

## OUR OPINION

## Time is running short to grab reins of our destiny

An article in this week's Dallas Post by staff writer Erin Youngman details the degree to which residential development continues to dominate the Back Mountain's landscape, both literally and figuratively. With construction on a total of more than 300 homesites either approved or underway, it's clear that this region's position as a magnet for growth is secure. Now the question becomes whether we are comfortable with the increased pressure on local resources that accompanies all the new families.

Demand for more businesses and services follows population growth as surely as night follows day, so it's important that local officials think beyond the next subdivision plot that lands on their desks. People may be attracted to the Back Mountain for its peacefulness and scenic beauty, but not long after arriving they begin to long for the convenience of nearby stores, restaurants and services. That's perfectly understandable, and should be anticipated in long-range plans that incorporate well-defined residential and commercial zones that fit the scale of our region.

There's another aspect to our popularity among home builders and buyers, and the affluence many of them possess — they all have vehicles that add volume to an already clogged network of roads and highways. To its credit, the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has tried to keep up with the ever-swelling traffic composed both of people who live here and those passing through. In an ironic twist, the improvements PennDOT makes both ease and add to the problem, as more lanes and fewer delays attract a greater number of motorists who are on their way to someplace else.

There have been heartening signs that the communities that comprise the Back Mountain are moving to address these critical issues on a regional, rather than one-by-one basis. The people behind that process must work hard to catch up with market forces that are relentlessly changing the region's character in ways that may not be to our long-term benefit if they are not channeled properly.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

You needn't be a golfer — or even a serious fan — to appreciate the British Open, the third of four "Major" tournaments each year. Last weekend's 132nd edition offered the kind of delicious scenes that duffers everywhere cherish, as the world's best struggled to break par on an unforgiving, windswept "links" course that hasn't changed a great deal in decades. One reason courses across the sea play so tough is that they receive far less grooming than a typical U.S. tournament venue. In an interview, the head greenskeeper at Royal St. George's remarked that he had a staff of 10 to care for the course, compared to 50 at Augusta National, the site of the Masters. Even for The Open, as the British like to call it, his staff was increased only to 15. It showed, as in place of perfectly clipped, overfertilized fairways and rough, the players had to contend with tight, dry conditions that require a different style of play and that make good fortune a much bigger factor in determining a winner.

Not that Ben Curtis needed a fairy godmother. The young Ohioan who became only the second player in modern professional golf to claim his first victory at a major just had to hold his game and emotions together as he came down the stretch with a slim lead. He did — barely — and left Tiger Woods and other big names to wonder why this untested 26-year-old was able to make the shots he needed to and they could not.

In the end the golf course was the winner, as it always is in the British Open. And I like it that way.

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We are approaching the stage in our children's lives at which the long-anticipated college search begins. We've always emphasized to the kids that they should do their best in school so they will have the widest range of options open when it comes time to move up to higher education. Little did we know how misguided our advice was, at least until now. Many big-name colleges and universities, it turns out, don't emphasize academic achievement as highly as we thought. No, they have a different opinion about how to attract students willing to pay tuitions that would make a Mercedes dealer blush — football!

If you don't follow college sports, you may not have heard the biggest story of the last 10 years. No, it's not about gambling by coaches, violence by players or cheating by administrators, although those are all common items. No, it's about the courtship by the Atlantic Coast Conference of the University of Miami and other Big East Conference schools. You may be surprised to hear this — I certainly was — but this gigantic switcheroo is all about money! Can you imagine — colleges being more concerned with television rights than graduation rates? Shocking!

In the end, Miami did the right thing by current scholastic standards and jumped from the conference that was willing to accept it a decade ago when no one else would. As a result, the university may be able to break even on its vast athletic program, which should warm the heart of any tuition-paying parent tired of subsidizing stadiums, weight rooms and private dorms for the favored few who pull on a uniform.

## Letters, columns and editorials

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to certain guidelines.

Send letters to: Editor, The Dallas Post, 607 Main Rd., Dallas PA 18612. Or send them electronically to [dallaspost@leader.net](mailto:dallaspost@leader.net).

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number that we may use to verify authenticity.



Just hangin' around in Dallas Borough. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## Thanks to all the 57th library auction volunteers



CAROL KING

Thank you — Martha Butler, Library Director, extends thanks to all the volunteers who served at the 57th Annual Auction, and to supporters who helped in other ways. It took a tremendous effort on the part of everyone to achieve such a successful event.

**Baby-sitters course:** The American Red Cross will hold another baby-sitters class tomorrow, July 26, at the library from 10 a.m. to

4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call the library for details.

**Summer reading game finale:** The end of this year's reading game, "Get in the Game @ Your Library," will be celebrated on Monday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Magician and Ventriloquist John Carlson will present his "Read and Grow Magic Show". Certificates and prizes will be awarded and there will be re-

freshments.

**"Donuts and Discussion":** The last book of the season, "A Wrinkle in Time," will be discussed on Monday, August 11, from 4 to 5 p.m.

