

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Dec. 18, 1620, passengers on the British ship Mayflower come ashore at Plymouth, Mass., to begin their new settlement, Plymouth Colony. That winter of 1620-21 was brutal, and by spring, 50 of the original 102 Mayflower passengers were dead.
- On Dec. 16, 1811, in the Mississippi River Valley near New Madrid, Mo., an earthquake of an estimated 8.6 magnitude on the Richter scale slams the region. The quake raised and lowered parts of the Mississippi Valley by as much as 15 feet and changed the course of the Mississippi River.
- On Dec. 23, 1888, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor while staying in Arles, France. He later documented the event in a painting titled Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear.
- On Dec. 22, 1939, two express trains collide in Magdeburg, Germany, killing 132 people. The accident was probably due to the fact that the country's best rail engineers had all been conscripted into the military.
- On Dec. 20, 1957, rock-and-roll star Elvis Presley receives his draft notice for the U.S. Army. Fans sent tens of thousands of letters asking for him to be spared, but Elvis would have none of it. He was sworn in as an Army private in Memphis, Tenn., on March 24, 1958.
- On Dec. 17, 1963, the U.S. Congress passes the Clean Air Act, a sweeping set of laws designed to protect the environment from air pollution. It was the first legislation to place pollution controls on the automobile industry.
- On Dec. 21, 1975, in Vienna, Austria, Carlos the Jackal leads a raid on a meeting of oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, killing three people and taking 63 people hostage. OPEC did not hold another summit for 25 years.
- On Dec. 19, 1998, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. After the trial the following February, during which he was acquitted on both counts, Clinton said he was "profoundly sorry."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Earlier this year -- on Nov. 20, to be exact -- those who make such observances celebrated the feast day of St. Edmund the Martyr. Not familiar with him? As we're near the height of flu season, it might be wise to remember that St. Edmund the Martyr is the patron saint of pandemics.
- It was American lawyer Clarence Darrow, famous for defending John T. Scopes in the so-called Monkey Trial in 1925, who made the following observation: "When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it."
- Famously flamboyant country singer and songwriter Dolly Parton once entered a Dolly Parton look-alike contest -- and she lost.
- According to travel experts, the top cities worldwide that tourists want to visit are, in order: Paris, Rome and San Francisco.
- The first atomic bomb was detonated on July 16, 1945, near Alamogordo, N.M. More than 60 years later, the substance at ground zero is still too radioactive to touch.
- When the movie "Grizzly Adams" was filmed, the grizzly bear that played the title role was paid \$9,000 a day, plus an extra \$15,000 for performing its own stunts.
- In order to help those famously large sumo wrestlers put on weight, trainers have them stop eating breakfast.
- It's been reported that singer Sting doesn't use deodorant. In fact, after interviewing him for a concert once, the journalists nicknamed him "Stink."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shown at the Back Mountain Memorial Library with Oma (Louis ten Haaf of Holland) are, from left, are Emily Crawford with her sister, Rebecca, on her lap; Monique Pritchard and her daughter, Alyssa; and Shane Frank. Standing, Abigail Crawford, Oma, Ralyn Frank, Twila Kaplanski and her son, John; Lisa Woodruff and her daughter, Dallas.

'Oma' sings in Dutch

When storyhour volunteer Monique Pritchard learned that her parents, Gerry and Louis ten Haaf, would be visiting from Holland for three weeks, she asked her mother to come with her to storyhour and surprise the children. She asked the children to call her mother "Oma," meaning grandmother.

The ten Haafs hail from Zeist, Holland. It took the couple eight hours to fly from the Netherlands to the Philadelphia Airport where Pritchard and her daughter, Alyssa, picked them up before driving to Dallas. The grandparents brought with them some

"stroop waffles" (Dutch cookies) and lots of black licorice, a favorite of the Dutch.

Oma talked to the children about the customs of Holland, spoke and sang in Dutch to the delight of the children and even let them try on her wooden shoes. She instructed the children how to play "Zakdoekje Leggen" which is a version of our "duck, duck, goose" pre-school game. She then read them the story of Donald and Daisy Duck who tour Holland and pointed out the main attractions such as the windmills, the tulips and the delicious cheese products.



