

EDITORIAL

# Hemlock Gardens crusader proves you can fight, and win

Millie Monk must never have heard that old saying, "You can't fight city hall." Either that, or she decided to pay it no mind as she crusaded to get the streets in her little development, Hemlock Gardens, repaired and paved.

Millie decided several years ago that she and her neighbors deserved to be treated as well as anyone else in Harveys Lake Borough, and set out to get someone to provide streets that were properly graded, drained and surfaced. As the years dragged on and frustration mounted, she never showed signs of giving up the quest she had set off on. Her first challenge was to establish who was responsible for the roads. "Not me," said the original developer, who had built dirt roads. "Not us," said borough officials after drainage "improvements" left the roads rutted and nearly impassable, particularly in winter. But Millie pressed on. Once it became clear the borough was the logical party to make repairs, money became an issue. But Millie's persistence, both in prodding officials and looking for grants that could offset the expense, paid off with a state Growing Greener grant that paid the bulk of the cost.

In the process of getting her road fixed, Millie and her husband Bill did the entire borough a favor, too. It seems that sediment runoff from Hemlock Gardens was flowing into Harveys Lake, degrading water quality. That dirty little secret was helpful in attaining the grant money that would ultimately bring this issue to a positive end.

Millie Monk wasn't always received with open arms as she attended council meetings, cajoled neighbors to join her quest and generally made a pest of herself — for a good cause. But she wasn't worried about what other people thought, she was determined to do something good for herself, her neighbors and her community. Every community should be lucky enough to have a Millie Monk within its borders.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek

