

EDITORIAL

Be thankful, and remember those who have it tougher

Thanksgiving is upon us once again, bringing with it the opportunity to take stock of the past year and express gratitude for our good fortune, if in fact that is what we have experienced.

We are another year removed from the catastrophe of September 11, 2001, and time has begun to heal some of the awful wounds our nation absorbed that terrible day. The jumble of steel, concrete and bodies at the site of the World Trade Center in New York has been cleared and rebuilding has begun. The Pentagon, shattered by a jet on which dozens of passengers were held hostage, has been restored. Monuments have been built and memorial services conducted, and they are now written into the permanent calendar of such somber activities. Overseas, the Taliban, which harbored the terrorist group responsible for these spineless attacks on innocent people going about their daily lives, has been overthrown and the process of crafting a responsible state to replace its harsh and evil rule is underway.

Fortunately, few of us have felt the direct effects of the major tragedies of recent history, even if we all feel the pain of our fellow inhabitants of the ball of soil and water we call Earth. But many of us have seen our family, work or personal situation change since last year, some for the better and others for worse. As removed as our 21st century lives may seem from those who first observed Thanksgiving in what would become America, their experience can still offer perspective and hope.

The early colonists had suffered a terrible winter their first year in Plymouth. More than half their number had died in harsh conditions for which they were unprepared. Were it not for assistance from friendly Indians, they might not have fared much better the second winter, or might have given up the quest to settle the New World and sailed back across the Atlantic. But Squanto and Samoset taught them how to plant corn and other crops that flourished the following summer, leading to a feast of Thanksgiving as winter again approached.

We hope each of you can find aspects of your life to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. As it was for the colonists, simply being alive to share the good times and bad with family and friends is not a bad place to start. If you have others, keep in mind those who may not, and spread your good fortune around when given the opportunity, such as by donating to a food bank or other institution that strives to bring a bit of light into otherwise darkened lives.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Since this is the week of our 381st Thanksgiving, I thought it would be appropriate to list some of the things I'm thankful for. These are not in order of importance, or even of seriousness. I hope you have some equally pleasant and amusing thoughts this holiday.

I'm thankful that Al Gore isn't president. It doesn't necessarily follow, however, that I'm thankful George W. Bush is president. David Letterman and Jay Leno probably feel differently, since Al Gore, with his incessant feigned sincerity and complete inability to see himself as 90 percent of Americans do, makes him a much better target for humor. Actually, he's probably sincere in the belief that most people want him back, which makes his situation even more pathetic.

I'm thankful that we're not at war against Iraq ... yet. Check in next year to see if this one is still valid.

I'm thankful that birds and bees and assorted other creatures inhabit the place I live, although I'd rather the bears stayed off the back deck.

I'm thankful that my daughter will be driving on her own in a few days, eliminating the need for late-night taxi service via mom and dad. I'd be even more thankful if the insurance company suddenly decided teenagers were no more likely to wreck a car than 80-year-olds who can't see over the steering wheel.

I'm thankful that the new First Union Arena attracts top-flight entertainment acts. The ticket prices are less thrilling.

I'm thankful that the Luzerne County commissioners are at least able to talk about reassessing property after 40 years. I'll be ecstatic if they actually do it.

I'm thankful that I bought stocks in only a handful of technology companies as the price went up. Not that there's any reason to get all teary about losing only a sleeve and some buttons instead of the whole shirt.

I'm thankful for computers that don't crash, cars that run forever, lawns that don't need mowing and children who don't ask for money. If you know where to find any of these things, please let me know.



Good advice, as doe season opens. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.



Carol King

A class designed to show students aged 12 to 18 how to use the Power Library will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 2 to 4 p.m., with a break included. The Power Library is an online research library that has access to databases that allow people to do research into art, music, science, magazines and journals. Class size is limited. To register for the class, stop by or call the library at 675-1182.



70 Years Ago - Nov. 25, 1932

DALLAS WORKERS RAISE MORE THAN QUOTA IN ANNUAL C.W.F. DRIVE

In a dramatic last minute drive, volunteer workers in the Dallas division of Community Welfare Federation's campaign for relief funds passed their quota and, in ratiion to amount raised, stood high among forty-three teams participating in the campaign.

In a report, the State able pollution seems to have developmental studies of the water of Lycoming Creek, which receive the wastes of the J.K. Mosser leather Company's Newberry plant and plans for future treatment works at its Noxen plant.

Some of the items you could get at American Stores Co. were: peaches, 10¢; red salmon, 2 cans 29¢; Asco coffee 1 lb., 23¢; Superfine toilet soap, 3 cakes 5¢.

60 Years Ago - Nov. 20, 1942

\$3,000 PLEDGED TO COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND

Dr. F. Budd Schooley, prime mover in the building project said a number of pledges had

Computer research class for students

Citrus fruit and cheesecake pick-up times: The library expresses its appreciation for the strong community support given to its annual sale, and asks again that everyone who placed an order mark his calendar with the pick-up dates of Friday, December 13, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reminders will not be sent. Please note that cheesecakes must be picked up on Friday to guarantee quality.