MAN & BEAST

Tiffany is a 10-year-old Pomeranian who is the best friend of her owners, Mary Jane and Russell Bullock, of Second Street in Tunkhannock. Tiffany likes to go to nursing homes and have her picture taken. She also likes to open her Christmas gifts with her paws.

SHARE YOUR PET PICTURES WITH OTHER READERS

Who's your best friend? If your very best friend in the whole wide world is your pet, we want to know about it. Send us a picture of your pet -- whether it be a lovable puppy, a slimy iguana or a parrot with an extensive vocabulary -- and we'll share it with readers of The Dallas Post. Tell us your name and address, your pet's name, his or her age, his or her breed and anything else you'd like everyone to know about your pet. Be sure to include your telephone number in the event we have questions. Send everything to "Man and Beast," c/o The Dallas Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 or e-mail the picture to us at news@mydallaspost.com. If you send a picture and would like to have it returned, be sure to include a self-addressed/stamped envelope. We'll publish the pictures in the order in which we receive them.

Holiday Open House at library

Parties, presents and possibly the busiest time of the year are all indications that we are in the midst of the holiday season!

The board of directors and staff at the Back Mountain Memorial Library would like to wish you a very happy holiday season and welcome everyone to our Holiday Open House on Wednesday and Thursday, December 19 and 20. Stop by and enjoy light refreshments, as well as the sound of holiday music! Yes, it's the only time of the year that we actually play easy-listening holiday CDs for our visitors to listen to here in the library. (And, if you enjoy these CDs, we just might let you borrow one!)

Automatic entrance doors

When visiting the library, be sure to pause a moment and notice something new at our entrance. We have recently installed automatic entrance doors to make the library more accessible for the benefit of our handicapped patrons.

Handmade decorations

Immediately inside these doors, you will

also notice an assortment of beautiful, holiday floral arrangements, including wreaths, swags and centerpieces. These one-of-a-kind decorations are handmade here at the library by a creative volunteer. She and a few other Santa's "elves" have also prepared a holiday sale corner including tree ornaments, plates, dolls and winter-themed collectibles. Be sure to check out these bargains and remember all proceeds go directly to your Library!

Half-price Christmas items

Don't forget to also visit our Slightly Read Bookshop downstairs to check out the great selection of holiday books and greeting cards. For one week only, from December 17-22, all Christmas inventory will be half-price! From holiday cookbooks to great winter reading, the bookshop offers the best bargains in the Back Mountain!

The bookshop will be open during its regular hours (from 1 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays) through December 22. It will then be closed for two

weeks and will re-open on Saturday, Jan. 5.

Holiday hours

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will be closed on both Monday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) and Tuesday, Dec. 25, to celebrate Christmas and on Monday, Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) and Tuesday, Jan. 1, to celebrate New Year's Day.

Storyhour registration

Parents are reminded that the registration for the Winter/Spring Storyhours will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3. You may either stop by the library or call on that day to register your child for the story times which will begin the week of February 4 and end the week of March 17. Toddler Circle times (1/2 hour in length) are offered at either 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Tuesdays. Story times for 3-5 year olds (45 minutes to an hour in length) are held from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays. They are also held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursdays.

For more information on any of the above activities, please call the library at 675-1182.

20 YEARS AGO

The Child Development Classes at the Dallas Senior High School are developing projects and activities for the Nursery School to be conducted by them in conjunction with their studies. The program will be offered to parents of children, ages 3 and 4 years, who reside in the Dallas School District.



ONLY YESTERDAY

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance requiring a permit for all driveways in the Township which are to be connected to Township roadways. The new ordinance is not retroactive and will pertain only to new driveway construction. Residents wishing to resurface an existing driveway will, however, be required.

Harold Groff, chairman of the telecommunications technology program at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, has been named to fill the first ever Bell of PA telecommunications faculty fellowship. Groff, an assistant professor of telecommunications, is the first faculty member at a Penn State Commonwealth campus to receive a fellowship honor. As part of his Bell Fellowship duties, Groff will co-chair the first ever Bell of PA Telecommunications Symposium, a statewide gathering of business and industry leaders.

30 YEARS AGO

Daniel Meeker of Kunkle Motors was honored for 20 years of business at a recent National meeting and new Model Introduction for dealers of the Swedish Saab automobiles, at Stamford, Connecticut.

Brenda Yascur was crowned Queen of the Lake-Lehman Se-

nior High School Christmas dance last week at the high school.

Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School students achieved scores in the National Development Tests which placed them in the top ten per cent of students throughout the nation. Some of the high-scoring students included Susan Havrilla, Beth Crumley, Valerie Jachimowicz and Pamela Adams.

40 YEARS AGO

Mr. Ted Meixell, Dallas, will be honored by the Girard Investment Company at a dinner today at the Bellvue Stratford in Philadelphia. Mr. Meixell will mark his 25th anniversary with the company.

Is the party host responsible for his guests getting home safely? This question has prompted a holiday safety campaign, "First a Friend...Then a Host" launched today by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club. "We would prefer that party goers not drink and drive, but we must be realistic -- many do," said Charles Spitale, Assistant Manager and Safety Director. "Therefore this campaign is approaching the problem through the host who provides the drinks.

A family of eight on the Lehman Outlet Road lost almost everything in a fire which swept their home Friday morning, leaving very little but the concrete block walls. Two members of the Silvic family were at home, but escaped safely.

50 YEARS AGO

First steps in an attempt to organize a Back Mountain Police Association were taken Monday night when representative police officers met at the Kingston Township Building on Carverton Road to discuss the proposal. The organization will have as its goals closer official and personal associations between all police officers; elevation of police stan-

dards; adoption of humane efforts in the enforcement of law; adoption of pension, relief and civil service laws and an attempt to devise and suggest ways for a more uniform police system in the Back Mountain area.

Construction of the Back Mountain area's first big shopping center will start immediately on five acres of ground opposite Evans Rexall Drug Store, Shavertown. The Back Mountain Shopping Center, being built by Edward Eyerman, Jr. and his partner Henry Fine, will include an air-conditioned Acme Super Market and nine other stores similarly air conditioned and all connected by an all-weather canopy convenient for shoppers.

Mrs. Joseph Bedner, West Dallas, painfully injured two fingers of her right hand the day after she won first prize for the Greens Show at Grace Episcopal Church. A garage door dropped on her hand as she was about to leave the home of her sister, Mrs. Wilbur C. Manning of Shrine View, for the second and final day of the show. The crushed finger wounds required a number of stitches.

Mrs. Bedner's mantel decoration of fruit and seasonal evergreens was adjudged the best exhibit in the annual Greens Show.

60 YEARS AGO

Donald J. Evans was elected president of the Dallas Township School Board.

Newly elected officers of Kingston Township Veteran's Association are Robert Considine, president; William Johnson, vice president; Thomas Ayre, secretary; and Henry Kann, treasurer. Directors for two years are John Fink, Al Morris and Hugh Ridall, Jr. Director for one year is Paul Gallagher.

Professor James R. Martin acted as toastmaster at the turkey dinner given by Mothers to Football Boys at Kingston Township

High School. Coach Ted Martz gave a brief talk and presented the awards and Clinton Smith was elected captain for this year. The program consisted of colored moving pictures of the Tunkhannock game and group singing led by Alfred M. Camp, accompanied by Wilma Hess. Mrs. James Martin was chairman of the banquet.

70 YEARS AGO

Mrs. J. Irving Roe of Shrine View has charge of Christmas Seal sales in Dallas Borough. Mrs. Albert Groblewski is in charge of the sale in Trucksville. Money from the seals will be used by the Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society in its campaign against tuberculosis.

Santa Claus himself will reign over activities at Dallas Township High School tomorrow afternoon when Dallas Junior Woman's Club holds its second annual Christmas Party for underprivileged children of this section. The committee which is planning the affair, headed by Leona Smith, includes Jane O'Kane, Doris Carey, Laura Rothery, Pauline Mummaw, Margaret Lynn, Ethel Stolarick, Viola Morrett, Mildred Devens, Alberta Hofmeister, Peg Shultz, Jean Richards, Louise Hislop, Myra Carlin and Sarah Scherer.

An operetta, "The Busy Christmas King" will be given at a meeting of the Dallas Parent-Teacher Association Monday night in the high school auditorium. Miss Ruth Mae Hazel and Miss Ruth Carbaugh, first grade teachers, will direct the production. Miss Evelyn Van Antwerp will have charge of carol singing and Mildred Kitchen will play a piano solo.

Information for "Only Yesterday" is taken from past issues of The Dallas Post, which is 10 years old. The information is printed here exactly as it appeared in the newspaper years ago.

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