

EDITORIAL

Keep up the energy for positive change

Wow! No lesser word can describe the difference in the appearance of "Downtown Dallas" shown in last week's virtual presentation of the Main Street area. Kevin Buchinski, a Penn State student who is helping with the "Our Dallas — Today and Tomorrow" visioning project, created the "after" versions of familiar spots, and the transformations are stunning. Removing unattractive signs, adding some greenery and — especially — placing utilities underground turn a ragtag view into the kind of quaint, attractive town we are in spirit, but not in actuality.

Then there's the abandoned gas station that sits at the center of everything. There may have been a time when that location was the key to success, but that has passed. Stuck hard by a busy intersection and hemmed in by parking lots and side streets, there is little to recommend it as a viable commercial enterprise, either as a service station or anything else. Some local volunteers are making a serious effort to convince the corporate owner to donate the forlorn building to the borough, using the argument that beyond the gratitude of the community, they will receive more value as a tax writeoff than they can ever hope to realize from a sale or lease.

That property is a key to another possible major improvement — the creation of a traffic "roundabout" to replace the present five-way intersection and traffic signals. The theory is that a roundabout offers several advantages over the present setup. First, there is no need for lights, other than perhaps for pedestrians, and thus traffic flows more smoothly. It also flows more slowly, since the very nature of the circular pattern encourages a moderate pace. And it offers prime real estate for an esthetic statement about Dallas and the entire Back Mountain that could not be further from the present ugliness.

There are still many questions to be answered before most of these dreams have a chance to become reality. But it is encouraging that so many people are looking so seriously at the region's future; their energy and enthusiasm are bound to make a difference, for the better, in our community.

Good choice to put off realignment

The directors of the Dallas School District deserve commendation for their decision to postpone realignment of the elementary buildings for at least a year, so the staff and parents can have adequate opportunity to contribute to the final arrangement. Just a few weeks ago, there were fears that the district would push through changes that hadn't been explained to the public, and especially to the people who had to work and live with any result.

No one has questioned district administrators' motives in this affair, and they surely have the best interests of the district and students in mind. But any change of this magnitude — which may replace two K-5 schools with one that is K-3 and the other grades four and five — needs to be thoroughly investigated and communicated to the community.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



This being the season of March Madness — the NCAA basketball playoffs — some people have begun floating the notion that college athletes should be paid for their services. At least one advocate of this scheme has suggested they shouldn't even have to be enrolled; the onerous duty of actually going to class can be put off until they've used up all their eligibility. That raises one of the interesting issues that would have to be addressed by rules makers — just how long would a player remain eligible, since grades and graduation wouldn't be a factor. Would it be four years? Players can now remain eligible for more than four years if they "red shirt" due to injury or academic standing, so that doesn't seem fair. Perhaps they would be allowed to stay on until they earned a fat professional contract or were ready to collect Social Security, whichever came first.

Keep in mind that this payment would be in addition to the full-boat athletic scholarships handed out by major colleges and universities, often to "students" whose applications wouldn't otherwise receive even a glance. No, these advocates of athlete welfare contend, it's just not fair to hand a kid \$20,000 or \$30,000 worth of free education each year, they need spending money, too, or they'll be tempted to accept use of an Escalade from a friendly local auto dealer. Their best supporting argument seems to be that athletes generate income for the school, unlike those leeches who just show up to get an education.

It has become hard enough to feel close to teams that recruit players from across the nation to represent their city or state on the fields of play; turning them into mercenaries with no other attachment to the institution than a paycheck would make it almost impossible to root for old Alma Mater U with any degree of passion.

I have some sympathy with the argument that some scholarship athletes come from families lacking the means to send them even meager amounts of cash for an occasional Big Mac. So, why not reach a compromise here: If a student fits the low-income profile, and is keeping his or her grades up, give him 20 bucks a week for pizza money. Of course, any institution deciding to do that for athletes had better prepare to defend itself in court against every other student without a Daddy Warbucks lifestyle.



Last scene of winter? Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS



Carol King

The week of April 7-12 will be celebrated at the Back Mountain Memorial Library by the "I Love the Library" Magic Show, featuring Mark Piazza, who will weave his magic using books that are in the library, from favorite fairy tales to modern-day classics. Kids of all ages are invited to attend the show on Monday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Programs for Young Adults: The first babysitting course conducted by the American Red Cross at the library was well attended. (See the picture elsewhere in the Post.) A second class, on April 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., has been

Library week will include magic show

scheduled, this time with an age range of 11 to 15 years old. The fee of \$25, which is due in the library before April 12, covers the cost of a copy of the Red Cross Babysitter's Handbook. Participants should bring their own sandwiches; the library will furnish sodas and cookies.

Note: A third class will be scheduled if there are as many as 10 interested young people who were not able to attend either of the first two classes. Call the library, 675-1182, for complete details.

The Red Cross First Aid and Safety course, a Young Adults program for 12 to 18-year-olds, will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Again, bring your own sandwiches). Participants learn how to act in emergency situations until medical help arrives. Registration and the fee of \$25 must be made in advance of the program date.

Librarian's report: Staff mem-

bers Martha Butler, Brian Fulton, Marilyn Rudolph, and Janet Bauman participated in February in county-wide meetings to improve the quality of the library's services.

Mrs. Rudolph and Mrs. Bauman visited the Evans Falls School and read to the kindergarten classes there. Mrs. Bauman also conducted a tour and crafts session for 12 Daisy Scouts and their leader. On Feb. 20th, the children of Head Start at Twin Stacks Center visited the library.

Elise Good of the Family Services Association is again discussing parenting skills with the parents of Story Hour children during Story Hour time.