Thanks, too, to the Dallas Post, the library's steadfast supporter, for publishing the colorful order form for the sale in several issues of the Post.

Holiday hours: The library will be closed tomorrow and reopen on Friday. Our best wishes

to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends!

The annual Holiday Open House will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, December 18 and 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. each day. Everyone is invited for refreshments and a tour. The library will be closed on December 24 and 25, December 31, 2002, and January 1, 2003.

Registration for the Winter-Spring story hours will begin on Monday, January 6.

Looking far ahead (it seems far at the moment): Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 1, the Friends' 15th Annual Luncheon with a Special Author, and July 10-13, the 57th Annual Auction.

October Board report: Martha Butler reported that she, Marilyn Rudolph, Janet Bauman and Brian Fulton attended various meetings during the month to share program and activity ideas with others in the library system. The Back Mountain Memorial Library innovation of evening story hour for working mothers was applauded. Janet was awarded first prize at a craft session during a Youth Services Retreat at the Kirby House.

The library received an \$800 from the Marquis George McDonald Foundation. The donation had been recommended by Dallas resident Attorney Charles Shea III.

Statistics for the month included: total circulation, 8,502; books added, 303; new borrowers, 95; and active borrowers, 15,028.

been made during the past two weeks and turned over to W.B. Jeter, treasurer, bringing the total of legal pledges to more than \$3,000.

In spite of repeated promises the State Department of Education had refused to grant Andrew Bittenbender priority for the release of an all-steel school bus body to be used in hauling Dalals Township school pupils from the Alderson-Kunkle section.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company at its meeting appointed a five-man committee to confer with John Hewitt, chairman of the County scrap Salvage Committee, and enter a complaint against George Solomon & Sons, Wilkes-Barre scrap dealers. The firmen contend that they collected more than 60,000 pounds of scrap and that the Solomon firm paid them for less than 15,000.

50 Years Ago - December 5, 1952

RICHARDSON ONE OF 16 DODGE-PLYMOUTH DEALERS ON ADVISORY COUNCIL

L.L. Richardson, local Dodge-Plymouth dealer, was honored by appointments to membership on the New York Regional Dodge Dealers Advisory Council.

Back Mountain Memorial Library was named as a beneficiary by the will of the late Bertha Hutson, Dallas, Miss Hutson left her property on Franklin Street to the Library Association for charitable purposes as a memorial to the Hutson family.

Charles James, Supervisor of Instruction and Curriculum, Dallas-Kingston Township Joint Schools, was invited to become a

member of the visiting committee scheduled to evaluate Benjamin Franklin High School at Carbondale.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 29, 1962

AMBULANCE TO GET MORE EQUIPMENT

Dallas ambulance will get new equipment and emergency phones will be installed in some ten homes as decided at a meeting of the Ambulance Association. Immediate purchases will include a portable folding chair, new portable stretcher, straps for the regular stretcher, and snow tires.

State police recovered most of the sporting equipment and jewelry stolen from a Trucksville home, although a safe emptied of valuables, still lies at the bottom of the Sisqieamma Rover/Three men were charged with the burglary.

Some of the merchandise you could get at the stores in the Back Mountain Shopping Center in Shavertown were: Arrow shirts \$4.50 \$5; Holiday dresses \$14.98; Eskiloos boots, \$11.95; greetingcards, box of 50 77¢; gift paper box of 6 93¢.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1972

DAMA REQUESTS AN EXTENSION FOR SCHOOL

Supervisors from Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township were requested by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority at its meeting to approve an extension of the present sewer system to enable

the new elementary relocatable school on Hildbrandt Road to discharge sewage into the system.

The Bureau of Water Quality of the Department of Environmental Resources has turned to its own defense concerning the current public outcry at their "complete indifference to do something" about the alleged pollution at Harveys Lake. The operations chief said that "malfunctioning in septic systems" might be the determining factor in the pollution problem.

Elizabeth A. Fielding of Dalals won a \$25 prize for her contribution to Pivot, the poetry magazine at The Pennsylvania State University. Fielding won the M.W. Rubenstein Memorial Award for her poem, "Elegy for a Coal Miner's Daughter."

20 Years Ago - Nov. 24, 1982

DALLAS POST OFFICE PLANS IMPROVEMENTS

Long-awaited improvements at the Dallas Post Office were in the works. New sidewalks and curbing were installed in front of the building. The concrete work was done by Richard Lawrence of Pottstown. Permission had been granted by both the Borough and Acme Markets to install a one-way in and out drive.

Gate of Heaven Cub Pack 232 had its monthly meeting, at which time a U.S. flag was presented to the pack through the efforts of Congressman James Nelligan.

Mayor Paul LaBar was guest for the Story Hour for children during Book Week at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

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.

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