

## Yesterday

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asks that payment be made before it is necessary to send out bills.

Postmaster Joseph Polack urges all patrons within the proposed city mail delivery limits to have their houses numbered and letterboxes put in place so that they can be assured home delivery of mail as soon as the service starts.

40 Years Ago - March 14, 1963

### SIMULTANEOUS SPILL NEWS TO TRUCKERS

Two coal trucks, unaffiliated with each other, each hit a rut, their tailgates opened, and each dumped almost a half-ton of coal right on the road. Neither coal driver ever heard of the other, until each was told of the other by Officer Cliff Foss and Street Superintendent Andrew Perranto.

Sp. 4 William F. De Remer recently received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for seven months service on Quemoy Island.

Some car prices at Luzerne Motor Co. were: '60 Ford Galaxie, 4-door hardtop, \$1,495; '59 Ford Thunderbird hardtop, \$1,995; '55 Pontiac convertible, \$295.

30 Years Ago - March 15, 1973

### L-L BOARD REVEALS PLANS FOR \$2.7 MILLION SCHOOL

The architect's plans for a new \$2.7 million elementary school to Lake-Lehman were disclosed at a special school board meeting, the new school, which will be built on a 20-plus acre site located behind the present Lake-Lehman. Senior High School, will include 31 classrooms and may eventually house 1,000 children.

Dallas Borough patrolman sev. Newberry reported to the borough police station to discover that the large plate glass window on the building front had been smashed. A search of the office had failed to turn up any evidence.

At a meeting of the Lehman Township Supervisors heard many complaints from township residents about poor road conditions. Lake Silkworth residents of Metropolitan Avenue stated that mud had blocked their road and made it impassable for vehicular traffic.

20 Years Ago - March 16, 1983

### TOWNHOUSES PLANNED, BOARD CONSIDERS

Plans call for a new housing development consisting of 16 townhouses to be built in Dallas Twp. in the area bounded by Church Street, Center Hill Road and Claude Street.

The Lake-Noxen Elementary School children had their annual Balloon Day. Each student was given a helium filled balloon to launch. Each balloon had a care attached with a message instructing the finder to return the call through the mail.

Some of the items you could get at Daring's Market were: cooked salami, lb \$1.79; smoked kielbasi, lb. \$2.39; rump roast, lb. \$1.99; round roast, lb. \$1.89; eye roast, lb. \$2.39.

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Ken Socash, Michael Kurtinitis and Mark Love gathered recently to talk about their time at ENCON and what they plan to do next.

## ENCON

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group that meets on weekends said they became friends through the plant that was tentatively scheduled to close March 28, but may remain open longer to fulfill an unexpected rush of orders.

The workers expressed concern about where they'll work next, how far it will be from their homes and whether they'll need to go back to school to learn a new trade.

Bernie Lambert, who works in shipping and receiving, agreed with Kurtinitis about the unique environment at ENCON. She said acts of generosity at the factory were common.

"Being there 19 years, I've seen people give up their vacation time for those who are sick," she said.

In addition to the friends he's made there, Kurtinitis said he thanks ENCON for just about everything meaningful that has recently entered his life.

"The guy that hired me gave me my dog, I have this home and I met my fiancée there," said Kurtinitis.

Kurtinitis and his fiancée, Lori Hummel, live two miles from the plant. Both are facing unemployment within the next few weeks and both are unsure exactly what they will do.

Hummel has worked at ENCON since she graduated from high school 19 years ago. She current-

ly works as a coil winder, but has held a variety of positions over the years.

She said when the plant closes, she'll probably try to go back to school to learn a new trade. Kurtinitis pointed out that because coil winding is something specific to heating element manufacturing, there are not a lot of similar jobs available in the area. It's not likely that there are any.

Production employees at the meeting said they felt they wouldn't have a choice about whether or not to go back to school. They said they read about two other manufacturing plants in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area going out of business in recent weeks.

Hummel said she is concerned about whether she will be able to get funding to learn a new trade and if she does, whether or not her unemployment benefits would last the full duration of a program.

"If you talk to the majority of people there (at ENCON) they don't feel there's enough production jobs in the area — unless they go back to school," said Hummel.

