

EDITORIAL

Why the rush to reinstate demoted HL chief?

The show of support for Harveys Lake Police Chief Jeffrey Butler appears to be a clear signal that the people he serves respect Butler's ability and dedication. That is an admirable circumstance, but is it enough reason to reinstate him, and in the process overlook several years of administrative lapses that have already led to the reversal of two convictions, including that of a repeat drunk driver?

After it was revealed that several borough officers lacked proper credentials — putting arrests they made in jeopardy — Butler was demoted and his salary reduced by a token \$1,000. That seemed insufficient punishment to some observers, and the rush to return him to the top job seems premature as well. At the very least, Butler's lapses will cost the borough money as it works to refile and prosecute the charges, and at worst they will allow guilty persons to go unpunished. That doesn't seem like the standard the leader of a law enforcement agency should be held to.

The present staff of the Harveys Lake Police Department may indeed be a huge step forward from that of a few years ago, but that is not reason to lower expectations to the point of ignoring errors that hold the potential to cause serious harm to the public. The time may come when Butler has redeemed himself sufficiently to again be trusted with the Chief's job, but the current rush to forgiveness seems too quick and too soon.

Cemeteries hold our history; we should take care of them

In and around large cities, cemeteries are frequently uprooted to make room for development or highways. Here, it sometimes seems, they are just neglected. That is the case for the old cemetery next to the Community Bible Church in Sweet Valley, where selfless volunteers have done what they could to maintain the graves and grounds. But time is catching up with them, and so is fiscal reality. They are receiving little in the way of support from family members of people buried there, with the result that nothing more than basic maintenance is being performed.

Old church cemeteries are key sources of information for people who want to learn about a region's history. Gravestones can tell the story of families who settled there, when they came, how long they stayed and even how much they prospered. It would be a shame to lose these records. Perhaps a combination of private and public effort can be marshalled to assure that ancestors' surroundings are maintained in dignity and connections to the past are not lost to weeds and weather.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



There has been a lot of puzzling in recent years over the lack of protest against war on college campuses. Aside from a generally more conservative mindset among students who value a big paycheck and fancy car more than peace and love, I think the absence of a draft has made it convenient to view armed conflict in the abstract. "There is nothing that focuses the mind so well as an imminent hanging," goes the saying, and being drafted during wartime is about the closest most of will get to that feeling of dread. For me, it came when I was 20 years old and had not returned to school. Obviously my instincts for self-preservation weren't fully developed or I would have found a way to overcome boredom with academics, since college, parenthood and a quick trip to Canada were the primary means of avoiding an excursion to Vietnam.

The truth was, the invitation to take a bus to New Haven for a pre-induction physical wasn't entirely unwelcome. Military life would at least provide some much-needed discipline, and I would be following in the footsteps of a father who had served with distinction in World War II. Alas, my mixed emotions were stilled when a doctor dismissed me after questioning revealed a condition that made me unsuitable for service.

I still think an opportunity was missed that day, for me and my country. Perhaps I wasn't the most able-bodied potential soldier, but I could have performed a useful function and in the course of it saved the government some money. It's understandable that everyone in the military must be fit to go to the front lines if absolutely necessary, but there are plenty of other places people like me could have been put to work. That's why the concept of a draft that includes national service for everyone has some attractions. It's awfully easy for young Americans to take for granted the considerable benefits of living in our nation, and to never come to grips with what it means to be a cog in the big wheel that keeps us going.

Rep. Charles Rangel, himself a decorated veteran, proposed reinstating the draft as a means of forcing the armed services to better reflect the populace, and he was roundly criticized for the effort. But he's on the right track — too many young people who choose the military as a refuge from poverty are risking their lives to protect others who are freed from service. Aside from the obvious questions of fairness in this situation, the fortunate majority are left to stray farther from the essential elements that make America the pre-eminent power in today's world, and that is not a healthy situation in the long run.



Still a little chilly to use these. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

New books added at Back Mountain Memorial Library

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

FICTION

- Lost Light by Michael Connelly
- A Ship Made of Paper by Scott Spencer
- The Happiness Code by Amy Herrick
- Family History by Dani Shapiro
- Crabwalk by Gunter Grass
- Lost in a Good Book by Jasper Fforde
- Miss Julia Hits the Road by Ann B. Ross
- Birthright by Nora Roberts
- Dead Aim by Iris Johansen
- Cold Pursuit by T. Jefferson Parker
- Bay of Souls by Robert Stone
- Twelve Times Blessed by Jacquelyn Mitchard
- Frozen Rodeo by Catherine Clark
- Under the Skin by James Carlos Blake

The Price by Joan Johnston

The Afterword by Mike Bryan

Gilgamesh by Joan London

Children of the Storm by Elizabeth Peters

Mrs. Kimbleby Jennifer Haigh

On This Day by Nathaniel Belows

The Hours by Michael Cunningham

NON-FICTION

- 1421: the year China discovered America by Gavin Menzies
- Better Homes and Gardens Scrapbooking
- Your Pregnancy for the Father-to-be by Glade B. Curtis, M.D.
- Fodors Pocket London 2003
- Echoes of Love, from Heavens Above by Mickey Nivelli
- Jarhead; a Marines chronicle of the Gulf war by Anthony Swofford
- Sync: the emerging science of spontaneous order by Steven H. Strogatz
- Secret Empire by Philip Taub-

man

BIOGRAPHY

Dreamer of Dune by Brian Herbert

REFERENCE

Current Biography 2002

BOOKS ON CD

- Reversible Errors by Scott Turow
- Dreamcatcher by Stephen King
- Finders Keepers by Mark Bowden
- Dating Game by Danielle Steel
- Back Story by Robert B. Parker
- Ties That Bind by Phillip Margolin
- Atkins for Life by Robert C. Atkins, M.D.
- Small Wonder by Barbara Kingsolver