Total circulation for the month of February was 8,098; new books added, 247; new borrowers, 85; and active borrowers, 15,242.

Staff member "in jail" for a good cause: (There! That caught your eye.) We are happy to an-

nounce that Brian Fulton was in jail for several hours on March 13. The occasion was the annual Muscular Dystrophy drive for funds. Brian volunteered to spend time in a makeshift jail at the Holiday Inn, and was released when passers-by added to the amount Brian had already collected for MD from generous library staff members and patrons.

Cut in library budget: For information about the proposed 50 percent cut in spending for libraries in the state budget, and what you can do to help, click on www.backmountainlibrary.org

New display: Sue Hand has loaned to the library a display which she has labeled "Paintbrushes, Palettes, and Prints of the Back Mountain." It is a charming display of familiar scenes and other items. Please take a look the next time you come into the library.



70 Years Ago - March 24, 1933

FREE SEEDS AVAILABLE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

Under auspices of Luzerne county Emergency Gardens committee, backyard gardens and community plot gardens will be planted throughout the region. Seed and fertilizer will be furnished by Luzerne County Emergency Relief board to all eligible persons.

A stormy session of Dallas borough school board opened in the high school building with resignation of Daniel Waters as president of the board and climaxed by the decision not to reappoint A.E. Uber as supervising principal of the borough schools.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: apricots, 2 lbs 25¢; Ovaltine, 6 oz. can 39¢; Betty Crocker milk chocolate layer cake, special each 39¢; Oxydol, 2 small pkgs 15¢.

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

60 Years Ago - March 19, 1943

AMERICAN PRESS MAGAZINE CARRIES FEATURE ARTICLE ON SCRIPT CLUB

The Dallas Post's Script Club received national recognition in a full-page article appearing in The American Press, publishers' monthly magazine with nationwide distribution.

State Game Protector T.A. Reynold of Kingston issued a warning that large numbers of licensed and unlicensed dogs are running wild game throughout the Back Mountain region and Red Rock Mountain.

Establishment of an air raid control center Back of the Mountain was closer to reality with the announcement that Commonwealth Telephone Company will maintain a 24-hour alert to handle their first incoming call during an air raid.

50 Years Ago - March 20, 1953

ROSS CITIZENS OPPOSE RAISE IN ROAD TAXES

Ross Township taxpayers, faced with a two-mill increase in road taxes while there is a \$6,082 surplus in the township treasury, held an indignation meeting. Many believe the increase is the retaliation for the refusal of Auditors Edgar Cragle and Basil Steele to increase the Supervisors' rates of pay before first discussing it at a taxpayers meeting.

Reynold, "Chubby" Watkins purchased the old Rinus property along Memorial Highway near Woodland Inn, Shavertown, and

is erecting a concrete block store and warehouse there. The business will be known as Luco Farm Service.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company's new \$15,907 American LaFrance pumper has been promised for delivery soon. A road test is being given at Elmira.

40 Years Ago - March 21, 1963

AMBULANCE GETS HYDRAULIC COT

Dallas ambulance tried out a new Bomgardner hydraulic stretcher for size at a meeting of the ambulance association. The stretcher if the latest of its kind, insuring passenger of a smooth transit from stretcher to a hospital, bed or table.

Kingston Township supervisors will soon arrange for new quarters, as time draws near to vacate the township building, about \$17,000 will be realized from sale of the present property to State Department of Highways. Supervisors must erect a new building if they are to receive funds from the Emergency Public Works Fund.

Damage estimated at around \$800 was done to the home of Henry Altemus, Noxen, by a fire subsequently subdued by some thirty Noxen volunteer firemen. Altemus was not injured. Chief Calvin Strohl, says most likely that a fuse was overloaded, and made a wire hot.

30 Years Ago - March 22, 1973

BOARD AND TEACHERS AGREE TO 2-YEAR CONTRACT

The Dallas Board of School Di-

rectors and the Dallas Education Association recently concluded negotiations with a two-year contract agreement. The first of its kind to be signed by the two groups.

Dallas Area Municipal Authority signed a formal service agreement with the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority at the regular monthly meeting of DAMA.

The admissions office at college Misericordia had announced the acceptance of Cynthia Anne Jalil, daughter of His Excellency Cecil J. Jalil, Ecuadorian Ambassador to the United Nations.

20 Years Ago - March 23, 1983

FBI INVESTIGATES FIRE

An arson team from the FBI was called in to investigate a house fire that occurred on Demunds Corners. Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers stated there is "no question" that the fire was arson.

District Magistrate Leonard Harvey, who officially announced that he is running for re-election would be apparently be unopposed at the polls. Despite rumors that at least one other candidate would be running, no one filed for the post.

Lehman Brownie Troop 641, and Junior Troop 626 took part in Boscov's Department Store's 21st anniversary celebration for the Girl Scouts from Penn's Woods Council. The Brownies won two ribbons, a first prize overall for their table display, and the junior troop won a first prize ribbon in the junior age level display.

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Genealogical Society to conduct workshop at Osterhout

The Northeast PA Genealogical Society will conduct a Computer Workshop with Michael Strauss, District Director of the Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. Use of the 1800 United States Census CDs will be demonstrated at the Gates Computer Lab., Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 6 p.m. March 25. Registration is limited to 25 participants.

The 1800 CDs are available for research at the NEPA Genealogical Society library, 156 N. Main St., Shavertown. The records of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Church, Wilkes-Barre, and St. Mary's Church, Avoca, have been microfilmed and are also available for research. To register call the Osterhout Free Library at 823-0156.