

FROM THE EDITOR

Some parents deserve a much-needed timeout

The telephone conversation was less than two minutes old – and it had gone from good to bad to impossible.

It started innocently enough, a woman calling to see how she could submit her son's Little League team photo for publication. The team didn't win any championships or even finish as the runner-up. In fact, the team of players ages 7 and 8 finished with a record well below .500.

The decision whether or not to publish those kinds of photo is difficult, I told her. We'd love to be able to publish every team photo, but with hundreds of Little League, youth soccer, youth basketball, mini football and elementary wrestling teams throughout the Back Mountain, it's an impossible task.

Go ahead and send in the photo, I politely told her. If space permits over the next few weeks and we're not inundated with those kinds of photos, we'll do our best to get it published.

Apparently that wasn't good enough.

What about a feature story, she asked. After all, her son was one of the best players in the league despite his team playing so poorly and all of the kids tried really hard. And regardless, these kids "deserve" some publicity.

Ouch.

That word has always struck a nerve in me. Deserve.

"My daughter took first place in a gymnastics competition and she deserves a story."

"My son won a karate trophy last week and he deserves to have his name and photo in the newspaper."

"Our team won the championship and the players deserve some recognition."

Sorry folks, those kids don't "deserve" anything.

There used to be a time it was an honor – and a privilege – for young athletes or students to have their accomplishments published in the newspaper. Now, it's expected. And it's expected by the parents. Not the children.

I've had coaches tell me how "devastated" their team was by not having a score in the newspaper. Parents have told me about their kids being emotionally hurt by not seeing their name or photos in print. I've had parents tell me their son was quitting the sport because he felt he wasn't getting enough recognition.

And one woman told me her 9-year-old daughter wasn't going to receive a college scholarship for gymnastics because we reported she won four gold medals, when in fact she won five.

But in more than 20 years as a newspaper – and as a coach – I've never heard a child complain about not receiving enough publicity. Why? They're not playing sports for the recognition. They're playing because they love it.

That doesn't mean we should ignore their accomplishments. Believe me, there's no one who wants to see the youth of our area recognized in print more than I do. I've devoted much of my professional life to make sure it happens.

Of course, there are parents who feel athletes receive far too much attention in the newspaper. Letters to the editor in many newspapers are written by people who believe the accomplishments of non-athletes are almost non-existent.

That might have been the case years ago, but not today.

In addition to publishing honor rolls, dean's lists and many other individual honors, there have been countless stories written about debate teams, chess clubs, Boys and Girls Scouts, cheerleading and band competitions, etc.

And for more than a decade, the Times Leader has recognized the accomplishments of hundreds of gifted students through its Best and Brightest program.

I encourage parents, coaches and teachers to continue sending in press releases and photos recognizing the accomplishments of all young people. I'll do my best to make sure they receive the appropriate attention. And if you have an idea for a good feature story, I'd love to hear about that, too.

Just don't tell me that your child deserves to have his name in the newspaper.

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MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

On Aug. 24, 79 A.D., after centuries of dormancy, Mount Vesuvius erupts in southern Italy, burying Pompeii and killing thousands. The city, rediscovered in the 18th century, provided an archaeological record of the everyday life of an ancient civilization.

On Aug. 25, 1819, fabled crime fighter Allan Pinkerton is born in Glasgow, Scotland. Pinkerton founded a detective agency in Chicago that originally gained fame for solving a series of train robberies and later became known for helping management break strikes by the new labor unions.

On Aug. 22, 1864, the International Red Cross is founded by signed agreement among 12 nations. A red cross on a white background – the Swiss flag in reverse – was chosen as the international emblem in honor of Swiss humanitarian Jean-Henri Dunant.

On Aug. 23, 1926, the death of silent-screen idol Rudolph Valentino at the age of 31 sends his fans into a hysterical state of mass mourning. In his brief film career, the Italian-born actor established a reputation as the archetypal screen lover.

On Aug. 27, 1941, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, prime minister of Japan, announces that he would like to enter into negotiations with President Roosevelt to prevent the Japanese conflict with China from expanding into world war. At war's end, he was served with an arrest warrant by U.S. occupying forces for suspicion of war crimes.

