

# The DALLAS POST

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## NEWSPAPER STILL GOING STRONG

# The Dallas Post begins its 119th year of publication

By DOTTY MARTIN  
Editor

With this issue, The Dallas Post begins its 119th year of publication, covering the Back Mountain community and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts.

In early 1889, A.A. Holbrook resigned his position with the Wilkes-Barre Times to publish the Dallas Post, the first Back Mountain newspaper. Holbrook opened his publishing business in a small one-room building in Dallas and, serving as publisher and editor, printed and hand-deliver-

ed a two-page broadsheet newspaper.

Holbrook continued to publish The Dallas Post until 1895 when W.H. Capwell, editor of the Tribune in Nanticoke and Plymouth, succeeded him, printing the paper in a small building at the corner of Huntsville Road and Norton Avenue in Dallas.

Harry Anderson, of Dallas, became publisher and editor of The Dallas Post in the early 1900s and, for a period of time, the newspaper was located in the building on Main Street now occupied by Dallas Centre Hardware.

Robert Fine and Harry Ander-

son were publishers of The Dallas Post in the 1920s with the paper changing ownership again in January 1930 and listing officers as L.A. McHenry, president; G. Harold Wagner, secretary; and Howard Risley, treasurer and managing editor. Risley and his wife, Myra, assumed sole ownership of the newspaper in the latter part of 1930.

When Risley died suddenly on December 26, 1962, his wife continued as publisher and editor until early 1968 when she sold the paper to Henry Null IV of Clarks Summit, who also owned the Abington Journal.

Null continued to publish The Dallas Post and the Abington Journal until January 1972 when he sold both papers to William Scranton, the former governor of Pennsylvania, and his family. Gov. Scranton named his son, William W. Scranton III, as president of the publications.

When the younger Scranton announced in January 1973 he was leaving the publishing business to travel abroad to study transcendental meditation, The Dallas Post continued to publish under Edward Bush, president and general manager; J.R. Freeman, editor-in-chief; and Doris

Mallin, secretary-treasurer and editor.

The paper continued to publish until December 1972 when Scranton announced his decision to close the newspapers due to internal problems and place them on the market.

In January 1975, Ray Carlsen, an Ohio newspaper publisher and a former public relations director from Proctor & Gamble, purchased the newspapers.

In 1979, Carlsen formed a partnership with Paul "Pete" Eyerly, owner of the Bloomsburg Press and Berwick Enterprise. When Carlsen accepted a position as ex-

ecutive director of the Virginia Press Association in September 1980, he sold his interest in the newspapers to Eyerly.

The Dallas Post and the Abington Journal were purchased from Eyerly in May 1988 by Ronald and Charlotte Bartizek, who published the newspapers until selling them to The Times Leader in December 1999.

Today, The Dallas Post is owned by the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company. Richard L. Connor is president of that company.

Dotty Martin, editor of The Dallas Post, can be reached at 970-7440.

"I always wanted to do Dallas because I could never do enough on it and it bothered me."

Sister Anne Frances Pulling  
Retired teacher and Sister of Mercy



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Looking through some bound volumes of The Dallas Post, Sister Anne Frances Pulling, a retired teacher and Sister of Mercy, has compiled and intends to publish a history of Dallas Borough.

## Mercy Sister hopes to publish history

By REBECCA BRIA  
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She proves you don't have to be a lifelong native of the area to find its history intriguing.

Sister Anne Frances Pulling has written and published a total of 11 pictorial books on the local history of places outside of the Wyoming Valley. Now, she's focusing on Dallas Borough and Dallas Township.

"The town hasn't been that well-known," Pulling said of the Back Mountain locale. "I always wanted to do Dallas because I could never do enough on it and it bothered me."

Born and raised in Central Islip Long Island, N.Y., Pulling came from an Irish Catholic family. Both her maternal and her paternal grandparents were natives of Ireland. All of her life, Pulling knew she wanted to be a Sister of Mercy so, in 1948, she decided to pursue higher education at College Misericordia. She entered the convent that same year.