Mark Love, a tool maker with the company for 18 years, said he especially worries about whether older employees will be marketable for new employment.

"A lot of people are up in age. A lot of them are in their fifties," he said.

Lambert said she would be willing to move to find a job, maybe to Florida where her husband's family is from. Others like Kurtinitis and Hummel said moving wasn't an option because of aging family in the area.

Either way, to gain new employment, employees will most likely have to venture outside of the Back Mountain, a fact bemoaned by Kurtinitis, his fiancée and the others who currently live a short drive from the plant.

Lambert said she felt there was a lot of help out there for them, it was just a matter of "being approved" for it.

"It's a lot to take in," said Love. Requirements of the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) which they say could provide funding for them to go to school stipulates:

- Applicants must first apply to three similar jobs and be turned down.
  - Applicants who are offered a job as low as 80 percent of their current salary, are not eligible.
  - Applicants who are offered a job within 50 miles of their residence, are not eligible.
- "Most people on 80 percent of their pay wouldn't be able to keep their household," commented Lambert.

## Chamber

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traffic congestion on Route 309.

"Site selectors look at whether their trucks are going to be sitting in traffic, costing them money," he said.

Donna Sedor, Vice President of Communications with the Chamber, said different types of businesses have different needs, but almost all would require infrastructure development. Businesses that may not rely on trucks may need significant amounts of power, while another business may require more water.

"Some communities need to enhance their infrastructure, from looking at water and sewage, to transportation issues," said Sedor.

According to Sedor, infrastructure development can be done on

either existing structures or to improve an area for a large business or industrial park. All of it, however, hinges on community interest.

She said if the community decides it is interested in further development, "the chamber has various pieces that can help."

"Because of the infrastructure issues, predominance of home developments and its rolling farm land, it (the Back Mountain) hasn't been targeted for industry," said Sedor.

"Unless it's something the community wants, we try not to go in," said Sedor.

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## Schools

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space would be an issue as early as next fall and that increased class size could result.

"Dr. Speziale mentioned about third grade sections going up to 24, 25 students. That is probably not correct. I believe he was meaning fourth grade," said Natitus.

Natitus also assured the public that there is an additional room "already in discussion" that could be utilized, if Dallas Elementary were to move its computer lab to the school's library. If the extra classroom were to be added, an increase in class size would be avoided.

Louise Roberts, librarian for Dallas Elementary, stood up and said no one had spoken to her yet about the idea.

"I am the librarian at the school and I was just wondering, do you have any idea how much of the library you're taking?"

Board members responded that the computer lab would take up just the back end of the room.

"Well, that's where all the books are," Roberts said.

Natitus said one of the major factors driving consideration of realignment — an increase in student enrollment — may not be an issue after all. He said in looking over enrollment figures for the last six years, the number of students at the elementary level had increased by only eight.

"There really has not been as dramatic an increase in certain areas. That's why I think it is important to really take a hard look at this over the next year," said Natitus.

Leah Ostrum, whose two children attend Wycallis, asked the board how people for the new task force would be picked.

Ashbridge responded that they would probably ask for volun-

"Thank you for giving us the next year to investigate."

Elaine Moran  
Wycallis teacher

teers. Natitus suggested utilizing the district web site, newsletter and the media to ask for volunteers and from that pool of names the board would make a random selection.

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Superintendent, and Ashbridge both thanked the elementary task force members for their work.

Several parents in turn thanked the board for deciding to wait on the realignment question.

When Elaine Moran, a first grade teacher at Wycallis, thanked the board, she said she spoke on behalf of many of the teachers. "Thank you for giving us the next year to investigate," she said.

Fannick, who had previously criticized the process, was impressed by the board's response.

"If there's anything that comes out of this, the public should know that they have a board that is concerned and that is willing to respond and willing to accept letters and telephone calls," he said. "You clearly have the best interest of the children at heart."

In other news, the board refused to pay Reynolds construction management for the month of February in the amount of \$22,628. The board did, however, pay the company the same amount for January and December.

The board also accepted the resignation of Pat McCue, high school head basketball coach.

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

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