

OUR OPINION

Advantages of address updates worth the hassle

But it's scandalous we've waited this long and spent this much

Oh, it all sounded so enticing. When Luzerne County officials began to romance municipalities, fire and ambulance companies in the mid-1990s, they wove a tale of a sophisticated, modern emergency response system that seemed too good to be true. As it turned out, it was.

Back then, wishing to impose the allowed maximum charge of \$1.25 per month on each personal and business telephone line, the county promised new relay towers that would eliminate dead spots, fax machines for every emergency vehicle from which would spew accurate directions to each call, and a high-tech computer program to display a caller's exact location and medical history. The up-to-date and accurate addresses were to be mapped out by the county, in part using the Jeeps they had purchased, ostensibly for that purpose.

It is now nearly six years after the county 911 system was imposed along with the onerous surcharge, and it appears we will finally enjoy the benefits of at least one of those long-forgotten promises. According to a spokesperson, the Luzerne County 911 Center is now testing the advanced software that will throw up on dispatchers' screens a myriad of useful information on callers, and it will be in service as soon as all the bugs are worked out.

Alas, the software will be only as good as the information that is fed into it, and much of that has yet to be compiled. It's not that the county has been slow to do so; no, they decided long ago that they would not and asked local town and emergency services officials to do it themselves if they wanted to get easy-to-follow directions from dispatchers who don't know Lake Street from Lakeside Drive.

Fortunately, the people who actually provide police, fire and ambulance services care enough to spend their own time, and surely some of their own money, tracking down every house, office and farm. They're trying to conform to an addressing system that was recommended by the county — how nice of them to make a suggestion — and while it's far from perfect, once completed it will yield a more logical addressing pattern than what has been left after decades of hodgepodge additions and subtractions.

It's best for everyone if we accept the inconvenience and expense that go along with changing addresses. Those factors won't seem at all relevant when you make a call in the middle of the night and responders quickly and accurately find you.

It's just regrettable that it has taken this long and cost this much to reach a point where we get even a fraction of the benefits we have been paying for.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

You may have heard last week about a new discount airline being created by United Airlines. Apparently someone in their marketing department suffers from attention deficit disorder, since in a flash of brilliance they've decided to call it "Ted," as in the last three letters of "United." I wonder how much they paid for that scintillating idea.

But this got me to thinking that this is not a bad concept. Clearly, they are trying to project the no-frills nature of this service, and we must assume the accompanying bargain fares. Thus, peeling a few letters away from the established corporate nameplate to create a whimsical title just might work. Perhaps we'll do the same thing, and become "Tost." Notice we have four letters. That seems unavoidable when condensing a two- or three-word original.

Of course, it takes more than a cute name to make a discount operation successful; if you follow Wal-Mart's lead it's also necessary to employ undocumented aliens who will work seven days a week for a pittance. But let's not go there, let's stick to our little region of the world. In our case, in order to provide a cheaper... I mean less expensive... paper, we might have to trim a few luxuries. One thing that takes time, and thus costs money, is writing headlines, so we'd have to dispense with them. The downside is that slothful readers would then have to actually read the stories, which might not be well-received. Maybe it would be simpler to just leave a couple of pages blank, which is the newspaper equivalent of lunch on a cut-rate airline, where peanuts are not a snack but the main meal.