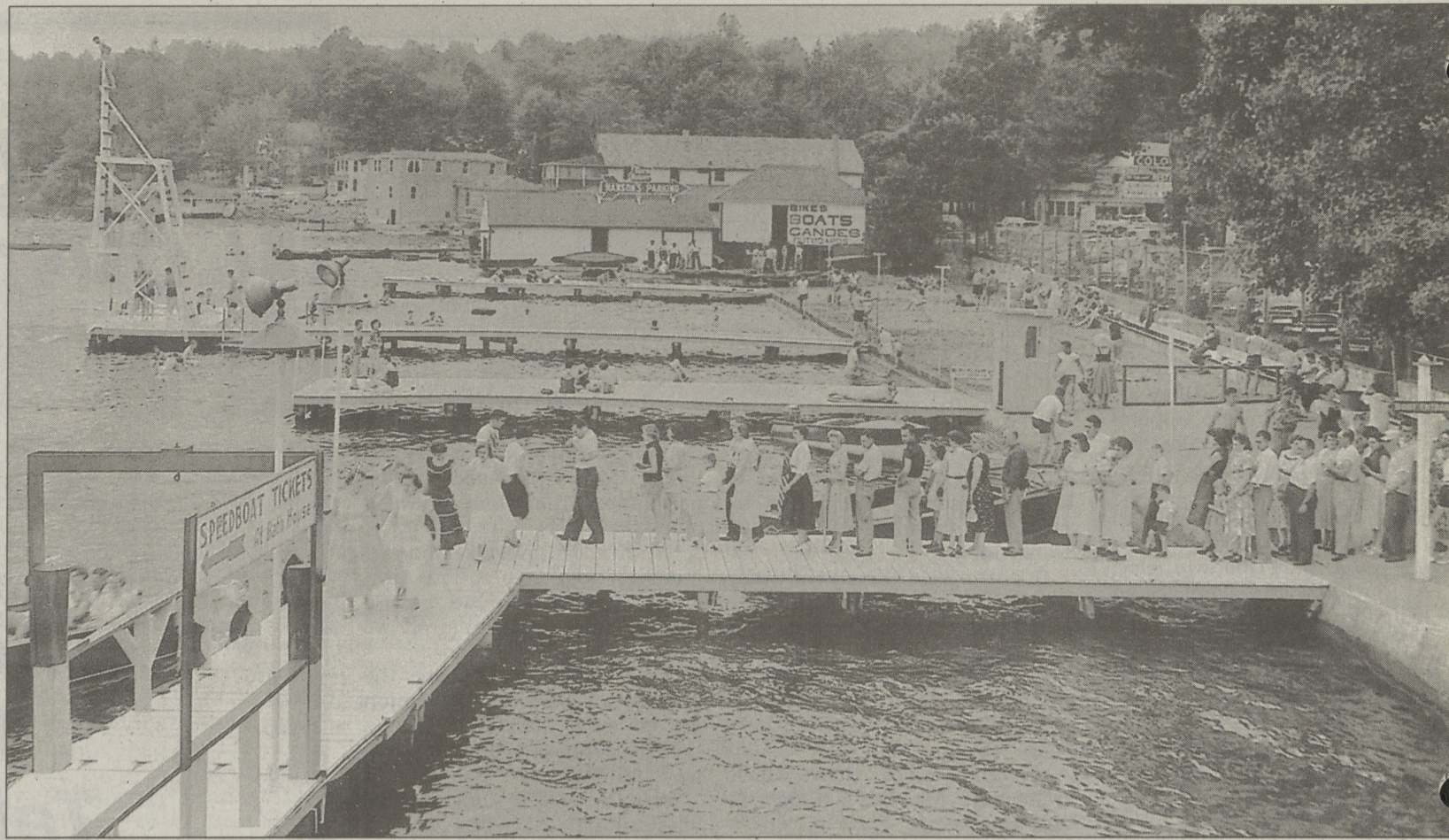


After a round of golf last weekend, the wife and I stopped for lunch at one of the chain restaurants that have sprouted in this area like mushrooms after a spring rain. This particular establishment shall remain nameless, but does it really matter when they all have quesadilla, 17 burgers and broccoli and cheese soup on the menu? Really, other than that phony Mediterranean place, which I've yet to visit, I don't see a lick of difference between most of them. You need look no further than the "Blue Blarney" drink at the one that claims to be Irish to see what I'm getting at. It's a blue margarita, but I guess that doesn't fit their chosen stereotype.

An ethnic or national identity, no matter how farfetched, seems to be the hook for most of these places. Take Outback Steakhouse, please. There, everything must have an Aussie touch, right down to the restrooms. I've been told, though, that actual Australian women are offended at the "Sheilas" label on their door, since down under that's a derogatory term for a lady who isn't, in delicate terms, really a lady.

In reality, I think all these restaurants have a common kitchen hidden away somewhere in Wilkes-Barre, and the most important thing the cooks have to worry about is getting the crab cakes and mozzarella sticks on the right platter before it's whisked away to your table through a secret underground passageway. That's the only way the menus could be so similar.

Speaking of menus, do you think it occurred to the outraged Congressmen who renamed their side dish "Liberty Fries" that they still order from the menu, and that some of the items are available a la carte?



Funseekers lined up on the dock at Hanson's in this 1940 photograph.

## LETTERS

### LCB store union chief says Sunday sales are no plus

Editor,

The fundamental justification for an institution like a retail alcohol monopoly is that there are important tasks that can be accomplished better than private interests can. The state store system has traditionally attempted to minimize harm from drinking. No financial incentives for employees to sell to intoxicated or underage persons; total cooperation with law enforcement not to serve any customer they consider a threat to the community; and, non-promotion by billboard, radio or newspaper advertising promoting the sale of liquor and wine in Pennsylvania.

The adverse effects of drinking on others — on the family, friends and acquaintances and on strangers — are the greatest source of social concern and the most compelling justification for the government's intervention in the marketplace. The fundamen-

tal justification of the PA state store system is that it occupies a field that would be otherwise occupied by private interests in competition to sell more alcohol.

The number of retail state stores in Pennsylvania is limited. Less than 10 percent of the children age 6-18 in Pennsylvania are exposed to liquor and wine at an early age compared to all the children who are exposed to liquor and wine sales in a supermarket setting in other states. State stores in Pennsylvania are not clustered in urban areas to be the focal point of neighborhood disruption and crime.

Pennsylvania ranks 37th in wine per capita consumption and 48th in liquor per capita consumption. This statistic should please Pennsylvania citizens; drinker and non-drinkers alike. The National Institute for Alcohol and Alcoholism (NIAAA) in a study just released, in a national alcohol data (Survey #59), indi-

cates that 48.5 percent of Pennsylvanians are non-drinkers.

While the state store system offers the largest selection of liquor and wine in the country, it does not promote or attempt to grow the business as supermarkets and private sellers would necessarily do.

Presently, one (1) out of every 878 Pennsylvanians now visit the 60 state stores open on Sunday. These stores are, in general, the largest stores in the most affluent areas with the highest annual volume. Sunday sales will produce annually \$17 million in sales, half of which will be transferred from other days of the week. The net revenue to the Commonwealth enhanced by Sunday sales will be less than \$4 million in additional profit and taxes. The state store system will generate \$1,300,000,000 in sales and \$325 million in profit and taxes this fiscal year. A legislator in central Pennsylvania reported

this month he had polled his constituents who did not want state stores open on Sunday by a 72-28 margin.

A government monopoly changes the contours of the political arena in which alcohol policy is debated. After Iowa privatized their system, the private store-owners quickly succeeded in forcing a reduction of the state's alcohol tax to make their businesses more profitable.

The balance between the private pleasure from drinking on the one hand, and the private and public harms on the other can be determined by the interest of the broad public rather than by the interests of commerce with the present state store system.

Alcohol is the number one drug of use and abuse in both the USA and Pennsylvania.

