

EDITORIAL

# Everyone can share in 9/11 tribute

Next week, all Americans will have to face the first anniversary of the most deadly foreign attack on our citizens since Pearl Harbor. Like December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001 is a date that will live forever in infamy. It is also a rallying point for Americans — one that touches all of us in our own way.

A small company in Beaumont has taken an active role in the first commemoration of that dreadful day by crafting a new structure for the replica Liberty Bell that President George W. Bush will ring at a Washington D.C. ceremony. Architectural Timberworks donated the labor used to restore the bell's wooden base and yoke, and reinstalled it in front of the Treasury Department building that will be the site of a memorial service attended by the President.

Few of us have had an opportunity to make such a tangible response to last year's tragedy, but that isn't because we wouldn't jump at the chance. What we have done is to stand firm, to be watchful and to move on gracefully. That is surely the greatest disappointment to those who believed the United States was a hollow shell of materialism that would be shattered by their murderous acts.

As you watch the ceremonies next week, and see the President ring the bell that was restored by a Back Mountain neighbor, don't be afraid to claim your share of our national pride and dignity, and use the occasion to reaffirm your commitment to proclaim and defend the nation's honor by whatever means is available to you.

## Be vigilant against exotic virus

It's a relief to learn that none of the dead birds found recently in the Back Mountain were infected with the West Nile Virus, a potentially deadly ailment. But that doesn't mean we should ignore the possibility of future infection, or disregard reasonable precautions that are easily taken.

Several hundred Americans have contracted West Nile Virus since it was first identified in New York in 1999, and some of them have died. The disease is relatively harmless to most people, but serious for the young, old and infirm, who constitute most of the victims. Dead birds are an early indicator of the presence of the virus, as they frequently become infected by mosquitos, and once infected, can pass the disease on to other mosquitos, who then infect humans. Test results on one crow, found in Lehman on August 26, are still outstanding.

If you find a dead bird, particularly a crow, store it on ice (not in the freezer) and immediately call one of these numbers: 331-7052, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 826-3066 any other hours. Members of the Luzerne County Environmental Special Projects Office will give you further information.

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



I'm going on strike. Well, at least I'm threatening it. It's not that I have any great issues to complain about, but it seems like the thing to do these days. Hey, the other folks who have talked about striking — teachers and professional baseball players — would have trouble coming up with a list of grievances most people could relate to, but that hasn't stopped them, and it won't stop me.

Strike threats usually revolve around a few core issues: wages, benefits and working conditions. So let's compare them and me:

- To give you a better idea of where I'm starting from, I make more than a teacher fresh out of college and less than Alex Rodriguez. I also make less than a teacher with experience in their field equivalent to mine as a newspaperman. So I say, let's split the difference. Add \$25,000 (about what a new teacher makes) and \$25 million (ARod's annual pay) and divide by two. I'll take it. If you twist my arm, I'll even take half of the average major leaguer's salary, which is now \$2.4 million.

- The benefits comparison isn't so disparate, at least in terms of insurance, holidays etc. Yes, I pay a portion of my health insurance, but I don't have to work on holidays, at least not officially. So ball players and I are pretty close. Teachers, on the other hand, have one big benefit I'd be happy to negotiate for — summer off. But then again, they have to put up with other people's kids all day, so maybe we're even.

- None of us punches the clock in a sweatshop each morning, so the working conditions comparison is more subtle. Ball players definitely have the advantage here, at least when they're on the job. More often than not they're out in fresh air or sitting on the bench watching someone else work. Not a bad deal, and they don't even have to play in the rain, unlike golfers. Teachers have one big advantage over me and sports stars; they can't be fired. Oh, I guess if they vandalize the gym or consistently smack students with two-by-fours they could be bounced, but mere incompetence won't put them on the street.

So, boss, here are my demands: A modest salary equal to half the average ball player's, a no-fire clause and continuation of present benefits. Take it or leave it, unless you disagree, in which case I'll be back at my desk Monday morning.



Going to any length for a snack. Photo contributed by Trudy Clemson.



70 Years Ago - Sept. 2, 1932

#### FIREMEN COMPLETE PLANS FOR SECOND BAZAAR

Shavertown firemen have completed plans for their second annual field program and bazaar to be held at the Shavertown school house grounds. The money raised will be to purchase a new pumper.

A fire totally destroyed a barn on the property of the St. Nicholas Cemetary Association on Pioneer Avenue. The local fire company responded by the barn was engulfed in flames. Mr. Metzgar, caretaker at the cemetary, managed to save all livestock in the barn.

Some of the items you could get at American Stores Co. were: ginger ale, four boys., 25¢; grape juice, 10¢; peanut butter, pt. jar, 13¢; corn flakes, 3 pkgs., 17¢; green olives, qt. jar, 25¢.

60 Years Ago - August 28, 1942

#### DALLAS TOWNSHIP GETS NEW BUSES

Andrew Bittenbender and an assistant drove home two of Dallas Township's new school buses. The buses are two internationals, one G.M.C. and one Diamond T. The buses are equipped with hot water heaters, first aid kits, and are insulated with rock-wood throughout.

Dallas Township supervisors have contributed \$55 to Dallas Casualty Station matching a similar contribution given to the station some weeks ago by Dallas Borough Council. These

funds will be used to purchase medical and first aid supplies.

Although he was elected to lead Dallas Township School Band for the coming year, Thomas F. Watkins has declined to accept the position because of his uncertainty regarding possible military service.

50 Years Ago - Sept. 12, 1952

#### LAING FIRE TRUCK FUND IN DALLAS IS GROWING

Harold Smith, chairman of the current drive for a new fire truck for Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company, announces that two more donations of \$100 have been received; On deposit is over \$7,000, \$15,000 is needed.

