

OUR OPINION

Thanks, Sue, for your contributions to library

This year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will feature a special, although not necessarily welcome highlight — the sale of the final on-site auction painting by Dallas artist Sue Hand. That's final as in, "for now," we hope.

The prolific artist's auction painting has been the largest single item sold during each of the last several auctions. And watching her create it amid the hustle and bustle of the event has been a treat for everyone who has attended, as each night her skilled hands added detail, color and drama to a unique auction scene. Finally, as the sun set Sunday night, the finished painting, expertly framed by her husband, Joe, would be sold to the highest bidder. But it has never been easy or inexpensive to take it home, as spirited bidding sent the price soaring while library supporters watched with eager anticipation of the completion of another successful auction.

But all good things must come to an end, and we are grateful this one has lasted so long, and helped the library so much. An artist's creative spirit needs new inspiration and fresh challenges from time to time, and Sue is looking forward to both with a massive 10-year project to chronicle the "Light and the Land" of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She says the auction experience has helped prepare her for this venture, but she has given far more to us along the way than she will be taking.

We're bearly removed from the natural world around us

A note and photos contributed to this week's issue by Ken and Joan Rogers, who live in the High Point Acres subdivision in Dallas Borough, remind us that development in the Back Mountain hasn't moved us all that far from the natural world we've invaded.

The Rogers recently had a visit from a young black bear who thought a bird feeder held a delicious treat. While they wrote that this was the first time they had seen a bear in the neighborhood, it's likely that bears have seen them and their feeder many times. A larger bear rambled through the area around the Dallas side of the Huntsville Reservoir a few years ago and others have been spotted throughout the region. And as any gardener will tell you, they are joined by countless deer, rabbits and other assorted creatures that have adapted nicely to life with their new human neighbors.

The chance to share our lawns, yards and fields with the semi-wild critters is one of the charms the Back Mountain has to offer. But while they seem cute and cuddly, these animals pose dangers as well, and we are wise to treat them with respect and a certain amount of distance. That way we can continue to live in harmony.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

Like millions of Americans, I traveled by automobile over the July 4th holiday weekend, venturing to Connecticut to visit relatives. Thankfully the trip was without incidents or accidents and largely free of delays ... except for Route 81 outside Scranton. We passed through there on the way back Sunday afternoon, finding to our disbelieving eyes only one lane open on a bridge just north of the city. What's with that? One of the busiest weekends of the year — perhaps the busiest — and they have only one lane open? I don't know that any other state

would so openly invite criticism and risk elevating drivers' tempers with such lame-brained scheduling.

And have you noticed that traffic cops are never posted at confusing, congested construction sites? Sunday a state trooper was parked about a quarter mile before the bottleneck with his flashing lights on, but there was no traffic control as four lanes of cars, trucks, campers and motorcycles funneled down into one. And I'm still mad at that guy in the blue Suburban who cut me off!

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post publishes 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.



So many flowers, so little time. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

First roundabout, then 'big box.' Is this what we want?

Editor,
In April there were several encouraging articles in The Dallas Post describing the visioning committee's revitalization plans for Dallas, the aim of which was to enhance the appearance and viability of the downtown. More recently the talk has been about putting a traffic roundabout in the center of Dallas, an idea that is greatly at odds with the goals of downtown revitalization and bad for the Back Mountain as a whole.

In terms of downtown revitalization, the major flaw is that the roundabout will effectively kill pedestrian traffic in the center of town. Even on roundabouts where traffic must stop for pedestrians, a person

trying to cross the street takes his life into his hands. The proposed Dallas roundabout apparently does not even have this pedestrian right of way. The problem is that cars already on the roundabout will be continuously exiting onto any one of the side streets without warning. To make matters worse, vehicles entering the roundabout do not even have to stop, merely yield to traffic on the roundabout. Also the fact that cars will be entering the circle nearly parallel will only serve to increase the ease of entering traffic - great for vehicles - deadly for pedestrians.

Our biggest problem with the roundabout, however, is

that it will remove the last barrier to the building of the "big box" increase in the Back Mountain as more housing developments, retirement communities and even small shopping centers that serve our residents are built. This kind of development, however, is natural, inevitable and even desirable.

But the big box store is neither natural nor desirable nor inevitable. It is not natural because it is the beginning of turning the Back Mountain into a mega-shopping destination for thousands from outside our community. (And you think traffic is bad now!)

It is not desirable because big box stores like Wal-mart

and Lowe's invariably wipe out small locally-owned businesses.

