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We're well-equipped

It is a whole different world for handicapped

By WALLY KOCHER
Special to The Dallas Post

What could be more simple and relaxing than a visit to your local library or a drive around town? Simple, that is, for most people. But, these actions which we so often take for granted are very difficult for those who are mentally and physically handicapped.

Imagine a life full of aggravation because you couldn't go to a store because it had steps and no ramps, or perhaps not frequenting a certain restaurant because your wheelchair wouldn't fit in the lavatories. Handicapped people face these problems daily.

Fortunately though, handicapped residents of the Back Mountain don't have to worry about many of these problems. Back Mountain businesses and other public facilities are well equipped to serve the handicapped.

Ernest Ashbridge, president of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board, explained to The Dallas Post what exactly the new library building will have to offer the handicapped when it opens its doors in December.

"Ramps will be included in the design of the building," he said,

"and the lavs will accommodate the handicapped. The library will include the first floor only, so that once the people are inside, they won't need to use stairs."

According to Ashbridge, the second floor of the building will be used for offices and meeting rooms. However, if it turns out that elderly people are going to use the meeting rooms, elevators may be installed in the building.

"We also plan to offer braille and easy reader books for the blind," he added. "These books will cover both fiction and non-fiction."

Getting to the library however, would be another problem. Thanks to the Back Mountain Taxi Company though, this is yet another solvable problem.

"We definitely see a need for transportation for the elderly and handicapped," said Basil Lord, spokesman for the taxi company. "We offer a 25 percent discount to the senior citizens and handicapped. We also help them in and out of the units, something other companies don't do."

Lord explained that the reason their company takes more time and consideration for such people could possibly be because it's family owned and operated.

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Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Happy birthday, Florence

Florence Crump, above center, takes a moment to pose with some of her friends from the Back Mountain Library so that The Dallas Post and the Back Mountain community can wish her a happy birthday. Mrs. Crump who celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday, Dec. 2, is shown here with Nancy Kozemchak, left, and Marilyn Rudolph, right. Mrs. Crump, who is best known for her efforts with the Book Booth during the annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, still visits the library on a regular basis and performs volunteer work. Isn't it fitting, though, that someone who has put as much time and effort into the Back Mountain Library as Florence Crump should have her 90th birthday picture taken at the library on Main Street before the books and records are all moved to the new library building on Huntsville Road? Happy birthday, Mrs. Crump, from The Dallas Post and the entire Back Mountain community.

Gina Major: 'Get involved'

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Gina Major, Miss Pennsylvania, returned to her alma mater, Lake-Lehman High School, Monday morning and spoke to the students and faculty there.

Wearing a khaki dress and her crown, Miss Major told the students how her high school activities and education played a major role in her success.

She explained that, not only her academic studies, but her involvement in band, chorus and other activities prepared her for college.

"While a member of the band, the hours of practice and learning self-discipline helped develop the self-discipline so necessary for my competition in the pageants which led to Miss Pennsylvania," Miss Major told the students.

She stressed the importance of students becoming involved in all of the school programs, not just academic courses but all activities in order to gain a well-rounded education.

"Take advantage of everything offered to you, so in the future, doors will open. You may not understand how important this is now, but you will in the future."

Miss Major explained she was not a straight "A" student, but that she became involved in all phases of high school activities which has paid off since she graduated from Lake-Lehman in 1976.

"It was the guidance department at Lake-Lehman which made me aware of Drexel University when I decided I wanted to go into busi-

(See GINA, page 8)

For annual Madrigal Dinner

Misericordia's Merrick Hall provides Old English Feast

Merrick Hall on the campus of College Misericordia was transformed into an Old English Greate Halle this weekend as the students of the Back Mountain institution took an audience back to the 16th century for an authentic Christmas feast.

Following a dinner which consisted of Ware Wassail Cup, Penzance Prime Rib de Boeuf Au Jus, Yorkshire Pudding, Canterbury Carrots in Honie, Winchester Chef Salade, Saxon Scones, Flamed London Plum Pudding with Raleigh rum sauce, Rare Spiced Tea, from Ye Indies, Diverse Mixed Nuts and Coffee from Ye Newe Colonies, four students enacted a Renaissance Dance. Performing as authentic Renaissance dancers were Jacqueline Kmetz, Debra Wise, Wanda Talcott and Paula Smolko.

The Hosts of the Feaste were Lady Janet Heller, Lady Vickie Lilley, Lady Suzanne Hatrak, Lady Danielle White, Lady Cynthia Stefanick, Lady Mary Rucco, Lady Lisa Lorusso, Lady Diane Bowersox, Lord Richard Stoddard, Lord Shaun Korus, Lord Louis Aita, Lord Joseph Sheran, Lord Stephen Broskoske, Lord Philip Latella, Lord John Williams, Lord Charles Eckhart.