MYSTERY

- Chickahominy Fever by Ann McMillan
- Murder Off Mike by Joyce

Krieg

REFERENCE

- Standard and Poors Register of Corporations, Directors, & Executives 2003
- Weiss Ratings Guide to Common Stocks Fall 2002 & Winter 2002-03
- Weiss Ratings Guide to Brokerage Firms Winter 2002-03
- Short Story Index 2001-2002
- The World Book Yearbook 2003
- Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2002
- Encyclopedia Britannica 2003 Book of the Year
- McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology 2003

LARGE PRINT NON-FICTION

Bush at War by Bob Woodward

AUDIOTAPES

- Back Story by Robert B. Parker
- Miss Julia Hits the Road by Ann B. Ross



70 Years Ago - April 28, 1933

NO DIPHTHERIA CLINICS LOCALLY THIS YEAR

No toxin-antitoxin clinics will be conducted in the back mountain region this year, according to a statement issued by Dr. G.K. Swartz, who is in charge of the diphtheria prevention campaign. Swartz did state that toxoid will be administered to all children in their own homes by their own physician, if diphtheria prevention is wanted.

Delinquent taxpayers of Luzerne County who can pay taxes and reuse to do so will have their property sold at a tax sale, stated the county commissioner at a recent meeting.

Eight boys from Kingston Township High School, accompanied by James Martin and Wilson Cease, faculty members, visited "Uncle Peter" Martin, Evans' Falls storekeeper who, though blind for fifty years, cheerfully and efficiently carries on his business. He can find his way about the store without help, fills orders and makes change.

60 Years Ago - April 23, 1943

BUTTER MAKERS FAIL TO TAKE RATION STAMPS

In a statement issued, mem-

bers of Dallas War Price and Rationing Board said farmers who slaughter meat and many housewives who churn butter are not complying with OPA regulations and accepting ration stamps when they sell these products.

Through the efforts of Harold E. Flack, Representative in the Legislature from the Sixth District, and attempt is being made to have the State Highway Department take over the maintenance of Church Street, between the intersection of the new Harveys Lake Highway in Dallas Borough and the intersection with the Tunkhannock Highway in Dallas Township.

Volunteer workers, members of Dallas Women's Club, who are handling the War Bond Drive at their booth in Dallas Postoffice had topped their quota by \$1,750 and expect to double that amount before the close of the drive.

50 Years Ago - April 24, 1953

SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE SALE OF LOCAL BANK

First National Bank of Dallas became the Dallas Branch of Miners National Bank of Wilkes-Barre. By unanimous vote, shareholders representing eighty-five percent of the outstanding stock of First National Bank voted to approve the merger.

After borrowing \$4,000 on a short term loan from first National Bank, Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company was able to pay \$15,907 in full to the American La France Company for its new fire truck.

Young hoodlums are making life miserable for residents of the upper end of Church Street.

The boys, ranging in age from eight to twelve have uprooted expensive shrubs and flowers, destruction of walls, stuffing rusty tin cans into mailboxes, and damage to cars parked before the houses.

40 Years Ago - April 25, 1963

NINETEEN FIRE CALLS, SOME SET

Nineteen calls were registered on the fire chief's report at a meeting of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company. One call was an assist at Kunkle, where Kunkle, Harveys Lake, and Dallas firemen brought a lightning fire under control.

During a thunderstorm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Turpin, Shavertown, was struck by a bolt of lightning which split the chimney in half, shattering plaster in the bathroom and starting a blaze on the stairs.

Both House and Senate Public Works Committees have approved prospectus for the new post office at Dallas, and a request for \$69,500 for site location and design and specifications has also been approved. The construction costs estimated at some \$170,000 will be included in the 1964 fiscal year budget.

30 Years Ago - April 26, 1973

DALLAS BOROUGH COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE ON OUTDOOR BURNING

After an extended discussion, Dallas Borough Council passed an outdoor burning ordinance, with the help of a tie-breaking vote by Mayor Steve Hartman. The ordinance will require all

non-permit, non-ocuncil authorized burning to be done in a container, covered with a one-half inch mesh screen.

Members of the Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company are busy preparing for the annual festivities. Many floats and marching units have already entered the parade. Some of the features of the three-day event are the Back Mountain Enduro Riders Motorcycle Club, a pony show, Sky Divers.

Four West Side families were recipients of checks totalling \$1,000 from combined efforts of the Suburban Bucks Jaycee Wives and the Centurion Chapter Jaycees of the Sate Correctional Institution at Dallas. These were presented to help those families who were victims of Hurricane Agnes.

20 Years Ago - April 27, 1983

DALLAS BAPTIST CHURCH OPENS IN TEMPORARY HOME

The new Dallas Baptist Church opened its doors for services at the temporary location at Mill street, adjacent to the Agway Store. Dr. Robert Myrant, was called to be pastor.

Kingston Twp. officials were faced with controversy over a proposed landfill on Bunker Hill road. With John Brdaric applying for a permit to use his property there as a dump site, many township residents and officials were upset.

Some of the items at Back Mountain Lumber & Coal were: lawn weed killer, \$4.77 quart, curved claw hammer, \$6.96; grass shears, \$7.77.

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