

Opinion

It's Your Library

Use It, but Don't Abuse It

By DOTTY MARTIN
Associate Editor

Joann Freeman, chairman of the 1983 Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, says "the library is for the public."

It would probably be safe to say that most of us agree with her. Logically speaking, it would also probably be safe to say that the auction is for the public, too, since the library is the sole benefactor of the four-day affair.

It seems, however, there are some people who do not follow that line of thinking as the auction grounds have come under some pretty heavy vandalism in recent years.

One of the booths suffered serious damage when someone broke into it and sprayed the fire extinguisher over everything. And the refreshment booth took a beating when someone gained unlawful entrance and strewn paper products all over the floor.

The Book Booth now has flaps all around it, disallowing any unauthorized persons access to it and, as Mrs. Freeman explained, the antiques to be auctioned are no longer stored in the barn as they have been in previous years.

The chairman went on to explain that the auction committee is too afraid of vandalism to store the valuable antiques in the barn. Instead, the antiques are kept at people's homes until right before the auction. And, when the auction opens, the grounds will be patrolled around the clock so as to prevent damage to the goods.

Moving the antiques at the last minute, however, only makes more work for the committee members. But risking damage to them is too high a price to pay for such valuable items.

What people fail to realize is the amount of hard work the committees put into making the auction the success it has been for the past 36 years. And what they don't

realize either is that the library is the one and only thing that benefits from the auction's proceeds.

What makes the whole situation so sad is that those people causing the vandalism are probably users of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. And the library is as much theirs as it is that of the committee members.

The committee members are involved - putting in their time and effort - to make the library a better place for its patrons and for the entire community. Certainly, there are more people who benefit from the library than just those who help to organize the auction.

But, as we all know, it takes only one bad apple to spoil the barrel. The bad apples who are responsible for the vandalism at the auction grounds are spoiling things for everyone else. They are causing the committee more work by delaying their set-up time and are causing hard feelings and frustration among those who have been involved with the auction for so long. Where would the library be if these people were to become so disgusted they were no longer interested in helping with the auction?

Not one bit of good comes from this vandalism and, other than a few laughs over what they have done, the vandals themselves accomplish nothing with their antics.

If you are not interested in the library and its auction, then why not just leave well enough alone? Those who are involved with it are certainly not causing anyone else any grief so let's simply allow them to do their thing without inflicting any pain.

And, if you are interested in the library, make it a point to attend the auction. Remember, it is your auction as much as it is anyone else's and you should feel entitled to be a part of it. Your presence alone will be gratification enough for the hard work that goes into the auction. If you attend and let the committees know how much you appreciate their efforts, it might be a little easier for them to forget about the vandals. And you might even have a good time, to boot!

'Lady Liberty' Needs Our Help

Since its dedication in 1886, the Statue of Liberty has been our inspirational 'official greeter' to countless millions of immigrants, visitors and returning tourists to our shores. Now, Lady Liberty needs our help.

National Park Service engineers say Miss Liberty is in alarming shape. The intricate web of 2,000 iron armature bars, hidden beneath the hand-hammered copper skin, have deteriorated over the decades since they were designed by French engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. And the 200,000 pound copper skin itself has thinned due to pollutants and acid rain. Pieces of the torch have fallen into New York Harbor; the torch and portions of the right arm may even have to be replaced.

Instead of going to Congress for funds to restore this priceless treasure, President Reagan is asking the American public to join in a national effort to rescue her - and rededicate the nation to the values she represents.

The 151-foot figure was not built with government money. The people of France raised the two-million francs (then \$400,000) so sculptor Frederic August Bartholdi could devote nine years to Lady Liberty's creation.

Meanwhile, in the United States, a similar private effort raised the \$101,091 for the pedestal; 80 percent of this came in donations of less than a dollar.

At President Reagan's request, Chrysler Corporation Chairman Lee Iacocca has agreed to coordinate the new grassroots fundraising campaign (Contributions to The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1986, New York, New York 10018, are tax deductible). The 20-member advisory commission also includes Bob Hope and Douglas Fraser, former president of the United Auto Workers.

