

FROM THE EDITOR

It's great to be back in a special community

It certainly wasn't meant to be callous. In fact, the question posed by one of my colleagues last week is probably on the minds and lips of many Back Mountain residents who are reading this edition of The Post.

"Why would a person with more than 20 years experience in the newspaper industry volunteer to leave a position with a medium-sized daily newspaper to work for a small community publication?"

But if you know me — or if you've lived in the Back Mountain for any length of time — the answer is simple.

This is a special community that has meant a lot to me and my family for decades, from the time my relatives moved to the Back Mountain in the 1800s when my great-grandfather built a home in Fernbrook. There are still four generations of my family living in this community.

I've spent almost all of my life in the Back Mountain — by choice. I graduated from Dallas High School, as did my two brothers and two sisters. Four of us still live here and our children attend schools in the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts.

Our family has always been active in the community, whether it's a membership at a local church or civic organization. And between myself, my wife Donna and my father John, we have more than 50 years of volunteer coaching in the Back Mountain Baseball Little League program.

Starting with this edition, I'm taking over duties as editor of The Post. I'm replacing Ron Bartizek, who has moved to a new position as team leader of the Times Leader's business section.

So I won't be covering high school state championship games, college playoffs, or professional sporting events.

Instead, I'll be covering ice cream socials at our churches. Christmas concerts in our elementary schools. Fund-raisers for our fire companies. Special events sponsored by our Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs.

And I'll enjoy every minute of it.

The Post will be a very feature-driven newspaper with lots of stories about the people, schools, civic organizations, churches and youth sports organizations in our neighborhoods. If there's a special event — or a special person — in our backyard, we want you to know about it. That doesn't mean the "hard news" issues that affect the people in our community will be ignored. Those stories will be aggressively pursued by the news team at the Times Leader, which purchased The Post a few years ago.

In order to write the stories about your friends and neighbors, civic organizations, churches, schools and sports organizations, we're going to need your help. Be sure to let us know about your special event at least 10 days in advance. That will give us the best chance of being sure a writer and photographer can cover the event.

Let us know about your story ideas. When I was editor of The Back Mountain Leader — a former community newspaper produced by the Times Leader — some of our best stories started out as a tip from a reader. If you have an idea for a neat feature, let us know about that, too.

I can be reached by phone by calling at 829-7248 or 831-7306. You can also reach me by e-mail at dkonopki@leader.net or thepost@leader.net.

I'd love to hear from you.

Dave Konopki

If there's a special event — or a special person — in our backyard, we want you to know about it.



Shed no tears for the fate of these pungent beauties. Whether destined for salad or soup, they will be loved. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

70 Years Ago
July 26, 1935

RASPUTIN'S DAUGHTER FEATURED IN CIRCUS

The great Hagenbeck-Wallace and Forepaugh-Sells Bros. Combined Circus will present afternoon and night performances in Wilkes-Barre on Friday, Aug. 2. Many new features have been added, these include Maria Rasputin, sensational European wild animal trainer and daughter of the famous Russian monk, Grigori Rasputin, who ruled the Raminoffs



ONLY YESTERYDAY

with the power of his hypnotic eyes prior to his demise in 1916.

Junior Miller, 8, Johnstown, wrote to the state highway department for a road map, of which he had read in the local newspaper. The article said a 2-cent stamp should accompany requests for the map. Junior had four cents, spent three on a stamp to mail his letter, and was left with only a penny. Junior sent a one-cent stamp, explaining he was anxious to surprise his daddy and would send the other penny "as soon as I save it." Secretary of Highways Warren Van Dyke sent Junior the map and returned the penny.

A liquor store will be opened in Dallas soon by the State Liquor Control Board according to an announcement made in Harrisburg this week. The store, the first for Dallas since the repeal of the 18th Amendment, will be one of four to be opened in Luzerne County.

Salaries of teachers who have been elected to serve in Dallas Borough schools for the next term were approved at a meeting of the directors last Friday night. Ronald Doll, who will act as principal, will receive \$1,380. Other salaries announced: first grade, Miss Mack, \$900; second grade, Miss Gardner, \$900 with a \$50 additional for extra work as girls athletic coach; fifth grade, Miss Anderson, \$990; sixth grade, Mr. Rood, \$950. High school teachers: Miss Emmert, Miss Tayler and Miss Dymond, \$1,170 each.

