

EDITORIAL

With contract settled, L-L can tackle other tasks

At long last, negotiations between the Lake-Lehman School District and its teachers' union are over. Now everyone can get back to the business of educating students without the distraction of strike threats, slowdowns and the other tensions that inevitably arise in these circumstances.

This contract was hammered out in the least cooperative atmosphere in recent memory at Lake-Lehman, one in which intemperate remarks came from both sides as each maneuvered to get every advantage it could. The final sticking point, which came up after consensus appeared to have been reached, was over limits on the amount of sick time the district was committed to buying back from teachers upon retirement. In the end, the teachers gave way in order to preserve what harmony was left and accepted an unchanged maximum of \$4,200 throughout the five-year term of the agreement. That was a disappointment for them, but the teachers graciously decided not to press it once all the major points were resolved. All in all, the process was a lesson in real-world relationships for everyone involved and watching from the sidelines.

Lake-Lehman faces many other challenges, and it's good to get this contract nailed down. The district is in the midst of a major construction and renovation project the entire scope of which still hasn't been acknowledged. While the school population is stagnant, there is every reason to believe it will grow in coming years as more people move into the region, but a small base of taxable commercial structures shows little sign of increasing, putting more and more of the tax burden on personal property taxes. At least the district will now have a solid grip on its salary costs — its largest expense item — as it looks ahead.

Unlocking buried history

"Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it." So wrote the philosopher George Santayana nearly 100 years ago, and the sentiment still rings true. You can avoid that fate — at least in local terms — by joining other people with an interest in Back Mountain history next Wednesday. That's when the Back Mountain Historical Association will meet on the topic, "Buried in the Back Mountain: The graves of interesting historical figures," presented by Stephen B. Killian. This seems a particularly appropriate subject for the Halloween season.

This relatively new organization is off to a good start in its quest to investigate and catalog the Back Mountain's considerable historical treasure trove before it disappears. You can help by sharing stories and photos about the region, some of which may be used in a map of the area. Others can be added to the local record so they will be available to future generations.

The meeting takes place next Wednesday in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on the campus of College Misericordia, beginning at 7 p.m. Reservations will be appreciated, and can be made by calling Debra Altavilla 674-3341.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



As the Bush administration marches closer to an attack on Iraq, officials are leaking snippets of their plan for the post-Saddam phase of that nation's history. Among other things, they have touted visions of an oppressed people yearning for American-style democracy who will rush forward with open arms as our superior forces appear on the horizon. Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, has suggested to Iraqi generals that they refuse Saddam's orders to defend their nation and instead turn on the ruthless dictator who has a well-documented track record of dealing harshly with insubordination. It's clear that in their hearts, Rummy and Friends believe in the innate rightness and invincibility of the United States, and are equally certain that even our worst enemies secretly feel the same way — it's just up to us to free them from the shackles of misguided leaders and release a glorious new era of freedom to gobble burgers and drive SUVs.

And why not? We have such a long and storied history of warmhearted conquest and so many examples of nations turned around by our arrival. Tears still stream down my cheeks when I recall watching the response of the downtrodden North Vietnamese people as we broke through the defenses surrounding Hue. Our soldiers marched into the city on a carpet of flowers thrown by the eternally grateful people, who have since built the "Athens of the East" atop bomb-riddled rice paddies.

We had a similar experience in Somalia. Joy spread across the faces of the Somali people as our marines landed on the beach, and we were welcomed by a fusillade of military salutes from feuding warlords who quickly became our allies and turned that wasteland into a veritable garden in the desert.

The most recent example of this phenomenon is in Afghanistan, where our presence instantly kindled a flame of goodwill toward men, peace and brotherhood, despite what you may have heard about attempts to gun down the new president.

Not only will invading Iraq release the latent democracy that has been repressed there, the Bushies think our bombs are likely to set off a wave of economic and cultural progress that will convert the entire Middle East from a region of stilted, misogynistic monarchies into shining beacons of egalitarianism on par with Enron.

Or maybe not.



First light at Frances Slocum State Park. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



Carol King

Auction Committee meeting A follow-up to the recent Auction Committee meeting will be held at the library on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in sharing his ideas for the auction is welcome to attend.

Friends meeting: The new chairman of the Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library is Jill Kryston. The next meeting of the Friends will be held at a "recruitment" coffee on Friday, Oct. 25, at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room. Everyone who would like to learn about the activities of the group and is interested in becoming involved in them will be most welcome at this meeting. Following the regu-



70 Years Ago - October 14, 1932

DALLAS HIGH TEAM TO MEET LEHMAN GRID MACHINE

Dallas High school football team, will attempt to redeem itself by gaining a decisive victory over Lehman High School when the two teams clash at the local field. Coach Donald Wormley has given the Dallas squad several hard workouts in an effort to eliminate the mistakes which have been responsible for the two recent losses.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: tomatoes, 4 cans 23¢; preserves, 12-oz. jar 10¢; cider vinegar, 22-oz bot 12 1/2 ¢; peas, 2 big cans, 29¢; fruit cocktail, can 23¢.

Lymon Moore, a life long resident of Dallas Township and manager of Nesbitt Farms passed away following an operation for appendicitis.

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

Auction committee solicits ideas

lar meeting, participants will prepare the library newsletter for mailing. For further information, call Jill at 696-3209, or e-mail her at jvk5754@aol.com.