This, "Save the Statue of Liberty Commission," according to an article in the July Reader's Digest, has expanded its effort to include nearby Ellis Island. Almost two-thirds of those who emigrated to the United States came through Ellis Island, which has fallen into ruin since it was closed in 1954. The commission is now

investigating the restoration of Ellis Island's historic sites along with the Statue of Liberty. The estimated cost for the joint project is \$230 million.

The official fundraising hadn't even begun when the U.S. public began to respond. Bridgeport, Connecticut, had suffered a tragic pre-Christmas 1982 fire at its toy center for poor children - Christmas Village. And people from around the nation donated enough money to rebuild the center. In lieu of thank you letters, the city raised \$3,600, all from nickels, dimes and quarters contributed by schoolchildren. This was then donated to help restore Lady Liberty.

An elementary school in Hightstown, New Jersey, organized a festival, releasing hundreds of red, white and blue balloons containing notes asking finders to write for information about the Statue. They also raised \$200 selling cookies and turned this over to the restoration effort.

A Tucson, Arizona, elementary school staged a three-mile Liberty Run with students collecting pledges for the run. They raised \$2,400 for the project.

The Hicksville, New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) chapter raised more than \$1,100 with a casino night; and the Jersey City, New Jersey, Business and Professional Women's Club is collecting pennies using the slogan: "Copper pennies for the restoration of the copper gown of Lady Liberty."

On October 28, 1986, the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday will be observed with a rededication ceremony. During the 1986 Fourth of July week, the commission plans a big affair - with the return of the tall ships that helped us celebrate our nation's Bicentennial, with heads of states from dozens of countries, Army and Marine units on parade, Navy ships booming their salutes, and Air Force jets zooming over a rejuvenated Lady Liberty.

With the generous help of the American people, we will be assured that the Lady will still be lifting her "lamp besides the golden door" as she did for the last century's "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Correction's History is Published

Commissioner of Correction Ronald J. Marks has announced the publication of a history of corrections in Pennsylvania, entitled "30th Anniversary Commemorative History: The Bureau of Correction and its Institutions." The History was written by Judith R. Smith, information specialist, to mark the occasion of the Bureau of Correction's 30 years of existence. Mrs. Smith holds a Master of Arts Degree in English from Duquesne University.

The History tells how the Bureau of Correction came to be created; how the impact of the 1953 riots at Pittsburgh and Rockview played a

significant role in the work of the Devers Commission and the establishment of the Bureau of Correction which followed.

The early goals of the new Bureau are described, and the accomplishments of each of the five correction commissioners from Arthur Prasse to Commissioner Marks are summarized, as the History follows the growth of the agency and its institutions from 1953 to the present.

Another section of the History traces the early history of corrections in Pennsylvania from the days of William Penn.

Penn sought to establish a haven

of justice in his colony, but as the History points out, Pennsylvania soon had a rampant crime problem, with many of its first citizens being felons or ex-felons.

Yet the Quaker colony persevered in its enlightened code of justice and later evolved the penitentiary system. The "Queen of Penitentiaries", Eastern Penitentiary, was opened in 1829 and soon became a model for the young nation and the world.

The History also treats the founding of Western Penitentiary in Pittsburgh which was not a success and had to be rebuilt three times until the state had the facility we know today as the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh (which incidentally, is soon to undergo massive renovation.)

The history also documents the crises, misadventures and, ultimately, the success of the State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon which opened in 1889 as the Huntingdon Reformatory. Included in the panorama of historical events is the progression of ideas that moved corrections forward in the 19th and 20th centuries. Both correctional thinking and legislative action changed over the years, resulting in different types of institutions and even non-institutional programming.

For instance, the Bureau's largest institution, Graterford, opened in 1929, was designed in the telephone pole style, a French innovation, and originally conceived to hold 3200 inmates. But times changed, and the institution was never completed as first planned. Instead, a somewhat smaller facility evolved, with a design capacity of 2,000.

The third and final section of the History is devoted to contemporary correctional practice and the problems currently faced by the Bureau of Correction. Chief among these is institutional overcrowding and the various options available as solutions.

