

OUR OPINION

Volunteers play a vital role in our community

If there is one particular glue that holds a community together, it may be the willingness of people — often strangers — to help one another. The aid may be as simple as a neighbor sending flowers or food in time of grief, or as complex as the dozens who put on the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction each year. But even that enterprise pales in comparison to another kind of volunteer, the firefighters and emergency responders who drop what they're doing and race to the scene of a fire or collision where they risk their own safety in providing service to others.

Who are these people, willing to leave family picnics and places of work at the sound of a beeper? They are Bob Besecker, an active Dallas Fire and Ambulance member, who once responded to a fire on his daughter's wedding day, wearing a tuxedo. Or Dan Manzoni, current chief of the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department, who is approaching his 30th year of service. Or others, too many to name. Not only is their volunteer work unpaid, it often has costs beyond inconvenience, in training sessions and equipment that is required but not funded by anything but their own pocketbooks.

The Back Mountain is fortunate that many capable and willing volunteers still exist. But there are not always enough, with the result that some departments have resorted to paid staff during workdays, when most volunteers are at work, many of them outside their coverage area.

The Jackson Township department is holding an open house today, partly to show off a new tanker but also in the hope of attracting new blood. A junior firefighter program there is currently without members, and committed volunteers are not getting any younger, raising concerns about the future. Other departments hold similar events each year, but anyone who thinks they might like to help out need not wait for them. You can call these non-emergency numbers to learn more:

Dallas: 675-0636
Franklin Township: 333-4124
Harveys Lake: 639-1919
Ildetown: 639-5755
Jackson Township: 696-1818
Kingston Township Ambulance: 696-3776
Kunkle: 675-3334
Lake Silkworth: 477-5976
Lehman Township: 675-5654
Shavertown: 675-1302
Sweet Valley: 477-5121
Trucksville: 696-1871

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

• On June 10, 1692, in Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Bridget Bishop, the first colonist to be tried in the Salem witch trials, is hanged after being found guilty of the practice of witchcraft.

• On June 7, 1866, 13 years after American settlers founded the city named for him, Chief Seattle (Seathl) dies in a nearby village of his people. In 1853, Chief Seattle had been so friendly and welcoming to settlers that they named the tiny new settlement on Elliott Bay in Puget Sound in his honor.

• On June 8, 1935, Joan Rivers is born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of a prominent physician. Her big break came in 1965, when she appeared on "The Tonight Show" and made a fan of host Johnny Carson.

• On June 6, 1949, George Orwell's novel of a dystopian future, "1984," is published. The novel's all-seeing leader, known as "Big Brother," becomes a universal symbol for intrusive government and oppressive bureaucracy.

• On June 11, 1967, the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors ends with a United Nations-brokered cease-fire. The outnumbered Israel Defense Forces achieved a swift and decisive victory, more than doubling the amount of territory under Israel's control and seizing the Old City of Jerusalem from Jordan.

• On June 12, 1975, Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, is found guilty of electoral corruption in her successful 1971 campaign. Despite calls for her resignation, Gandhi refused to give up India's top office and later declared martial law in the country.

• On June 9, 1990, Charles Freeman, the owner of E-C Records store in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is arrested for selling the rap album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" to an undercover police officer. Two days earlier, a U.S. district judge had ruled that the 2 Live Crew recording was legally obscene.

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Letters are welcome

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a daytime telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear and verifiable threat to the writer.

Letters can be sent many ways:

By e-mail to: thepost@leader.net

By mail to: The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711.

By using the drop box located in the Uni-Mart convenience store on Route 309 in Dallas, across from the Dallas Shopping Center.

THE POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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Treasures, or trash? Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS

Kickoff dinner and call for auction setup volunteers

A last-minute reminder: The kickoff dinner for the 59th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will be held Monday, June 6, at the Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas, with hospitality from 6 to 7 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. This is an informal occasion, with a mini-auction which is always lively. Please



CAROL KING

call the library, 675-1182, for ticket information and to sign up for the dinner.

Volunteers needed! Adults and students aged 12 years and up are asked to give community service by helping to set up for the auction. The hours are Sunday, July 3, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.; Monday, July 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come and bring your friends to serve for two hours, or for a full day — give as much time as you can. It can be lots of fun, and it will be very much appreciated.

Refreshments will be provided. Call the library to sign up.

This year the library is selling buttons which you can wear to proclaim your support for the auction. They read "The Auction Alive in '05!" They're priced at \$2 and are available at the library.

There will be some new food vendors this year, along with traditional favorites from years past. Master gardeners will be on hand during the auction to answer gardening questions. Naturalists are bringing birds of prey and

bats (Did you know they're good for us?). Ronald McDonald will put in an appearance on Friday evening, and on Saturday a magician will entertain the children. There will be something for children of all ages, from little ones to teens.

There will again be shuttle service between the CVS parking lot and the library.

The full program schedule for the auction, which runs from July 7 through July 10, will be given in a Post supplement on Sunday, July 3.

70 Years Ago
June 7, 1935

U.S. BUYS 12,000 ACRES FOR PARK

Twelve thousand acres of land, including forty-five farms and some of the finest virgin timber remaining in the Eastern part of the United States, has been acquired by the United States government in the Kitchen Creek area preparatory to establishing its long-rumored National Park there.