On Aug. 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till, an African-American from Chicago, is brutally murdered in Mississippi for flirting with a white woman. An all-white jury deliberated for less than an hour before issuing a verdict of "not guilty," explaining that they believed the state had failed to prove the identity of the body.

On Aug. 26, 1979, Charles Boyer, the handsome hero of French and American films, takes his own life with an overdose of sleeping pills. His wife of 25 years, Pat Paterson, had died only two days earlier.

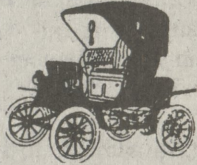


The Frantz farm on Hildebrandt Road in Dallas is more than a piece of property. It's a piece of history. It's been around for the Civil War, more than 20 presidents, the invention of electricity and two world wars. And you thought you were old.

70 years ago
August 23, 1935

WILCOX NAMED
DALLAS COUNCILMAN

Morgan Wilcox, who was appointed a councilman at the last meeting of Dallas Borough Council,



ONLY
YESTERDAY

was sworn in by Justice of the Peace John Yaple on Tuesday night. Mr. Wilcox fills the vacancy caused by the death of Harry Garrahan. The oath was administered at a regular meeting of council.

Contracts for the erection of a one-story annex to Dallas Township High School were awarded this week by township school directors. Execution of the contracts will be speeded so work can be started within the next few weeks.

It is expected the addition will be ready for use before the end of the year. The general contract was awarded to W. F. Sutter of Nescopack at his bid of \$19,185. J. L. Turner and Co. of Nanticoke received the heating contract and the plumbing contract was awarded to Leo F. Steadle.

60 years ago
August 24, 1945

LEHMAN TEACHERS
READY FOR SCHOOL
YEAR

Lehman schools expect to open fall term on September 5 with one of the strongest faculties in a number of years. Three outstanding teachers have been elected to fill vacancies and another is ready to take his place as vocational-educational instructor just as soon as a home can be found for him in Lehman.

Bernard Ikeler of Millville, a graduate of Dickinson College, has been elected to teach senior high school English, and Bernard J. Gerrity of Centralia, a graduate of Mansfield State Teachers' College has been elected to supervise music and direct the school band. Miss Hannah Culp of Huntsville, an outstanding grade school teacher, was elected some weeks ago to teach first grade.

An old established textile industry operating for large plants along the Atlantic Seaboard – three in New York State and one in New Jersey – is definitely interested in establishing a new plant in the Back Mountain Area, preferably in the vicinity of Dallas.

Within the past month, architects, engineers and officials of the firm have been in this area viewing available sites for a plant to handle their dyeing and finishing for their operations.

No less than 10 acres is required with access to a good flow of water. According to pre-

sent plans the plant will employ at least 200 persons on three shifts and have an annual payroll of approximately \$350,000. Plans also call for considerable future expansion.

Donald Eyet, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Eyet of Dymond Hollow near Center Moreland, is one of 845 Navy men listed as missing in action following the sinking in the Philippine Sea of the heavy cruiser Indianapolis by a Japanese submarine.

The young sailor enlisted in the Navy two years ago in May and had served most of his enlistment aboard the famous vessel which was lost shortly after the completion of her last mission. She sailed from San Francisco on July 16 on a high speed run to Guam to deliver essential atomic bomb material and was torpedoed a few days late after safely delivering her cargo. Loss of life aboard the ship is surpassed only by that of the aircraft carrier Franklin and the Battleship Arizona at Pearl Harbor.

50 years ago
August 26, 1955

BOY SCOUTS HELP
SALVATION ARMY

Boy scouts of the Back Mountain region have volunteered to help the Salvation Army Saturday morning in its collection of warm clothing and food stuffs for the flood sufferers of the northeast area. Charles Rinehimer, scoutmaster of Explorer Troop 151 said his troop will have charge of the collection in Dallas Borough and Dallas Township.

Assistant scoutmasters who will organize and supervise the collection are Joe Harris, Leslie Barstow, Jack Stanley, Percy Love and David Parry. Troops in Shavertown and Trucksville will handle the collection in those areas.

X-rays taken at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital showed no broken bones and no internal injuries, so 2-year-old Elizabeth Gross was discharged Friday after a 24-hour precautionary stay in the children's ward. Grave injury was expected when the baby slipped the catch of the car door and fell under the wheels in the Commonwealth parking lot on Lake Street when her mother, Mrs. Harry Gross of Park Street, was making a u-turn Thursday afternoon.