Pulling received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from College Misericordia and a Masters degree in Education from Fordham University. After college, she taught elementary school for 57 years at Catholic schools in Harrisburg, Long Is-

land and Cresson, pointing out to this reporter that a Catholic school teacher can always tell whether a person has attended Catholic school because of the way they hold their writing utensil.

"I can always pick them out," she said of students who did not attend Catholic school.

Pulling also taught a mental aerobics class, a class designed to stimulate and keep the brain healthy through mental activities that help with concentration, remembering and listening, at Mount Aloysius College.

During this interview, Pulling was not wearing a habit and a black dress but, instead, donned a navy blue pantsuit. Her gray, curly hair was completely exposed and, while sitting at the piano for a photo, her fingers melodically tickled the keys.

A librarian approached Pulling years ago and asked her to write a book about the history of Central Islip for an upcoming bicentennial anniversary. The result - she wrote "Central Islip: My Hometown."

In another instance, she took a nun who had trouble seeing to a cemetery. Every time Pulling would read names aloud off of

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## Dallas grad designs handmade invitations



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Kristy Rice, a graduate of Dallas High School and Penn State, has established a custom wedding and stationery business in the Back Mountain.

## Creating memories

By REBECCA BRIA  
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### ON THE WEB:

www.momentaldesigns.com

Kristy Rice was 11 years old and vacationing in a small hotel room with her family. Everyone wanted to go to sleep, but Kristy wanted to draw. So, using the bathroom light, she sat on the floor and copied a Garfield comic strip out of the newspaper. The next morning, her mom was amazed and assumed Kristy had traced it. When she found it had been drawn freehand, she signed her daughter up for art classes.

Rice, now 30, is an artist by profession and creates handmade wedding invitations and stationery. She runs her business, Momental Designs, out of her Franklin Township home.

While the first six months of taking art lessons with Sue Hand, Rice knew she wanted to do something with art for a living. In high school, she entered art shows, including the Fine Arts Fiesta and the Rossetti Art Show where she won the "triple blue" award - three blue ribbons and a prize three years in a row.

While a senior in high school from which she graduated in 1995, Rice worked as a teaching assistant at Sue Hand's Imagery in Dallas. While in college, she taught art at Hand's stu-

dio during the summers.

"I modeled myself after her a lot," Rice said of Hand, whom she considers her mentor. Rice graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1999 with a major in art education and a minor in mixed media painting.

After commencement, Rice was engaged and moved to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where she worked in retail and sales. She created handmade stationery and invitations for her own wedding and fell in love with it. Soon she was making invitations for friends and then friends of friends. At the encouragement of others, she turned her passion into a business.

"When I first started the business, money never entered my head," she said. "I just wanted to do what I love."

Rice worked full-time in both her business and in the retail business and, when she and her husband returned to the area in 2004, Momental Designs came with them. A year ago, she left retail to focus on her business full-time.

Momental Designs was named as such because the word "momental"

can mean a moment that is important.

"With the stationery that I make, I kind of wanted to freeze that moment for a bit," Rice said. The stationery reinforces brides' themes and color schemes.

"I tell my brides it's like a thread through your event," she said.

In addition to invitations, Rice crafts ceremony programs, seating charts, seating cards and envelope addressing. Although weddings are her most popular event, she will create invitations and stationery for any occasion, using only her own art. Customers can choose to use an existing design or have Rice create a new one for them.

To produce the invitations, Rice paints an image with watercolors, scans it onto a computer and prints it on heavy paper. She then adds detail with ink by hand on each invitation.

This year, Rice is making invitations and stationery for 135 weddings, with three to five orders shipping out a week. The majority of her bridal customers live outside of Northeastern Pennsylvania and 20 live overseas.

Eighty percent of Rice's customers find her web site, www.momentalde-

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