMES

For the second successive years, Jackson Township Little League Team walked off with the honors, with a straight score of winning both halves, and a phenomenal record of nineteen games won out of twenty games played.

Two new teachers have been elected by Lehman-Jackson Township School Board to succeed two who have resigned. They are: Marilyn Sickler, and Mrs. Ida Howell.

Mary Wier, well known for her religious, civic and social leadership, has been named General Chairman of the Frank L. Hemelright annual Memorial Award Committee for 1952.

40 Years Ago - August 16, 1962

PA CHAMPIONS MEET MASS. TEAM IN SEMI-FINALS

Little League All-Stars' first game for the Eastern United States Championship will be at Medford, Mass. The game will be broadcast on WNAK. This will be a twin-bill contest for Eastern U.S.A., bidder for the Williamsport World Series, Ed Dubil pitching.

Two Back Mountain boys who enlisted together, were graduated from Fort Benning, Ga., as paratroopers and received their wings. They are Pvt. Walter Kuniskas, Dallas and Pvt. Richard Malick, Jackson Township.

At the Dallas Drive-In Theatre, some movies that played: Hatari!! starring John Wayne, Red Buttons; Hell is for Heroes, with Steve McQuern, Bobby Darin; Pillow Talk, with Doris Day, Rock Hudson.

30 Years Ago - August 10, 1972

DALLAS SCHOOLS GET READY TO HANDLE 700 EXTRA STUDENTS

Due to disruptions in valley schools as a result of the Agnes flood, an additional 700 children are expected to attend Dallas School District schools this year. Dr. Linford a. Werhieser, superintendent, and Thomas Jenkins, business manager, were authorized by school directors to apply for funds to meet the added finan-

cial burden.

Excavation for three duplex houses began this week on the former Risley property at the corner of Huntsville Road and Lehman Avenue, Dallas.

The Bureau of Employment Security opened an office in the Brothers Four Restaurant building, Main Street, Dallas.

20 Years Ago - August 11, 1982

AMERICAN ASPHALT BEGINS ROAD WORK

Crews from American Asphalt Paving Co., began to do initial work on the Brook St. and Bohac St. improvements contract. The improvements are comprised of storm sewer and street reconstruction. The project totals \$87,192.

Two former Back Mountain residents completed graduate studies at the University of Hawaii in Hnolulu. They are Robert L. Brown, and his wife Joan of Shavertown. The couple spent several years in the rural areas of Alaska, developing secondary education programs for small villages.

A Back Mountain family was among the 100 "Love From Mrs. Butterworth's" sweepstakes winners who enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom. The "Keystone State" winner was the family of Patsy A. Nicely of Dallas.

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