Lady Mary C. Rovinski and Lady Sharon Korus performed on the harpsichord while Lady Carol Gross did an outstanding job as narrator of the event.

The hosts offered the following songs as an after-dinner treat: "O Jesu Sweet," "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts," "Still, Still," "Nebo i Zeml'a," "Away in a Manger," "Come All Ye People," "Ding, Dong: Merrily On High," and "Fanfare, Ye Sixthe."

Among the song presentations were solos by Louis Aita, Lisa Lorusso on flute, Stephen Broskoske, Joseph Sheeran, Cynthia Stefanick on finger cymbals, Danielle White and Richard Stoddard.

Other participants included Mallyn Koby and Julia Washcaulus, manor performers; Terry Labanz, jester; Marina Piazza and Cynthia Daniels, whiffers; Carolyn Jankowski and Thomas Krunkosky, trumpeters; Ken Jordan and Robert Coscia, little bearers. Members of the wandering troubadours included Diana Mirro, Sam Giraldi, Molly

McGuire, Chris Bodnar, and Jody Barbarulo, RSM.

Hostesses for the evening were Marietta Scalise, head hostess; Lori Dagon, Karen Tometchko, Debbie Barthomowicz, Donna Bonfanti, Kayann Zeller, Allison Albert, Heidi Lee Balsygo, Kathleen Habner, and Sandra Schwab.

Sister Mary Carmel McGarigle is coordinator of the annual Madrigal Dinner and was assisted by

the following people: Stanley Sadowski, Wood Food Service Director; Julie Wurst, food service student manager; Sister Mary Sharon Gallagher, decorations coordinator; Sister Lucille Cormier, manor performers and wandering troubadours; Walter Anderson, lighting director; Bernadine Borinski, choreography; Clifford Balshaw, harpsichord; and Elizabeth Caswell, herald trumpets.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Accompanists

Lady Mary C. Rovinski and Lady Sharon Korus, shown here at the harpsichord, provided musical accompaniment for the program conducted by the Hosts of the Feaste during the Madrigal Dinner held this past weekend by students at College Misericordia. The dinner, coordinated by Sister Mary Carmel McGarigle, is held annually at the local college.

Seanica just loves the U.S.

By JOAN KINGSBURY
Staff Correspondent

"I love it" is how Seanica de Jager, an American Field Service Exchange Student from Brakpan, South Africa, expresses her feelings for the Back Mountain. Seanica, an 18-year-old, is enrolled in the senior class at Dallas Senior High School.

Seanica, who lives near Johannesburg, S.A., attended Boksburg High School. When she returns following her year-long stay in the United States, she will attend the University to study either engineering or animation.

Seanica's parents are Mr. and Mrs. M.H. de Jager. Her father is self-employed in transport and her mother is an accountant. Seanica has two sisters Niki, 20 and Lara, 16. Her brother Quentin is 15.

School has been the one thing Seanica has found to be most different. In South Africa, students wear uniforms even if they attend public school. The schools are very, very strict, with very little noise allowed, and much less course selection. Seanica's school day is shorter than at Dallas where South African students are finished by 2 p.m.

Seanica has just finished a marching season with the Dallas Band which kept her pretty busy. She played the bells in the band and also plays piano and guitar.

Seanica's host family is Mr. and Mrs. Jay Niskey of New Goss Manor. Mr. Niskey is owner of Bowman Petroleum Company while Mrs. Niskey is a partner in Bay Windows. The Niskies have two children, Susan, a student at Itasca College; and Karen, a junior at Dallas High School. Seanica finds the Niskies to be "great" and is getting along with them just swell.

The American diet and climate are definitely different from those to which Seanica is accustomed. The temperature rises only slightly above 50 degrees in her native country during the winter months.

Seanica says, "I want to see the snow, but I don't want to get cold." She fears that she will not be able to get used to our colder temperatures.

In South Africa, teens eat more fruits and vegetables and not nearly as much fast food. They do not eat a lot of candy or drink much soda and coffee or tea are preferred beverages.

Since her arrival, Seanica has



SEANICA DE JAGER

enjoyed visiting Washington D.C. and New York City.

Seanica thinks the AFS program is a "good idea", since it gives people a real chance to see other countries and learn about other cultures first hand. Seanica's impression of Americans has changed since she has been living here.

"I heard about America and sometimes you are not given a very good impression from movies and some tourists," Seanica admits. But, after going to school and living

in the United States for several months Seanica has found she likes the people. Americans are just everyday ordinary people who do basically the same things South Africans do.

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Awareness Week noted

The week of December 9-15 has been proclaimed "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week."

Dr. Howard G. Hughes, president, Pennsylvania Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians,

has reported that the emergency physicians in our state are dismayed at the death and destruction caused by drunk drivers. They are, according to Dr. Hughes, first-hand

witnesses to the terrible results of a drunk or drugged driver accident.