

OUR OPINION

Putting together a puzzle for county 911

Once again, local municipalities and citizens are being asked to pick up the slack for the failings of the Luzerne County 911 system. This time, Harveys Lake councilmen Daniel Blaine and Clarence Hogan are trying to rally volunteers to complete an addressing system that conforms to the "Colorado" scheme adopted by the county. We hope they succeed, because it is painfully obvious that the county is uninterested in and incapable of providing the service we all have been paying top dollar for since 1996.

When it was first crammed down the throats of unwilling municipalities, the county 911 system was sugar-coated with promises of efficiency and accuracy springing from new radio towers, a Computer Activated Dispatch (CAD) system and Mobile Data Computers that would instantly transmit directions and information to fax machines in vehicles on their way to a crime scene, accident or medical emergency. Before the county system even opened for business, the mobile machines were scratched. But the \$1.25 per month charge added to each phone line — the maximum allowed by the state — didn't decline by a cent. And that spiffy CAD system? Well, it's dependent on a completed address scheme, which it seems will become reality only after local towns finish it, using either volunteers or paid staff.

Harveys Lake is far from the only local community where addressing is incomplete. Most rural route addresses in the Back Mountain still lack street names and numbers, making it sometimes difficult for emergency crews to pinpoint a home in distress. It is not entirely fair to blame the county alone for this; each town should have been working with the post office and the county to create precise addresses. But someone should have taken the lead, and since Luzerne County mandated participation in its 911 system, that is where responsibility to follow through should lie.

But at this point, we can only hope Harveys Lake succeeds in the effort to align phone numbers and addresses. If that happens, perhaps the rest of the Back Mountain can use the experience as a model, and finish an important job that no one else seems willing to do.

Kudos to company for building restoration

Probably no society in history has more eagerly embraced change than ours. We trade in cars as soon as the payments expire, give away gobs of perfectly good clothing in favor of the latest styles and even tear down useful structures that have simply outlived their novelty. The destruction of Veterans Stadium is evidence of that latter point, and there are instances closer to home, in Wilkes-Barre, where distinctive buildings have been razed to make room for holes in the ground.

Balanced against that predilection is the three-story brick building at 100 Lake Street in Dallas. It is by no means a historic edifice, although it could easily be mistaken as older than its 53 years. And it surely wouldn't be built the same way today as it was in 1951. In fact, you might think it was once a now-outdated high school, not the headquarters building of an ambitious regional telephone company. But that's what it was, and it is once again being put to use by Commonwealth Telephone, after recent renovations that brought it up to 21st century standards while maintaining its classic Georgian character.

We have nothing against modern architecture or contemporary design. But it's heartening to see an individual, company or government agency that appreciates good work that has come before, in this case enough to preserve it for current and future generations to admire.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On July 4, 1826, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the second and third presidents of the United States, respectively, die on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Both men had been central in drafting the historic document.

- On July 3, 1863, Confederate Gen. George Pickett leads his infamous charge up Cemetery Ridge against the center of the Union line at Gettysburg. The failed attack effectively ended the Battle of Gettysburg, and Confederate commander Gen. Robert E. Lee began to withdraw his forces to Virginia the following day.

- On July 2, 1881, only four months into his administration, President James A. Garfield is shot in the back by a disgruntled office seeker as he walks through a railroad waiting room in Washington, D.C. The mortally ill Garfield died of blood poisoning 80 days later.

- On July 1, 1941, NBC broadcasts the first official TV commercial following sanctioning by the Federal Communications Commission. Bulova paid \$9 to advertise its watches on the air during a Dodgers-Phillies baseball game.

- On June 30, 1953, the first Chevrolet Corvette, a white convertible roadster with a red interior, is produced in temporary facilities in Flint, Mich.

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THE POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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Taking a breather. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS

Volunteers needed for setup at 58th library auction

Monday, July 5, and Tuesday, July 6, are important dates! Volunteers of all ages are needed to help set up for the auction on the library grounds. Please contribute as much time as you can between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on one day or on both days. Refreshments will be provided. Recruit some friends and enjoy helping a great cause!

Volunteers are also needed to move antiques to the auction block during the auction. Please call the library to put your name on the list of volunteers.

Paul Nicholson, the auction chairman, is making a request to help insure the safety and convenience of auction-goers, and that is to leave your dogs at home this year. Last year a dog threatened to nip a child, and the barking of many dogs made it difficult to hear the auctioneers. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Special attractions at this year's auction continue to be announced. Check these out:

The Wyoming Valley PT Cruisers, founded by Jim Nulton of Shavertown and Bill Berlew of Dallas, and directed by Karen Leonardi, will cruise over to the auction grounds on Sunday afternoon, the 11th, at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to meet the group and take a look at the PT Cruisers.

On Sunday evening at 6 p.m., the new Mrs. Pennsylvania, Angela Evans, will be introduced by our very own Mrs. Pennsylvania of 25 years ago, Karen Boback.

On Saturday, free rides on the fire truck will be offered starting at 11 a.m. preceding the children's auction from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

And some old, but ever-popular offerings: first, several raffles, one of three antique items donated by David Hill in honor of his wife, the late Kathryn Hall; and one for the handsome grill in the library, under-

written by Auto Works, Fleet Bank, and Ben Jones III. Tickets are priced at the bargain prices of \$2 per ticket, and \$10 for six tickets. Winners will be announced on Sunday evening.