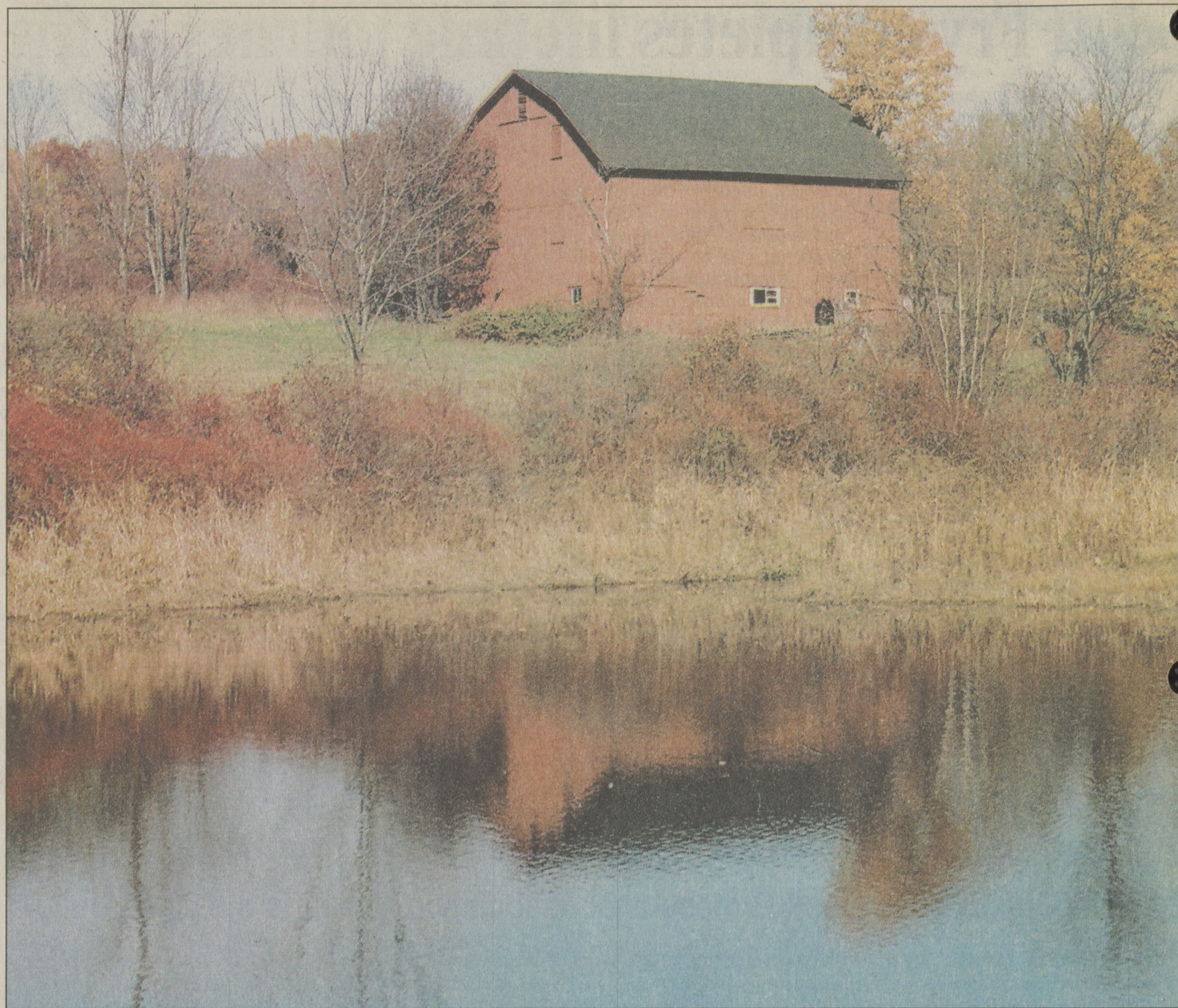
Tost shouldn't be the only local business or organization to jump on this bandwagon. I can think of plenty more that with a little creativity — and a great deal of subtraction — could offer the same wonderful experience as a flying boxcar. Here are a few of them, using a combination of letters from their presently bloated names. Can you guess who they are?

Mery — They're in Dallas and Shavertown.
Croom — I hear it's scrumptious.
Kip — They really need to cut the frills.
Zap — It's really busy on Friday nights.
Cheater — It's actually very nice, and quite entertaining.
Thone — Get the connection?
 Answers appear below. No cheating!

Mery — Movie Gallery.
 Croom — Connor's Grill Romm.
 Kip — Kingston Township.
 Zap — Pizza Perfect.
 Cheater — Dietrich Theater.
 Thone — Commonwealth Telephone



ROK



Inscription on a Canadian barn "When your barn is well filled, all snug and secure, Be thankful to God and remember the poor."
 Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

70 Years Ago —
 December 1, 1933

TRUCKSVILLE FIREMEN ASK FOR CITIZEN'S HELP

— Notified by Hamburg Bank and Trust Co. of Hamburg PA, that the note for \$200 on new equipment, due on December 16, must be met, members of Trucksville Fire Department this week asked for immediate payment of pledges from as many residents as possible.



ONLY YESTERDAY

— The reduction of the cash street car rate between Wilkes-Barre and Dallas will become effective December 15, it was announced this week. The cost will change from 32 to 24 cents.

— Some items that could be purchased at the A&P Market: Pineapple, two cans, 25 cents, Pillsbury flour, 24.5 pound bag, \$1.25, six soap cakes, 19 cents.

