

EDITORIAL

# Back Mountain Trail is a step in the right direction

The Back Mountain Trail is about to expand to a location near you. That's the encouraging theme of an article in this week's Post by Elizabeth Anderson. Once just a gleam in the eye of a few dedicated volunteers, the trail, part of a wide network of proposed pathways throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania, will soon wind through Dallas Township and Dallas Borough, and perhaps not far in the future to Harveys Lake.

Aside from its actual uses — which are many and substantial — the mere existence of the trail is a positive reflection on our area and its people. This has not been until now and probably never will be an easy project to complete. It has taken years of diligent homework, extended negotiations and a huge dose of persistence to reach this point. But recent advances put the trail at a turning point; as it becomes accessible to more populated areas, it will gain adherents and users, reaching a critical mass of support that can assure its long-term viability.

Growth in housing and businesses has cost the Back Mountain much of its rural character. In an ironic turn of events, the former railroad and trolley bed that constitutes much of the trail will return some serenity by providing a pleasant, safe and quiet route for hikers and bikers. Equally important, the trail can make it easier for us to get around without wasting gasoline and creating pollution as access is completed to shopping areas and parks. Some of the latter will be developed or revived as a direct result of the trail initiative.

The entire Back Mountain owes a great big thank you to Judy Rimple, who has spearheaded the trail program, and a dedicated cadre of volunteers who have contributed to its fulfillment. Now that they've laid the groundwork, so to speak, we will all benefit.



The Back Mountain Trail provides plenty of opportunities to enjoy the natural world. Photo by Elizabeth Anderson.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



I'm beginning to think PennDOT should put up signs on all the approaches to Northeastern Pennsylvania that read, "Welcome to Whine Country." That's certainly the impression someone passing through would get after listening to the major "talk" radio stations on our airwaves. I use the term major with abandon, since the ratings of even the most popular AM outlets are a minor blip on the radar screen of listenership.

Whether the subject is teachers and their salaries (they're lazy, greedy slobs we'd be better off without), kids (they're spoiled, good for nothing and this generation won't be worth a lick), or politicians (they're all crooks, especially the old ones who have relatives working in the public sector), the tone and temperament is always the same. This must be the talk radio formula for success — pick a target that is doing better than the below-average listener and complain about them, clearly implying that Joe Sixpack and his family are being taken for a ride by these uppity know-it-alls with their high-falutin' ways. Then the calls begin to trickle in.

That's right, trickle. Anyone who has listened to talk shows with any frequency recognizes the familiar names and voices, whether it's Ambrose from Wilkes-Barre or Charlie from Clarks Summit. These often aren't their real names, of course. That's because, with rare exceptions, anonymous critics lack the courage to put a name and likeness behind their comments, which might lead one to suspect they're more interested in hearing their dulcid tones than influencing public opinion. Can you imagine if the Declaration of Independence was signed in initials? It's hard to believe anyone would have taken the upstart Americans seriously.

The hosts of these shows know a good thing when they hear it, and as long as they can convince their bosses that running down individuals and institutions will attract more ears than dead air, they'll keep it up. In their own way, they have adapted Timothy Leary's 1960s slogan to their own purposes, "Tune in, whine on, drop out." It's easier than being part of the solution.

## Letters, columns and editorials

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

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.



Carol King

Evening book discussion group The new group is filling up, so we want to remind you to register soon. The first in the se-



70 Years Ago - August 26, 1932

### KINGSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD RE-ELECTS TEACHER

The Kingston Township school board re-elected Miss Ruth Lamoreaux as a teacher in the fifth grade to fill a vacancy caused by resignation of Miss Agnes Morgan.

Dr. Frank Schooley of Noxen who has been serving his internship in Moses Taylor hospital, expects to take up the practice of medicine in Dallas.

Some of the items you could get at American Stores Co. swer: lima beans, 1 can 11¢; tomato juice, 6 cans 32¢; peaches, big can 11¢; Del Monte Asparagus Tips, 1 can 25¢; eggs, 1 doz. 29¢.

60 Years Ago - August 21, 1942

### PLUNGER DROPS TO BOTTOM OF 505 FOOT WELL

Two hundred and seventy-five residents of trucksville faced

## Evening discussion group begins Sept. 9

ries of four meetings will be held on Monday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., with a discussion of "Angela's Ashes". Meetings are held in the Community Room at the library. A free copy of each book will be given to everyone who registers for the entire series. The other dates are October 7, November 4, and December 9. Call the library at 675-1182 for further information and to register.

**Fall story hours:** Registration for the children's Fall story

hours will be held the week of September 9-13. The schedule for toddlers and 3 to 5-year-olds will be available shortly.

**Slightly Read Bookshop:** The bookshop will re-open on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. Hours for the Fall are Mondays, 1 to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Golf tournament:** The annual tournament to benefit the library will be held on Monday, Septem-

ber 30, at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas. The Par-4 Cafe is the sponsor. Mark your calendars — details will be announced later.