60 Years Ago
July 27, 1945

PLAN \$10,000,000 POST-WAR RURAL ROADS PROGRAM

Close on the heels of the announcement that the new Wilkes-Barre-Williamsport highway, connecting with the Harveys Lake highway at Idetown, will be one of the first post-war construction jobs of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, comes word that the department is drafting a secondary post-war highway improvement program which will cost \$10,000,000,

which will take place in rural areas of the state.

One thousand dairymen and their families from all parts of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and some from Southern New York and Northern New Jersey, are expected to attend the grand opening of NEPA Artificial Breeding Association Tuesday, Aug. 14 at the association's newly acquired property on the Tunkhannock Fair Grounds, according to an announcement of the program made this week by Arthur Gay, president of the association.

William J. Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Snyder of Claude Street, was among those who received commissions at Hondo Army Air Field, Hondo, Texas last week. Second Lt. William will act as flight engineer on a B-29.

Jive Junction, Dallas Teen-Age Center, will be closed for the balance of July and August until a new dance floor can be laid and interior decorations completed.

50 Years Ago
July 22, 1955

BACK MOUNTAIN IS SPORTS CAR WEEKEND MECCA

Back Mountain area can boast that it is the United States mecca for the sports car world this weekend, as scores of virtually every type sports car converge on Greater Wilkes-Barre for the 1955 Hill Climb being held today, and the Brynfan Tyddyn Road Races scheduled all day Saturday.

A plucky little white-haired mongrel dog named Ted is recovering from a rattlesnake bite at Dr. George Flack's hospital in Trucksville. Teddy discovered the rattlesnake late Tuesday afternoon in the field of his master's home at Evans Falls. Then he went after the snake, as all good dogs do that have a home and family to protect.

The cash registers over-heated at Gosart's grand opening Friday and Saturday, thousands of customers and spectators streaming through the modern building with its spotless walls and counters, sampling the 50-pound anniversary cake, and getting free hand-outs of soda-pop and samples.

Cars jammed parking facilities on Memorial Highway, Dallas, from 10 in the morning until 10 p.m. both days.

The 10th annual Dog Show sponsored by Back Mountain Kennel Club attracted a huge crowd of dog lovers all day Sunday. Many exhibitors and visitors spoke of the beautiful spot in the Pennsylvania hills and were impressed with arrangements for outdoor rings. Dogs were entered from as far away as Hawaii and Venezuela, as well as from southern and eastern states.

Edward Earl Oncay, Dallas RD, and Edward Keller, Harveys Lake, have been accepted for Junior Membership in the Ameri-

can Guernsey Cattle Club.

40 Years Ago
July 22, 1965

LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ARE URGED TO BUILD SEWER

At last census, in 1960, the "metropolitan" Back Mountain, Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, and Kingston Township numbered 12,089 people.

In 1980, the combined population will be something like 19,400, according to a feasibility report.

Along the lines of this study, the Back Mountain Protective Association is urging local municipalities to build a sewer system under the new Appalachia program.

The 19th Back Mountain Library Auction chairman, Merrill Faegenburg, stated yesterday that approximately \$14,000 would be realized from the big event this year. The Book Booth brought a fine figure of \$800, the Art Booth ran up a total of \$200, Odds and Ends Booth, \$400.

On July 3, 1965, the Lehman-Jackson-Ross Class of 1955 met for the 10th anniversary of its graduation.

The reunion was held at The Brothers Four, Main Street, Dallas, with a buffet style meal enjoyed by 47 persons. The reunion committee was headed by class president, Alice Ide Hudak. The following classmates served as committee members: Jay E. Long, Harry Thompson, and Jeanne Casterline Barrall.

Richard Mahle "turned the tables" Tuesday evening when he showed slides and explained the geographical features and interesting historical facts on Switzerland, France and Italy to three of his former teachers, Florence Worth, Jessica Thomas, and Mildred Garinger.

Others who enjoyed the slide were Lina Garinger, Tillie Loveland, and Raymond Caringer.