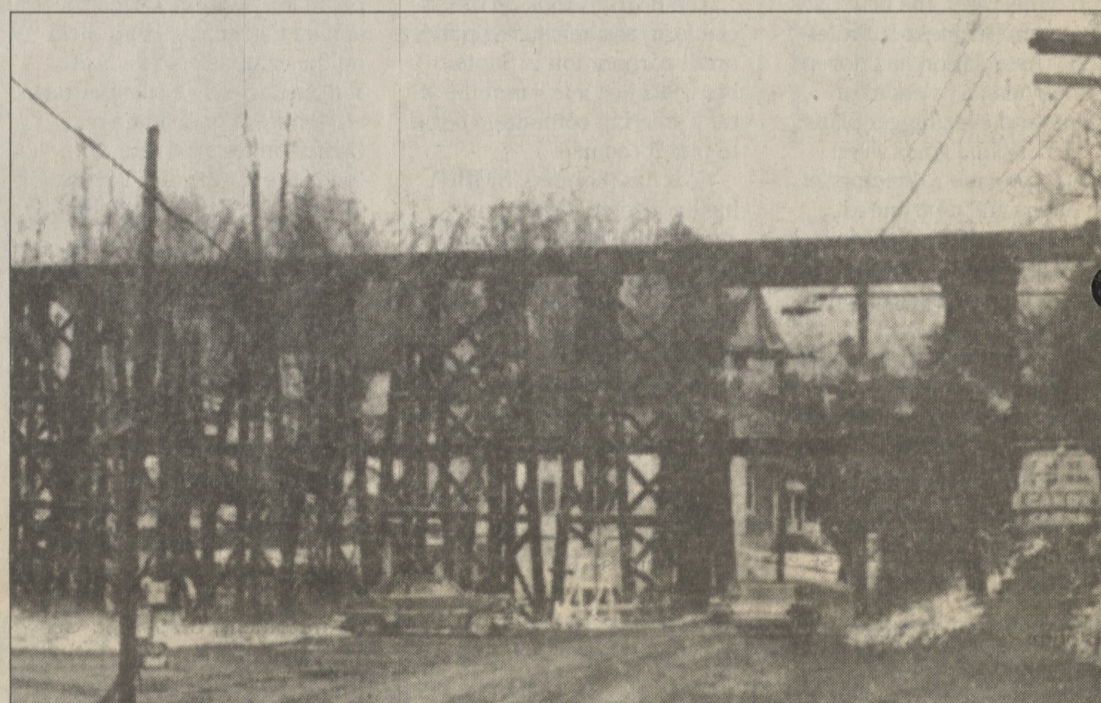
60 Years Ago
 December 3, 1943

STUDENTS MOURN SHOOTING VICTIM

— Lester Humphrey, 17, president of the senior class at Lake Township High School, was almost instantly killed late Saturday afternoon in the woods, near Loyalville when he was struck in the back from the gun of his companion and life long friend, Benjamin Smith.

— Calling attention to the serious plight of the Dallas High School band which has been without a director for for the better part of a year, members of the band parents' association met this week to discuss the future.

— A three-year-old was fatally injured from a fall in a barn. Howard James Harrison, was initially considered to be okay, but died two days later unexpectedly.



The Trucksville Trestle, which spanned Carverton Road just behind the present Trucksville Pharmacy, was taken down 40 years ago, after the demise of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

50 Years Ago
 December 4, 1953

COUNCIL HAS FIRST MEETING IN NEW HOME

— Dallas Borough Council held its first meeting in the new Borough Building Tuesday night and approved building permits in the amount of \$45,850.

— Mrs. Margaret S. MacLean, daughter of the late Attorney William Swan and Ann S. Roberts MacLean, early residents of Wilkes-Barre, died Wednesday night at her home on machell Avenue, Dallas. She was 77.

— Mrs. Jewel Macock Ruddy, graduate of East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, assumed directorship of girls physical education classes at Dallas-Franklin High School November 16. Mrs. Dolbear had been substituting.

40 Years Ago
 December 5, 1963

RAILROAD STATION CLOSING, TRUCKSVILLE TRESTLE COMING DOWN

— Opened and closed and opened and closed: The old

Lehigh Railroad Station now stands shivering in the heatless winter wind, bereft of light, heat and station master, awaiting final official closing.

— When the railroad goes, and it has already begun to, so does the famous Trucksville Trestle, a landmark in the village. Contractor's men have already begun to ask permission of neighboring landowners to allow demolition cranes on their property.

— Edgar J. Lashford, Huntsville, was named president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce this week at the Hotel Sterling.

30 Years Ago
 November 21, 1973

MOUNTS WIN BACK OLD SHOE TROPHY

— The mountaineers still have the Old Shoe! The Dallas High School gridders returned the prize to their Trophy case for the fourth consecutive year after defeating Lehman 34-6.

— Whereas it has been declared and proven that a serious energy crisis exists and will continue to exist for some time to come, I Stephen F. Hartman, Mayor of Dallas Borough, by

virtue of my position, sincerely request that all citizens conserve energy both at home and at their place of work.

— Nine or ten boys have admitted that they were responsible for the vandalism which occurred at the school. Sixteen Japanese Cherry trees were felled, a school bus window smashed and more.

20 Years Ago
 November 30, 1983

TAXES ARE LOWERED

— Kingston Township supervisors announced they will lower the 1984 property tax rate from seven mills to five mills. The announcement was made at a special budget meeting held November 23.

— Principal Frank Galicki presented the Most Valuable Player trophy to John Farrell for his outstanding offense play in the Old Shoe Game. Farrell had six carries for a total of 70 yards against the knights.

— The Dallas School Board voted November 25 to fire John Gabriel, the school district's building and ground's keeper. The vote came after 11 hearings held since September concerning the case.

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish 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.

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



THE POST

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