**Displays:** If you've been hesitating about loaning your some of your collectibles to the library for display, we want to remind you that the case is kept locked at all times. Call Martha if you have something you'd like to share with patrons of the library.

Township Supervisors have retired ahead of schedule six bonds amounting to \$3,000.

40 Years Ago - August 30, 1962

### BOX-STORAGE YARD BESIET BY SECOND FIRE

Fire consumed the contents of Peter Kerpovich's box-storage yard, Trucksville, within one day of the time it burned four years ago. Trucksville and Shavertown fire companies fought the blaze for three and a half hours.

Loren W. Samuel Jr. Dallas, won second place in the 50-meter any-sight rifle match at the National Rifle and Pistol Match, Camp Perry, Ohio.

Wyoming Valley Crippled Children's Association benefited by 100 percent, \$7.50 from the proceeds of the Children's Circus held in Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sterling's back yard in Trucksville.

30 Years Ago - August 24, 1972

### MISERICORDIA GIVEN AWARD FOR SERVICE DURING FLOOD

The first American Hospital Association citation for Meritorious Service ever awarded to a non-health care institution has been presented to College Misericordia for "its outstanding efforts during the disaster wrought Hurricane Agnes this summer."

U.S. Air Force Captain Antho-

nyu Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel V. Foster of Dallas, received the Air Medal at Clark AB, Philippines for air action in Southeast Asia.

Atty. Gen. J. Shace Creamer and Commissioner Allyn Sielaff, Bureau of Correction of the Pennsylvania Justice Department visited the Dallas Correctional Institution. Two places were of particular interest to the touring VIPs. These were the visiting room, and the "annex".

20 Years Ago - August 25, 1982

### DALLAS TOWNSHIP EYES PROPERTY FOR PARKING

Dallas Township will either purchase or condemn a 100 foot patch of land running on the north side of the municipal building to Upper Demunds Road. Township solicitor Frand Townend explained he is hoping Commonwealth telephone Company will come up with an equitable price for the land so that purchase can be made.

Dr. Debra Ann Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Thompson, Dallas, began her Family Practice residency at the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri. Thompson is a 1976 graduate of Dallas High school.

Clint Brobst announced his retirement as Dallas High School physical education teacher and varsity basketball coach.

## Luzerne County Fair will offer variety of entertainment

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Luzerne County Fair, the entertainment committee is excited to offer fairgoers some unique entertainers and attractions during this year's event.

Wednesday evening, September 4, will feature a unique event last held during the Fair's 35th anniversary in 1997—an Old Time Fiddle Contest. Champion fiddlers from throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania will compete for \$500 in prize money.

Thursday, one of two Senior Citizen's days at the Fair, will feature a dynamic, family oriented show. Northeastern Pennsylvania's Premier Oldies and Dance Band, The Mudflaps, will perform at the amphitheater near a planned antique and classic car

show.

The Wilkinsons, a contemporary country music group will perform Friday evening. This father-daughter-son act will offer their hits "26¢" and "Fly" and other singles that had them nominated for many of Country Music's top awards.

Pennsylvania State Fiddle Champions, The Cramer Brothers Band will perform Saturday evening at the amphitheater. These six, multi-talented members will perform contemporary country, classic country and bluegrass while offering comedy and fun for the whole family.

Sunday, the second of the Fair's two Senior Citizen's days, will feature 11-time grammy award winner Jimmy Sturr and

his Orchestra. Having recorded over 100 albums, this group will leave no doubt why they were voted "The #1 Polka Band in the Country" the past ten years.

Back by popular demand for the entire five days of the Fair will be BUFFO the World's Strongest Clown! Performing at the Community stage, Buffo is a must-see at the Fair as he juggles bowling balls, rips phone books and balances extension ladders on his face. Additionally, his magic, ventriloquism, unicycling, stilt-walking, fire eating and balloon making still have people talking about his performances from last year.

This year, the Fair will offer a third stage featuring Paul Hoskinson's Animals of Distinc-

tion. Paul is famous for taking dogs "from the shelter to stardom" and will offer unique, educational, entertainment.

All of this entertainment, and some additional attractions, is included as part of the Fair's pay-one-price admission of \$6. Along with the entertainment, admission includes rides, parking, exhibits, contests, horse show and much more.

The Fair will be held September 4 through 8 at the fairgrounds on Route 118 in Dallas Borough and Lehman Township.

For additional information about the 2002 Luzerne County Fair, contact the Fair office at 675-FAIR or visit the Fair's website at [www.luzernecountyfair.com](http://www.luzernecountyfair.com)

## The Dallas Post

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P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, PA 18612 • 570-675-5211

Ronald Bartizek  
GENERAL MANAGER

Timothy J. Raub  
REPORTER

Kari L. Wachtel  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Claudia Blank  
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darlene E. Sorber  
OFFICE MANAGER

Terry Quinn  
PAGE DESIGN