Most importantly, it is not inevitable because PennDOT will not grant a highway occupancy permit to the developer of the big box store unless Dallas Borough officials approve the idea of a roundabout, which they are scheduled to do this month.

Those residents opposed to the traffic circle and the big box store had better let Dallas Borough officials know how they feel soon before this bad deal becomes a done deal.

Marshall D. Rumbaugh
Sue Hand
Pattie Davies

LIBRARY NEWS

An active summer planned at the library for children

There are still a few openings in the ongoing story hours for toddlers and 3-5-year olds. Call 675-1182 to register your child.

It's also not too late to register children from pre-school to 6th grade in this summer's "Get in the Game @ Your Library." Pictured on the right with the "miniature golf" game which helps children to select the books they will read are, from left, Janet Bauman, library assistant, and Yuri and Aloysia Ackerman.

The next special program, "Olympics of Ancient Greece," will be held on Tuesday, July 22, at 1 p.m. in the children's room. The children will learn a little about the Olympics, hear a story, do a craft, and take home a snack. The final party will be the Read and Grow Magic Show with magician and ventriloquist John Carlson, on Monday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Certificates and prizes will be awarded, followed by refreshments. Everyone participating in this sum-

mer's game is welcome. Registration is necessary for both programs — call the library. On Saturday, August 2, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., the Luzerne County Library System is sponsoring a "Game Day" at the LCCC Gym, Nanticoke. Call the library for more information and to register your child.

Baby-sitters class: Yes, another one is scheduled, due to the great popularity of the previous four classes. It will be held on Saturday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There's a limit of 12 in the class, so call the library and reserve a space soon. The fee of \$25, with checks made payable to the American Red Cross, includes a Red Cross handbook and is due in advance. Bring your own lunch; Pepsi will provide sodas, and the Old Country Buffet will supply cookies.

Librarian's report: Kathy Finnerty, special needs teacher from Lake-Noxen, brought nine children to the library to do research on gardening and pollution. The four leaders of the Summer Reading Teamwork Family Literacy Program entertained 37 children and parents on June 24. Statistics



for the month of June include: total circulation, 8,431; books added, 164; new borrowers, 142; and active borrowers, 15,603.

See LIBRARY NEWS, pg 7

70 Years Ago - July 14, 1933

KT SUPERVISORS LOWER DEBT TO \$1000

Kingston Township Supervisors at a meeting reduced the indebtedness of the township to the amount of \$1,000. In an effort to further reduce the indebtedness the supervisors have decided that no



ONLY YESTERDAY

binding oil will be used on the township roads, but a dust oil will be used. Because of the rapid increase in the number of beavers in Pennsylvania the Game Commission has set aside a limited trapping season for them.

At a meeting of Shrine View association the secretary was instructed to investigate the cost of drilling a well and installing

a pump to supply that section of the community with water.

60 Years Ago - July 16, 1943

BACK MOUNTAIN AREA WILL HAVE DEFENSE CONTROL CENTER

In spite of opposition from County and State Councils of Defense, the men who know best the air raid precaution needs of the Back Mountain region have decided to set up their own independent control center in Dallas Township High School.

Persons in need of sugar after using their Nos 15 and 16 stamps can apply for more for canning purposes, according to Mrs. Clarence Laidler, clerk at Dallas war Price and Rationing Board.

Lehman Township citizens will honor 95 of their sons and daughters who are in military service when they dedicate an imposing honor roll on the vil-

lage green at Lehman center.

50 Years Ago - July 10, 1953

AUCTION TRAFFIC PLANS OUTLINED

Chief Russell Honeywell announced that the no double parking will be permitted on any Dallas street during the two-day Library Auction. He has designated Franklin Street as a through street with no parking at anytime. Some of the movies at the Sandy Beach Drive-In Theatre: "The Lone Hand" with Joel McCrea and Barbara Hale; "Valley of The Eagles" with Jack Warner, Nadia Gray; "Last of The Comanches" with Barbara Hale, Johnny Stewart. Dallas Borough Police were busy on the Fourth of July with two arrests for reckless driving and three for passing through the Main Street red lights. The fine was \$5 for passing through the red lights.

40 Years Ago - July 11, 1963

STATE BIDS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

A tiny segment of Shavertown Grade School property is being sought by the State Highway Department, Dr. Robert Mallman disclosed at a meeting. Purchase price of \$975 was offered for one twentieth of an acre near proposed new road construction site. M. E. Kuchta, Commonwealth telephone Company District Manager at Clarks Summit, and formerly of Dallas, was named Division manager. Robert W. Billings of Trucksville was put on two weeks duty training as a seaman recruit at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Upon completing the training period the Reservists returned home.

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