

Auctioneer, enthusiasm go hand in hand

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

If there is one single quality an auctioneer must have in order to stand in front of hundreds of people and sell an item, it's got to be enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm, and probably great success, is exactly what two Dallas businessmen offer this year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction as "auctioneers."

Bill Spurlin of 24 Dorchester Drive, Dallas and Jim Eason of 44 Main Street, Dallas will again lend their auctioneering talents to the 39th annual event — offering over 10 years of combined auctioneering.

"I became interested in the auction in 1975," Spurlin said. "It was the first day of the auction and the same day that I took over the station (Dallas Exxon)."

"The next year (1976) I joined the Dallas Rotary Club and they were running the hamburger and hotdog stand at the auction," Spurlin said. "I was a cook."

After experiencing his first taste of volunteer work for library auction, Spurlin said, "I became totally fascinated with the entire event. I hung around and watched and really enjoyed myself."

The following year, Spurlin said he approached an auction official and asked, "What's the chance of me getting up there (referring to the auctioneer's stand)?"

And, for the past seven years, Spurlin, 50, has been actively involved as a past auction chairman in 1978 and an auctioneer.

Eason, owner of Dallas Centre Hardware on Main Street, became active with the auction in 1981 as general chairman and said of auctioneering, "It's like any other human interaction. If you sell items fast and for the right price, you feel good. If you don't, well then you don't feel so good."

Eason, 43, says there's nothing difficult about facing a large crowd of people. "It's no problem," Eason said. "I really enjoy it, it's a lot of fun."

"It really can be exciting," Spurlin continued. "You get people from all over and even from out of state who are looking for good buys. When I get up



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Going, going, gone!

Jim Eason, left, proprietor of Dallas Centre Hardware, Main Street; and Bill Spurlin, proprietor of Spurlin's Dallas Exxon, Memorial Highway, are gearing up for this year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Both businessmen participate as auctioneers during the four-day annual event.

Committee members

Members of the committee for the 39th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction are:

GENERAL CHAIRPERSON - Monty Evans
DINNER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON - Joan Evan
DINNER COMMITTEE - Nancy Kozemchak
NEW GOODS CHAIRPERSON - Dr. John Shaskus
ANTIQUES - Ernie Ashbridge
BOOK BOOTH - Lawrence Crump
FINANCE CHAIRPERSON - George McCullough
FOOD CHAIRPERSON - Joe Fry
CHILDREN'S AUCTION - Sue Davis
AUCTIONEER CHAIRPERSON - Craig Eicher

there (auction stand) I really enjoy it. I'm basically a big ham."

Spurlin says he has gone to other auctions since volunteering for the Back Mountain event and has reportedly picked up a few new auctioneering techniques.

"After you've done it for a while (auctioneering)," Spurlin said, "You begin to develop your own technique — you're own style."

Spurlin explained how one volunteer auctioneer simply refuses to sell an item for \$13. "He'll sell an item for \$12 or \$14, but never \$13," Spurlin joked.

Eason says he would like to see this year's auction reach a new high point. "I would like to see this year rise above the plateau of past years," Eason said. "With the new grounds it will be tough, but it's possible this year could be the beginning of a good starting point for the future."

Biathlon scheduled

Frank Poplaski of Shavertown, sales manager of Falcone Beverage Company in Pittston, has been named Director of the Bud Light Back Mountain Biathlon Relay.

This family-oriented event will be held on Saturday, July 13, at 8:30 a.m. This race is being sponsored by Bud Light, The Times Leader and Falcone Beverage Company. The Biathlon Relay is a two-member team event. Single athletes are welcomed to participate.

The race consists of two legs. The first leg is a 9.95 mile bicycle course while the second leg is a 4.30 mile run. The course was wheel-measured for accuracy.

Awards will be presented for first, second, third and fourth overall winners. Category awards will be given for husband-wife, parent-child, male-female, all-male, all-female, corporates (business), under 12 teams, and individual categories. Plaques will be awarded for first and second place in each category.

This event will be hosted by the Back Mountain Memorial Library and all proceeds will benefit the Back Mountain Memorial Library.



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