(Copies of the History are available in limited supply from the Bureau of Correction's Public Information office, Box 598, Camp Hill, Pa., 17011.)

Only Yesterday

Jurchaks Visit Czechoslovakia

50 YEARS AGO - JULY 7, 1933

Attorney and Mrs. Peter Jurchak of Trucksville visited Czechoslovakia where he served as a representative at the unveiling of a monument marking the birthplace of the founder of the First Catholic Union. The Jurchaks were honored at a farewell party given by friends at Dallas.

A special committee from Shavertown Improvement Association arranged with the township supervisors for all those who had been unable to pay their 1932 and previous years' personal taxes to work out their taxes on the roads.

Deaths - John Hacking, Jamison City.
You could get - Sliced bacon 20c lb.; butter 2 lb. 50c; watermelons 49c ea.; coffee 21c lb.; jelly glasses 39c doz.; Mason jars, pts. 75c doz.; vinegar 2-22 oz. bottles 15c; grape nut flakes 8c pkg.; Palmolive soap 4 cakes 25c.

40 YEARS AGO - JULY 9, 1943

One hundred twenty five Dallas Girl Scouts closed the Day Camp held at Camp Wildwood, Harveys Lake with a colorful water carnival. Florence Hausch served as camp director while Mrs. Russell Case was camp chairman.

Local friends of Col. Norman Smith of Huntsville were thrilled to hear him on the radio broadcast from Roanoke, Va. where he was a guest on the Lanny Ross Show. Ross, a famous radio singer, was then in the Army. Smith spoke on wartime experiences in Africa and America.

Married - Bernice Cook to Richard Miner; Ruth Dodson to Charles Gensel.

Deaths - Dorothy Wentzel, Lehman; Thomas Lloyd, Trucksville.

You could get - Smoked hams 32c lb.; frankfurters 33c lb.; filet of perch 32c lb.; potatoes 15 lb. 55c; cabbage 3c lb.; Palmolive soap 3 reg. bars 20c; shrimp 29c can; cheese 31c lb.; salmon tall can 23c; tomatoes 15c pkg.

30 YEARS AGO - JULY 10, 1953

Dallas-Franklin Township School Board reorganized electing the following officers: Thomas S. Moore, president; Thomas Earl, vice-president; George Dymond, secretary.

Hundreds were expected to attend the Seventh Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction July 10 weekend. The highlight of the auction would be the sale of a Chevrolet Sedan on Saturday night.

Engaged - Phyllis Ann Kunkle to Donald L. Ide; Beverly A. Archbold to Frederick Martin.

Married - Shirley Douglas to Calvin Strohl; Grace Schmincke to Paul Winter; Rose Piccarreta to Peter Ondish; Mavis Fancher to Coral Ide.

Chamber Group Has Impact On Area's Economic Growth

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

A new program is underway in the Wyoming Valley which will impact how economic growth will take place in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area including: the Back Mountain, Mountaintop, Bear Creek and other sections of the Wyoming Valley during the 1980s and 1990s.

Spearheaded by a group called the Committee for Economic Growth, this project was launched recently after months of careful planning. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce is the organization spearheading the effort in which a Planning Task Force and a Special Action Task Force have been established for the purpose of taking on these new responsibilities.

The Planning Task Force is taking a year with which to collect information, evaluate it, and delineate assets and liabilities which separate the Wyoming Valley from its competitors in relation to economic growth.

The Special Action Task Force is directing its energies to the marketing of Wyoming Valley and increasing the opportunities for economic development.

Recently, a meeting was held at the Luzerne County Community College, at which over 130 persons discussed the Planning Task Force functions. Over 35 study groups have been established on a comprehensive voluntary basis to sift through a wide range of data on topics which impact economic growth. These study groups will evaluate of the following activities: Education, recreation, health and medical, culture, housing, geography, location, climate, demography, and air and environmental quality, spiritual resources, ethnic composition and history of the area, crime, social services, utilities-energy, condition of infrastructure (on hold), land, sites, facilities and costs, transportation, commu-

nications, waste disposal (including industrial-hazardous), natural resources (on hold), financial resources, commercial and industrial activity, state of local economy, cost of living, insurance costs, construction costs, market linkages, business involvement in the community, taxes-incentives and inducements, political organization and structure, government spending, services, and fiscal health, government regulation (particularly environmental), productivity, cost of labor, relations with management-reliability of labor force, composition and skills-number available and employed, image, community ethos, and attitudes toward business.