**Current display:** The current display of teacups and demitasse cups and saucers is on loan by Toni Joanne Pirouz.

## New books added to BMT library's collection

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

## FICTION

Bad Company by Jack Higgins  
Bare Bones by Kathy Reichs  
Johnny Angel by Danielle Steel  
Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani  
Fear Itself by Walter Mosley  
Conclave by Roberto Pazzi  
The Probable Future by Alice Hoffman

Bubbles Ablaze by Sarah Strohmeyer

## LARGE PRINT FICTION

The Second Time Around by Mary Higgins Clark  
Keeping Watch by Laurie R. King  
Cold Pursuit by T. Jefferson Parker  
Birthright by Nora Roberts  
Seduced by a Rogue by Connie Mason  
The Boy on the Bus by Deborah Schupack  
Miss Julia Hits the Road by

Ann B. Ross  
Into the Inferno by Earl W. Emerson  
The Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Have You Seen Dawn? by Steven Saylor  
The Harbor by Carla Neggers  
The Tail of the Tip-Off by Rita Mae Brown  
The Confessor by Daniel Silva

## LARGE PRINT NONFICTION

Last Dance, Last Chance by Ann Rule

## BIOGRAPHY

Living History by Hillary Rodham Clinton

## BOOKS ON CD

The Path Between the Seas by David McCullough  
Cosmopolis by Don DeLillo  
Isaac Newton by James Gleick  
The Other Woman by Eric Jerome Dickey  
The Wandering Hill by Larry McMurtry  
Hawke by Ted Bell  
Star Wars Shatterpoint by Matthew Stover

70 Years Ago - July 28, 1933

## BENNETT BARN BURNS DURING HARD THUNDERSTORM

During a severe electrical storm, lightning struck a barn on the Z. Platt Bennett farm on the Huntsville to Idetown road in Lehman township and destroyed it before anything could be saved except two cows. The barn contained new farm machinery that had never been used, and a quantity of hay, straw and rye.

## ONLY YESTERDAY

Post-O-Graf manufacturing company of Trucksville recently shipped a number of orders of duplicating machines to Honolulu, Hawaii, Columbia, South America and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The company is doing a considerable amount of export business, and has prepared special mailing pieces, printed in Spanish, Italian and French for distribution among agents in foreign countries. Representatives of the Mack Truck company were in Dallas taking the Dr. Henry M. Laing fire company's truck and pumper to the Allentown plant of the Mack Company where it will be renovated and a new six cylinder motor installed.

60 Years Ago - July 30, 1943

## HENDRICKS WILL LEAD LEHMAN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Howard Hendricks, supervising principal of Springville Susquehanna county schools for the past nine years, has been appointed supervising principal of Lehman Township schools to replace H. Austin Snyder. Lawrence Updyke will open his new hardware store under the name of The Dallas Hardware and Supply Company in the building on Main Street. In order to facilitate the distribution of canning sugar in the area served by Dallas War Price and Rationing Board, members of the

Community Service Panel have made arrangements with various stores in community centers to ration and distribute the sugar.

50 Years Ago - July 24, 1953

## DALLAS POSTOFFICE GETS TRUCK LOAD OF NEW EQUIPMENT

A van load of new office furniture and fixtures from the federal equipment Manufacturing company of Carlisle, will turn the interior of Dallas Postoffice into a more efficient institution and take on a more modern appearance. Some of the furniture was oak fixtures, new screen line composed of 315 combination lock boxes. For those who will rent these the cost will be 90¢ per year. Efforts are being made by Dallas township citizens to have Wilkes-Barre Railway Corporation extend its bus lines from Fernbrook to DeMunds Corners at least two times a day.

Some movies that played at Sandy Beach Drive-In Theatre were: "Call of the Wild" with Clark Gable and Loretta Young, "Sirocco" with Humphrey Bogart and Martha Toren, "Titanic" with Clifton Webb and Barbara Stanwyck.

40 Years Ago - July 25, 1963

## MRS. ANDERSON NAMED DIRECTOR OF CANCER BOARD

A Shavertown woman was elected to membership on the Luzerne County Unit Board of the American Cancer Society. Mrs. Frederick Anderson, was named a director of the annual dinner meeting. Sale of candy bars by Little Leaguers to help defray cost of the new buildings at the field on Church Street netted the league about \$1,600. Cost of the buildings themselves cost about \$2,900. Back Mountain All-Stars hoping to push their record to a second state championship in a row, were beaten by as a strong Pittston team broke a 3-3 tie in the last inning.

30 Years Ago - July 26, 1973

## QUESTION OF FOURTH PATROLMAN REMAINS UNSETTLED IN BOROUGHS

The question of whether Dallas Borough will have a fourth fulltime policeman may be up in the air. Harold Brobst, a borough committeeman, told the councilmen who had voted for the additional man, that he may not vote to approve the man's salary during the upcoming readings of the budget.

Kingston Township police made three arrests during a five-day period, involving 17 persons in connection with several Back Mountain robberies and a beer drinking party. The arrests included five minors and 12 juveniles.

Bill Umphred chairman of the 1973 Library Auction, reported that the net sales from the 27th annual auction will exceed \$26,000. Mr. Umphred also announced that Atty. James Anzalone has accepted the chairmanship of the 28th annual auction in 1974.

20 Years Ago - July 20, 1983

## THREE CHASE PRISON INMATES EARN ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Three inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas have received Associate Degrees from Luzerne County Community College. Larry Stephenson, Clinton Anderson and Mike Vaccarello recently completed the necessary requirements of the college and were awarded their degrees of the college. Their achievement were made possible through a program instituted by the Pennsylvania Jaycees.

After 30 years as a mailman for Dallas Postoffice, Andy Sokol will retire. He was known as "Andy the mailman" to those he delivered mail to. Airman Joseph Tomaselli, Dallas, has been assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., after completing Air Force basic training. Tomaselli is a 1982 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School.

## THE DALLAS POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201 • 570-675-5211  
[dallaspost@leader.net](mailto:dallaspost@leader.net)

Ronald Bartizek  
EDITOR/GENERAL MANAGER

Justin Wisnosky  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Erin Youngman  
REPORTER

Darlene E. Sorber  
OFFICE MANAGER

Claudia Blank  
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER

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

A: Only in The Dallas Post