ONLY YESTERDAY

Two Girl Scout Troops from the Dallas District have selected sites to develop in competition for the prize which The Dallas Post has offered to the troop which does the best job of cleaning up and improving some local spot.

Troop 16 of Fernbrook of which Miss Emily Goldsmith is captain will make a picnic grove of a site in Fernbrook.

Troop 7 of Dallas, captained by Miss Ruth Hull, will clean and improve the lot on Main Street near Stanley's Garage.

In the face of overwhelming opposition from an estimated eighty-five percent of the borough's taxpayers, the three majority directors of Dallas Borough School Board — Henry Disque, Harry Pittman and Eugene Lazarus — last night refused to rescind their action in appointing Ronald Doll as principal of the local schools to succeed Calvin McHose.

60 Years Ago
June 8, 1945

LEHMAN MARINES MEET ON OKANAWA

Two back Mountain Marines

met on Okanawa recently when PFC Francis Chamberlain, hitch-hiking along a mountain road, was picked up by 1st Lt. Warren J. Lewis in his amphibian tractor. The former Lehman neighbors had not seen each other since Lewis, then a staff sergeant on recruiting duty in Wilkes-Barre, filled out Chamberlain's enlistment papers in February, 1943.

Lt. Peter Skopic who has just returned to this country after being released from a German Prison Camp arrived in Lehman just a day late to see his brother, Joseph, graduate from Lehman High School. Joe was the tenth member of the Skopic family to graduate from the Lehman schools.

Graduation exercises were held in the Noxen Theatre Monday evening. Members of the graduating class of Noxen High School are Warren Harding, Doris Turner, Helen Butry, Shirley Hackling, Jean Doty, Verna Hubbell and Laura Keiper.

50 Years Ago
June 3, 1955

TWO THROWN INTO WATER IN BOAT MISHAP

Warren Boston, Pike's Creek Chevrolet dealer, and Robert Hontz, Sweet Valley, a companion, had a narrow escape from serious injury and possible drowning late Memorial Day when their motor boat struck a submerged object at Sylvan Lake, veered from its course, threw both men in the middle of the lake and then continued on its course.

State and local police are without good leads on the two masked bandits who held up Larry Ferraro, Monday night and escaped with \$450 of the Memorial Day receipts of Casper's Restaurant.

H. Myron Wetzel, vice-president and cashier of The Wyoming National Bank of Wilkes-Barre, will spend Friday evenings serving Back Mountain residents at the new Shavertown office of the bank. The Back Mountain office is open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays.

40 Years Ago
June 3, 1965

NEW POST OFFICE AT LAKE LANGUISHES

Work on the Harveys Lake postoffice, to be located at Laketon across from the beaches, has not yet begun, although the contractor has had the contract for a year now, ground was broken in November, and equipment for the building which isn't there continues to be shipped in.

Postmaster Roy Tyson said that he has not heard from the Postoffice Department on the matter.

Catherine Mary and Carol Ann, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Hudak, are graduating on Tuesday with fellow classmates of the Dallas Class of 1965.

Just in time for graduation, Evans Drug Store in Shavertown advertised a Rex 127 camera outfit, including flash bulbs, film and batteries, for \$3.99.

30 Years Ago
June 5, 1975

WAGNER NAMED BEST GIRL ATHLETE

Cheryl Wagner was named "most valuable" girl athlete at Lake-Lehman High School. Her athletic career started in the sixth grade when she won the AAU Junior Olympics as the outstanding girl athlete. In her senior year at Lehman, Cheryl was a member of the District II championship hockey team and

set the district record for goals with 24.

Joseph "Red" Jones was granted the right to have all voting machines opened in Luzerne County in a decision handed down Tuesday morning. He claimed a discrepancy in the May 20 primary tally of votes for Republican County Commissioner.

You could listen to the sounds of "Valley Drifters" while munching on shrimp and steamed clams at Irene's Lake Silkworth Hotel.

20 Years Ago
June 5, 1985

'BAMBI' PAYS VISIT TO THE POST

Game Commissioner Ed Gdosky stopped by the Post, carrying a three-week-old fawn. The baby deer had been picked up by a passer-by near Lake Catalpa who assumed it was abandoned. Gdosky cautioned against adopting wild animals, and said the mother is usually nearby, but out of sight.

Heather Anne Brody, age daughter of Douglas and Millie Brody, Overbrook Ave., Dallas, was recently chosen Pennsylvania's Little Miss at a pageant held in Essington. Heather was named Most Photogenic and won first place in the party dress and sports-wear competitions.

Bank mergers were all the rage in the business world. Wyoming National Bank was becoming Merchants Bank after combining with First State Bank. United Penn Bank was merging with Security Bank & Trust of Stroudsburg. Neither bank name exists today.

Only Yesterday is compiled from the back-issue files of The Post.

Post drop box in Dallas

The building that housed The Post until October has been sold, and the drop off box there has been closed. A box at the Uni-Mart in Dallas, across from the Dallas Shopping Center, remains open.

News items, photos and other correspondence can be deposited there at any time. Please do not place cash or checks in the box.

To assure that items reach us in time for publication, deposit items before 8 a.m. Wednesdays.