The Committee for Economic Growth in the Wyoming Valley is one in a series of new economic activities which are taking place throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. For example, in the Greater Scranton area, the Chamber of Commerce has launched an examination of the 1990s and where Greater Scranton will be in that decade. In October, 1983, a major conference on the 90's is planned by that organization.

In Greater Pittston, the Chamber of Commerce has launched an Image Improvement Campaign to change the perception which many people have of the Greater Pittston Area.

In Greater Pottsville, the American City Corporation is evaluating the future of the Greater Pottsville Area.

The Committee for Economic Growth and its forces in the Wyoming Valley should be commended for launching this important and focused evaluation on the Valley's economic future.

For those who wish to communicate with the Committee and to participate in this function, the address for the Committee for Economic Growth is: 92 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701.

Teachers' Union Boss Shakes First at Merit Pay

The head of Pennsylvania's largest teacher union today branded so-called merit pay proposals "nothing more than a scheme to hand a token amount of extra money to a handful of teachers in order to escape paying a fair salary to all."

Jacque D. Angle, president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) said his organization would be willing to consider "consider, not necessarily support" merit pay only under the following conditions.

All teachers are brought up to professional-level salaries that reflect their educational preparation, their classroom responsibilities, and their experience on the job.

That any merit pay plan under study allows all teachers on a faculty to qualify for extra pay on the basis of performance.

That teachers themselves devise the mechanism through which performance would be evaluated.

"But I must emphasize that even under those idea conditions, we are extremely skeptical of merit pay systems or their value in improving education," Angle said.

"On the contrary, where we have seen differential pay or bonus systems implemented in local schools they have had a devastating effect on teacher morale, student confidence, and the quality of education itself."

The call for merit pay for teachers has been most frequently issued by President Reagan in the wake of

"A Nation at Risk," a report from the National Commission on Excellence in Education.

"That was a well thought-out report that offered many suggestions for the improvement of our schools - suggestions which PSEA has strongly supported for years," Angle said.

"But the President has chosen to ignore those suggestions and instead zero in on merit pay as a quick-fix approach to quality education.

"In truth, Reagan isn't talking merit pay at all or he would use his leadership to assure that all teachers are paid at the level their work merits."

Angle said that the same features that make merit pay unacceptable to teachers have also shown up in private industry merit pay plans.

"Then most recent and most notable example is Citicorp of New York, which abandoned a 28-year-old merit system because, in their words, it was divisive and contributed nothing to the improvement of the Citicorp operation," Angle said.

"Think how much more difficult it is to implement a useful merit system in education, where there are so many intangibles involved in a teacher's performance.

"To some administrators, a teacher is doing a good job if the classroom is silent and neat.

"To others, the prime criterion of excellence is cooperation with the school administration - whatever that means.

"The point is that in the plans we have seen, no one has devised an accurate fair way of evaluating teacher performance.

"And the bottom line is that with few exceptions, the 125,000 classroom teachers in Pennsylvania do an exemplary job of educating our young people - given the necessary materials and equipment and a sensible teaching load.

"We suggest that school districts strive to develop these positive working conditions - rather than a cosmetic merit-pay scheme - if they are genuinely interested in providing the best possible education for children."

Chamber Book is Available

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce now has its 1983-84 "State and Regional" Directory for sale.

This 150-page directory is completely updated annually and lists the names, addresses, telephone numbers and key officials of over 1,350 Pennsylvania organizations.

The 1983-84 "State and Regional Directory" is priced at \$11.39 per copy (\$8.50 plus \$2.24 postage plus 65c sales tax) and may be ordered by sending \$11.39 per copy to the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, 222 N. Third St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17101.

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