Richard recently completed his term of service in the United States Army, during which time he was stationed in Germany.

30 Years Ago
July 24, 1975

MENNONITES TO CONDUCT SERVICE AT DALLAS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Dallas Baptist Church, 42 Mill Street, has extended a general invitation to everyone of this area to attend a unique event. The members and Pastors of the Valley View Mennonite Church of Schoeneck will conduct a worship service at 7 on Sunday evening, July 28. These folks are one of the "plain people" groups of the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Dutch country. While not of the "horse and buggy" Dutch, their dress and manner is distinctive. Notice: In an event of a strike

by Postal workers, subscribers to this newspaper should save the address portion of this week's paper. Issues of the paper will be available during the strike either at our newspaper office or at designated places announced by radio.

Just in case you haven't heard, here are the lineups for the big donkey baseball game to be played at Huntington Valley Little League field on July 26 at 6 p.m. The Muleskimmers is captained by Allen "Cowboy" Rittenhouse and will have the following players in the lineup: Don "Pretty Boy" Staltz, Frank "Farmer" Petrosky, Steve Maceiko, Ron "Tiny" Peterson, Rich "Gettyup" Davis, Thelma "Slugger" Leach, Wayne "Beltem" Dennis and Jim "Wothere" Minor.

Frank J. Summa Jr., a 1975 graduate of Trenton State College, N.J., ended seven years of track competition by winning two gold medals in this year's New Jersey State College Track Championships. He placed first in both the long jump and triple jump. Frank is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Summa, Water Street, Dallas, and a Dallas High School graduate.

20 Years Ago
July 24, 1985

SEVEN DIE IN BOARDING HOME BLAZE

Seven boarding house residents were killed and 12 others narrowly escaped death early Tuesday morning when a general alarm fire ripped through Thomas' Guest Home on Main Street in Sweet Valley at approximately 4 a.m.

A 5-7-acre section of land at Frances Slocum State Park has become the permanent camping grounds for a very persistent, and sometimes pesky, beaver colony, park officials told The Post. For the past four years the beavers have been building, and rebuilding, a dam along the stream and running through the park. Park officials have repeatedly broken open the dam in order to keep the water level down, but the beavers have rebuilt the dam as fast as they can break it open.

John Miliuskas, director of the Lake-Lehman High School Band has been appointed an adjunct faculty member in the Humanities Department of Luzerne County Community College and will serve as the instructor of a new course, entitled "LCCC Community Band," scheduled to begin this fall. A grand re-opening of the Robert D. Wintersteen Memorial Recreation Center at Harveys Lake was held on Tuesday, July 16. Through the efforts of current borough council, and especially councilman Frank Buono, recreation chairman, along with Ailene Forster, wife of councilman David Forster, the building is going to be used as a recreation center for borough youth.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On July 29, 1588, off the coast of Gravelines, France, Spain's "Invincible Armada" is defeated by an English naval force. After eight hours of furious fighting, a change in wind direction prompted the Spanish fleet to break off from the battle and retreat, its hopes of invasion crushed.
- On July 27, 1921, at the University of Toronto, Canadian scientists Frederick Banting and Charles Best successfully isolate insulin — a hormone they believe could prevent diabetes — for the first time. By 1923, insulin had become widely available, and Banting and Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine.
- On July 26, 1945, in the 11th hour of World War II, Winston Churchill is forced to resign as British prime minister following his party's electoral defeat by the Labour Party in the first general election held in Britain in more than a decade.
- On July 25, 1965, folk legend Bob Dylan performs for the first time with electric instruments. His fans, who were used to hearing him play folk songs on an acoustic guitar, were so disappointed that they booed him off the stage at the Newport Folk Festival.
- On July 31, 1975, Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa is reported missing in Detroit. He was last seen alive in a parking lot at the Red Fox restaurant the previous afternoon. To this day, Hoffa's fate remains a mystery, although many believe he was murdered by organized crime figures.
- On July 28, 1990, Maximo Menendez falls into a coma and later dies after drinking a Colombian soft drink, Pony Malta, in Miami. The next day, FDA officials determined that the soft drink had been laced with a lethal dose of liquid cocaine in an apparent smuggling operation gone awry.

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THE POST

TIMES LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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