Instead of the car wheel passing over the child's body, Elizabeth rolled downhill, and the tire marks on her abdomen were in the nature of brush burns, not crushing injury.

by handler John Roberts, dog handler for Mrs. Bennett for the past seven years.

The champion, imported from England 16 months ago, has rolled up a record on the eastern circuit of winning in 14 terrier groupings, and 20 wins as best of breed, in addition to the all-important title of best in show at Burlington, Vt.; Scranton, Greenville, S.C., Charlottesville, Va., Penn Treaty Show in Media, and Sunday's show at Hornell.

40 years ago
August 26, 1965

FIRE COMPANY
BUYS FIRE SUIT

The Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. in Dallas voted to buy a fireproof "entry suit" at a substantial savings in price. The suit will be the only such piece of equipment in the Back Mountain and complements the present "approach suit," which is fireproof but not suitable for entering a fire. The suit is equipped to allow the wearer to use an air pack for breathing, and it will have a D-ring on the back to secure the occupant to his company.

The company was of the opinion that such a suit would be a particular value in case of flaming vehicles, as well as buildings.

The Pennsylvania State Police Academy exhibition of trained horses and dogs, and the "atomic" car will be new features of the Dallas Rotary Fall Fair, which begins Friday evening, Sept. 10. The event will take place at the Lehman Horse Show Grounds. The fall fair is to run three days this year – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – and has proven such a popular festivity that the number of featured attractions has burgeoned.

Lake-Lehman schools initiated a blood-assurance through the PTA at the suggestion of supervising principal Lester Squier. Mrs. Leonard Selingo, Mrs. Thomas G. Brown, Mrs. James McCaffery and Mrs. William Shalata were put in charge of the program.

30 years ago
Aug. 21, 1975

TRAP CLUB CLOSED
BY KT SUPERVISORS

Kingston Township supervisors voted at last week's meeting to close the Rose Hill Trap Club. Residents have complained about shooting at the club during this summer and at the July meeting the supervisors voted to suspend shooting pending their decision to issue a permit.

After several registered letters sent by the township were not accepted by the club's owners, the supervisors closed the club citing a lack of cooperation.

The Dallas Fire and Ambulance Co. is holding its annual Country Carnival Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1 on the grounds of the

Back Mountain Memorial Library. A fireman's parade will be held and this year's parade promises even more than last year, when 49 firefighting vehicles participated.

Some of the events include fire truck rides, the can smash, games of chance, and a dunk tank. Dallas Township police chief Carl Mierns has already volunteered for a turn on the dunker.

The Luzerne County 4-H light horse and pony club roundup was held at the Lehman Horse Show Grounds. Sixty members representing six 4-H clubs were entered in the 26 classes of English, western and game events.

According to county agent E.V. Chadwick, 36 members placing in the top three are now eligible to represent Luzerne County in the Northeast District 3 show in Leighton on Sept. 6.

20 years ago
Aug. 21, 1985

MILK CONTRACTS
FOCUS OF
CONTROVERSY

The awarding of contracts to provide milk to the schools in the Lake-Lehman School District was the subject of a controversy again this year.

When the proposal to award the contracts to Dallas Dairy, Blue Ribbon Dairy and Highland Dairy was made, school board director Bing Wolfe reminded the board that in prior years, the milk contracts were the subject of some disagreement.

He recommended that to avoid potential problems, the district award contracts to all three dairies to supply milk on an equal basis.

After director Daniel Hudzik amended the motion with exclusion of Highland Dairy, it was passed after much discussion.

The death of 31-year-old Kim Stanley Krasner of Harveys Lake was the 12th fatality this year on Pennsylvania's waterways, the state Fish Commission reported. Krasner was killed when the boat he was operating crashed into a diving board at the lake. The death was the latest boating-related fatality on the lake since June 18, 1983 when two motorboats collided, killing four people.

When Kingston Township's new ordinances take effect in October 1985, residents will have a new Fire Safety and Prevention Officer. They will also have to keep their properties from being overrun by unkempt weeds.

The two new ordinances were enacted by the township Board of Supervisors last week and will become law in October 1985. The ordinance regarding the weeds carries a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$300 for any violation.

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