Second, you can prevent parking problems by using the shuttle bus which runs continuously from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. evening between the library and the CV parking lot next to the post office in Dallas.

The when-and-where for the auction are as follows:

Thursday, July 7, through Sunday, July 11, from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m., on the library grounds at 96 Huntsville Road in Dallas. Vendors will open their stands at 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and at 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Don't miss the 58th Annual Auction!

For full information about all aspects of this very popular event, read the special supplement to The Post which will be published on Sunday, July 4.

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CAROL KING

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70 Years Ago
June 29, 1934

DEMOCRATS ELECT TRUCKSVILLE WOMAN

Democrats from the Sixth Legislative District, which includes Dallas and the Back Mountain section, elected William J. Cotter as chairman



ONLY YESTERDAY

on Saturday night.

The resignation of one teacher was accepted and two appointments were announced at the meeting of the Kingston Township School Board on Monday night. Miss Helen England presented her resignation and Miss Sarah Pfahler of Wilkes-Barre was elected to fill the vacancy in the commercial department. Mr. Daniel N. Tiffin was re-elected as a high school instructor at a salary of \$1,050 yearly.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Kirkendall Jr., and daughter, Ann left Wednesday for Lansing, Mich., where Mr. Kirkendall will take up his new duties as director of the community chest of that city.

60 Years Ago
June 30, 1944

DENTAL CLINIC OPENS AT LAKE

Starting Wednesday, July 5, at 9:30, the State Department of Health will conduct a dental clinic at Laketon High School daily. Any person in the Back Mountain Area is eligible for free examination and free cleaning. Dr. Catherine Waters

of Nanticoke and two nurses will be in charge of the work.

Alfred Bronson of Sweet Valley, puzzled by the slaughter of 30 of his full-grown Rhode Island Reds, discovered the cause Monday night when he caught the marauder, a large horned owl, in the act of beating one of his finest birds to death.

Lieutenant Frank E. Matukitis, son of Mrs. Joseph Matukitis of Dallas, has reported to the AAF Training Command's Lockbourne Army Air Base to attend the Central Instructor's School for B-17 Flying Fortress pilots.

50 Years Ago
June 25, 1954

CARRIE'S PANTIES BRING \$95 ON TV SHOW IN NEW YORK

On Friday, Mrs. Caroline Caperoon, of Franklin Street, Dallas, had a wonderful time in New York City and earned \$95 to boot. She also saw a lot of people, including some stage and screen stars, but more people saw her when she sold a pair of old-fashioned panties to Peter Arnell's television program, "I'll Buy That", coast to coast.

A baking contest will be a feature of Gate of Heaven Fiesta June 30 and July 1. Contestants are invited to bring their favorite product on either day, entering baked goods before 5:30 p.m. for evening judging. Mrs. James Borton, Mrs. Lester Evans and Mrs. Ernest Gay will judge.

Stefan Hellersperk, chairman of the grounds committee, has installed four deep sleeves on the Library Auction grounds, ready to hold tall iron poles for extra flood-lighting. The poles were obtained at less than cost from Joseph Hughes of the

Hughes Corp. and Carl Schuler, of the Joseph G. Schuler Co.

40 Years Ago
June 25, 1964

LOCAL FIREMEN BATTLE MINE BLAZE

Shavertown and Jackson Township tankers were called to the scene of a raging fire at Honeypot late Tuesday evening to help local firemen battle a blaze which threatened local mining interests nearby. Volunteers were forced to go to Nanticoke for water and the local firemen helped at the scene until 3:30 Wednesday morning.

Calvin Strohl was named fire chief and J. Weston Ruff, president of Noxen Fire Co. at a meeting of the group on Monday evening. Fred Schenck will serve as assistant fire chief and vice president of the organization.

Area chairmen have announced their street workers for general solicitation for the Library Auction. They include Martha and Susan Messick, Dallas Township; Helen Edwards and Susan Moore, Dallas; and Diane Hoover, Shavertown.

30 Years Ago
June 27, 1974

MERGER BETWEEN FIRE, AMBULANCE CO.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. and the Dallas Ambulance Association merged and will be known as the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Inc. The merger was announced by Fire Chief Don Shaffer after the fire company and ambulance association held an advertised meeting June 23.

Charles E. Parente, Dallas, has accepted the position as chairman of the professional di-

vision for the 1974-75 campaign of the United Way of the Wyoming Valley, it was announced by John B. Hibbard, Commonwealth Telephone Company board chairman and general campaign chairman of United Way.

Richard F. Billings, Trucksville, received the President's Freshman Award for outstanding scholarship at the close of the spring term at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park. One hundred ninety-two Penn State students were presented the award in the form of a certificate of commendation by Dr. John W. Oswald, president of the university.

20 Years Ago
June 27, 1984

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY MOVES TO FORMER BOROUGH SCHOOL

The Back Mountain Memorial Library announced the re-opening of the Children's Library relocated to the former Dallas Borough School Building on Huntsville Road.

The Rev. Andrew Pillarella, pastor of Trinity United Church, Dallas, was endorsed by the Presbytery of Lackawanna as a candidate for moderator of the 267th annual meeting of the Synod of the Trinity, held on the campus of Westminster College.

State Auditor General Al Benedict has commended officials of Dallas Township, Lake Township and Lehman Township for their interest and earning interest on their temporary idle liquid fuels tax funds during 1981 and 1982. These three Back Mountain communities join 17 other Luzerne County communities, who, together now have an extra \$51, 812 to spend on road repairs.