Ed Cloonan, President  
Independent State Store Union  
Harrisburg, PA

### New books added to Back Mountain Library collection

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

#### FICTION

The Second Time Around by Mary Higgins Clark  
Dirty Work by Stuart Woods  
All He Ever Wanted by Anita Shreve  
The Guardian by Nicholas Sparks

Monkeewrench by P.J. Tracey  
A Visible Darkness by Jonathan King  
Stone Heart by Diane Glancy  
The Force of the Past by Sandro Veronesi  
The Room-Mating Season by Rona Jaffe

#### NON-FICTION

Training for Climbing by Eric J Horst  
Snowmobiling: have fun, be smart by Michael A. Sommers  
**MYSTERY**

Engaged to Die by Carolyn Hart  
The Kalahari Typing School for Men by R.A. McCall Smith

#### SCIENCE FICTION

Red Thunder by John Varley  
**LARGE PRINT FICTION**  
The Arraignment by Steve Martini  
King of Torts by John Grisham  
The Rana Lookby Sandra Brown  
Hotspur by Rita Mae Brown  
Every Waking Moment by

Meryl Sawyer  
Celt and Pepper by Ralph M. McInerney  
The Miracles of Santo Fico by D.L. Smith

The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again-94 by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Lullaby by Chuck Palahniuk  
Lionheart by Connie Mason  
Caramelo, or Puro Cuento by Sandra Cisneros  
**YOUNG ADULT**  
To the Edge of the World by Michele Torrey

## Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post welcomes 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.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



70 Years Ago - May 12, 1933

#### NEW WATER TANK INSTALLED HERE

A tank of 8,000 gallon capacity was put into service by the Harry E. F. Goeringer Water Company. It supplies 50 homes at Hillcrest View, Shavertown. The former tank collapsed.

Some of the items at the A & P Store: potatoes 10 lbs. 29¢; milk 2 tall cans 11¢; butter 2 lbs 47¢; pears large can 19¢; prunes large can 15¢.

Movies that played at the Himmler Theatre: Luxury Liner with George Brent; Smoke Lightning with George O'Brian; Billion Dollar Scandal with Robert Armstrong; King Kong with Fay Wray.

60 Years Ago - May 7, 1943

#### FREAK WEATHER RETARDS CROPS

Pasture development is way behind schedule in the Back Mountain region. Dairymen who turn their herds out to pasture

between May 1 and 15 will probably not be able to put their animals in the fields before the start of May or early part of June. Temperatures throughout the State averaged below normal and ranged from 25 to 78 degrees. Farmers are planting oats and potatoes when weather permits.

First member of his class to join the armed services, Richard LeGrand, Dallas Borough High School senior left for the Naval Training station at Sampson N.Y.

Farmers were among the first to feel the pinch of the gasoline shortage when tank truck distributors were unable to supply them with much needed fuel for their tractors.

50 Years Ago - May 8, 1953

#### DANIEL RICHARDS MADE SECRETARY OF JOINT BOARD

Daniel Richards was elected secretary for a four year term at the meeting of Dallas-Franklin Joint School Board. Mr. Richards succeeds Floyd Chamberlain who resigned.

Dallas Township Supervisors started on the construction of the new short-cut road Shavertown to Fernbrook over the old traction company right of way.

Lester B. Squier was elected to head the ninth annual Back Mountain Horse Show. Squier is principal of the Lehman-Jackson Joint Schools.

40 Years Ago - May 9, 1963

#### HIGH SCHOOL SELLS 1100 FLAP-JACK TICKETS

Aunt Jemima Pancake Festival sponsored by Kiwanis in Dallas High School cafeteria was the social event of the week. Around 1,100 tickets, were sold, with an unofficially estimated \$700 to \$800 profit, benefits of the Key Club, Back Mountain's outstanding youth civic organization.

Bill Purcell, proprietor of Purcell's Oil Company Memorial Highway Shavertown, received a letter from the Kingston Township Board of Appeals approving his request to construct a 20,000 gallon storage tank for petroleum products on his land where he conducts a filling station.

Jackson Township Board of Supervisors will petition the Court of Quarter sessions to enforce that part of the township code which would require Larksville Borough to share maintenance costs of Steele's Farm Road with the township.

30 Years Ago - May 10, 1973

#### POST PREPARES VOTE GUIDE

The Dallas Post prepared as a public service preceding the primary election, a Back Mountain Voters' Guide. Only those candidates aspiring to offices which are considered policy-making

positions have been interviewed. Atty. Ben Jones III, solicitor for the Dallas School District stated at the regular board meeting that a young man, over 18 had come forth and admitted being the sole cause for the vandalism at the senior high school.

The Lake-Lehman Band won two first place prizes at the Shendoah National Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester Va. One of almost 200 bands they won a first prize in the World's Largest Firmen's Parade and another first prize in the field whos competition.

20 Years Ago - May 11, 1983

#### LEHMAN-JACKSON PTA WINS FOR THIRD YEAR

The Lehman-Jackson PTA was proud to announce it had been awarded the "Most Outstanding Local Unit Award in the State" for the third consecutive year.

Numerous Kingston Twp. residents will have new addresses, courtesy of the U. S. Post Office and the Township. Under the new system every residence has been assigned a house and a street number rather than the formerly used box number or R.D. number.

At Daring's Market you could get smoked bologna, lb \$1.59; pork loins lb. \$1.29; pork roast lb. \$1.49; bulk sausage lb. \$1.49; lebanon bologna lb. \$2.49.

## The Dallas Post

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Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?

A: Only in The Dallas Post