Gate of Heaven School, with seven grades instead of last year's six, has an enrollment of 233. Last year was the first year of operation of Gate of Heaven.

A water shortage affected several families on Overbrook avenue, but was taken care. The problem as due to a lack of pressure and not a lack of water in the company mains.

40 Years Ago - Sept. 6, 1962

#### FALL FESTIVAL ATTRACTS GOOD SIZED CROWDS

Despite bad weather, the Jonathan R. Davis Firemen's Festival, Idetown, was a huge success. The biggest crowd gathered to hear the Lake-Lehman High School band.

The last distribution of surplus food in the Back Mountain was made September 13 at Trucksville Fire Hall, serving the entire area. In October, the Federal Food Stamp plan will go into effect in Luzerne County.

At the Dallas Drive-In Theatre some of the movies that played: "Pillow Talk" with Rock Hudson and Doris Day; "The Apartment" with Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine, Fred Macxmurray

and "Escape From Zahrain" with Yul Brynner.

30 Years Ago - August 31, 1972

#### SCHOOL OPENING DELAYED TO CONFIRM WITH COUNTY

Officials of schools in the Back Mountain area announced that the previously scheduled date for reopening hasd been postponed. The change has been made to provide school officials throughout Luzerne County to accomplish more of the planning to overcome difficulties created by the effect of Hurricane Agnes.

The Flood Victims Action Committee, a group formed to spur citizen action for flood relief measures, has urged flood victims to refrain from paying taxes.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has agreed to expand the library services to permit current and best-seller books to be loaned out to prisoners at Chase Prison.

20 Years Ago - Sept. 1, 1982

#### KINGSTON TWP. OFFICERS LAMENT IMPROPER GUARDRAILS

Recently two vehicles have gone over the guard rails on Route 309, Kingston Township, and dropped approximately 30 feet into the creek bed. Mark Kunkle, Kingston Township manager, is dissatisfied with condition of the guard rails, most which are down for a distance of approximately 40 yards.

Four new teachers were added to the Dallas Junior High School. They were: Thaddous Stemplewski, Mrs. Lavada Rigins, Mrs. Mary Ann Storz, and Carl Seitz.

Two Back Mountain wrestlers represented the area at the Keystone Games held at Penn State University. They are: Jerry Ogurkis and Billy Mathers.

# New books at Back Mt. Library

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

### FICTION

- "Don't Look Back" by Amanda Quick
- "The Apprentice" by Tess Gerritsen
- "Standing in the Rainbow" by Fannie Flagg
- "Partner in Crime" by Judith A. Jance
- "Deadly Embrace" by Jackie Collins
- "Sin City" by Harold Robbins
- "The Mocking Program" by Alan Dean Foster
- "Versailles" by Kathryn Davis
- "Raising Abel" by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear
- "The Scar" by China Mieville
- "The Good German" by Joseph Kanon
- "No One Thinks of Greenland" by John Griesemer
- "The Heaven of Mercury" by Brad Watson
- "Criminal Intent" by Sheldon Siegel
- "Saved" by Kate Morgenroth
- "Long Time Gone" by Denis Hamill
- "The Book of Splendor" by Frances Sherwood
- "Tales of Protection" by Erik Fosnes Hansen
- "Transplanted Man" by Sanjay Nigam
- "McNally's Alibi" by Vincent Lardo
- "Hard Freeze" by Dan Simmons
- "The Art of Deception" by Pearson Riley
- "Sleep No More" by Greg Iles
- "Blood of Victory" by Alan Furst
- "Face the Fire" by Nora Roberts
- "The Paris Option" by Robert Ludlum and Gayle Lynds
- "The Bachelor" by Carly Phillips
- "The Orphan" by Stella Cameron
- "Enough Rope" by Lawrence Sanders
- "Whispers and Lies" by Joy Fielding
- "No Certain Rest" by Jim Lehrer
- "Taste of Honey" by Eileen Goudge
- "Between Friends" by Debbie Macomber
- "You Are Not a Stranger Here" by Adam Haslett
- "Once Upon a Wedding" by Kathleen Eagle
- "Leaving Atlanta" by Tayari Jones
- "Triggerfish Twist" by Tim Dorsey
- "The Age of Gold" by H.W. Brands

### NON-FICTION

- "Report From Ground Zero" by Dennis Smith
- "Just Over the Line" by William C. Kashatus
- "The Complete World of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- "Five Past Midnight in Bhopal" by Dominique Lapiere and Javier Moro
- "Flight Lessons" by Patricia Gaffney
- "An Accidental Woman" by Barbara Delinsky
- "Stone Kiss" by Faye Kellerman
- "The Perricone Prescription" by Nicholas Perricone
- "The Structure of Evolutionary Theory" by Stephen Jay Gould
- "Kickboxing for Women" by Jennifer Lawler and Debz Buller
- "Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words" by Bill Bryson
- "Rand McNally Road Atlas"

### VIDEOS

- "A Brilliant Madness"
- "Shackleton's Voyage of Endurance"
- "The Murder of Stephen Lawrence"
- "The Road From Coorain"
- "Pilates Essential Matwork for Beginners"

### MYSTERY

- "And Justice There is None" by Deborah Crombie
- "The Grave Maurice" by Martha Grimes
- "Jinxed" by Carol Higgins Clark

### REFERENCE

- "Mutual Fund Fact Book"
- "Best's Key Rating Guide" 2002 edition
- "The Green Book of Songs by Subject" by Jeff Green
- AUDIOTAPES
- "Deadly Embrace" by Jackie Collins
- "Riding the Bullet" by Stephen King
- "The Emperor of Ocean Park" by Stephen L. Carter

## The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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