Citrus fruit sale: Debbie Kirkwood announces that the pick-up dates for the Friends annual citrus fruit sale will be December 13 and 14 this year. Full details and a form for ordering fruit will be available soon. This has been a major fund-raiser for the Friends of the library for a number of years, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Computer classes: There are still opportunities to take advantage of the free computer classes on the use of the Internet being held at the library at the end of October. The vacancies are in the following classes: afternoons, Oct. 22 and 29; and the morning of Oct. 24. There is a limit of five persons per class. Call the library, 675-1182, to register.

New online program: Martha Butler, the library director, announces a new online program, Learn a Test, available without charge to library patrons. The practice exams pertain to many fields: academics, Civil Service, firefighting, GED, real estate, and U. S. Citizenship, to name a few. The program can be accessed by library card holders at the library or at home. The URL is www.learnatest.com/librarycard. Financial support for the project is provided by Wilkes-Barre Library District funds.

Circulation statistics for September: Total circulation, 7,350; books added, 214; new borrowers, 71; and active borrowers, 14,931.

Book review: "Empire Falls," by Richard Russo, was the topic at the recent meeting of the Monday morning book discussion group. It is the story of life

in a small Maine town, now deeply depressed following the closing of the mills that were owned and operated by one family for many years. The last living member of that family still controls the town to a large degree. In spite of this gloomy scenario, the book is so full of humor and compassion, the characters so richly drawn and the plot so well developed, that almost everyone found the story absorbing. The book was a winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

At the next meeting of the group, on October 28, "The Poisonwood Bible," by Barbara Kingsolver, will be discussed.

New display: Robert Swartz has put on display some of the Universal Monster models which he has constructed, such as Creatures of the Black Lagoon, Dracula, and the Bride of Frankenstein. He started the hobby as a child, and is still going strong.

60 Years Ago - October 9, 1942

DRAFT BOARD MAKES HEAVY CALL FOR MEN

Twenty-four young men from the Back Mountain region, most of them in the 20-year-old age group, have been called for physical examinations by Draft Board No. 1 at Wyoming. If they pass their qualifying tests at Wilkes-Barre Induction Center, they will go into the army on November 1.

A dozen or more local horsemen accompanied by others from Tunkhannock, Scranton, Allentown and Elmira, will have the Robinson Farm in Dallas Township on their annual 3-day, 100-mile ride over rugged mountain trails, through the North Mountain country.

Reds defeated the Blues 25-0 in the first game of Lehman High school intramural football program. Both teams were handicapped by eligibility rules. Reds were without eight and Blues without six of their regular players because of scholastic difficulties.

50 Years Ago - October 24, 1952

SCHOOL JOINTURE HAS TWO NEW TEACHERS

Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Joint School Board introduced two new teachers to its ranks, Joan Grace White from Williamsport, and Jeanne Smith Jones from Dallas.

Lewis Wesley, former manager of Forty Forty has replaced Malcolm Strunk as manager of

Acme supermarket in Dallas. Strunk, 23, youngest manager in the organization, was drafted and left for Ft. Meade Md.

New by-laws reducing the board of Directors from fifty-two to twenty-seven directors and increasing the executive board from eleven to fifteen members were adopted at the meeting of Board of Directors of Back Mountain Memorial Library.

40 Years Ago - October 18, 1962

SMASHED WINDOWS AT HARVEYS LAKE, BOROUGH

A wave of vandalism in Dallas Township comprised of smashed and stolen equipment and paint-throwing topped off by smashed windows in Dallas Borough and Outlet, Harveys Lake. Five Dallas Township boys ages 11 to 14 were scheduled for hearings for "delinquency"

Kingston Township Board of Supervisors dropped insurance on the Memorial Highway township building, at its October meeting and agreed to investigate the possibility of obtaining federal funds to build a new township building.

Some of the items you could get at Whitesell Bros. were: Cedar Lumber, 2"x4" 64¢ ea.; White Pine, 1"x2" 3¢ Lin. Ft.; Mahogany Paneling 18¢ Sq. ft. or 4x8' sheet \$5.76; Knotty Birch Paneling 27¢ Sq. ft., 4x8' sheet \$8.64.

30 Years Ago - October 12, 1972

NEIGHBORS OBJECT TO THREE-FAMILY DWELLING

Strong objections were voiced

to plans for a three family dwelling proposed by Raymon R. Hedden for construction in the vicinity of Pinecrest and machell Avenues, Dallas. The objections are based on the fact that Dallas Borough zoning laws restrict apartment dwellings in residential areas to two-family units.

Two Back Mountain men have been slated for admission to practice before the Luzerne County Courts. They are John H. Kennedy, Harveys Lake and Joseph J. an Jura, Shavertown.

James Kozemchak Sr. local photographer and author of the photo essay, "A Portrait of Agnes", presented three auto-graphed copies of the publication to Colege Misericordia for use in the college's library.

20 Years Ago - October 13, 1982

BOARD CHARGED WITH UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES

The Lake-Lehman Education Association had filed unfair labor charges against the district's board of directors for the second time in as many years. Charges referred to salaries set for instructors of the district's summer recreation program.

Dallas golfers earned a spot in ghe playoffs by outplaying Meyers 181/2-21/2 over the Irem Temple Country Club course.

The Boy Scouts of America, had announced that it will introduce a package of four new activities and concepts to complement its existing program. The propose is to add contemporary approaches to help Scouting meet the challenges of the 80's and beyond.

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