

This year's auction chairman adds 'newness' to event

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

JOHN SHASKAS, DVM

John Shaskas, DVM, of Dallas, is general chairman of the 1986 Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, assisted by Debbie Dinger, as co-chairman.

Shaskas was named chairman after working only one year with the auction, serving as new goods chairman in 1985. He helped as an auctioneer last year and enjoyed it so much, he is looking forward to serving as an auctioneer again this July.

One of the first things he did after he was appointed chairman, was arrange to have Gary Foltz build a barn and an auction block. Shaskas believed a new auction block would make the auction more interesting.

There have been many new innovations by Shaskas since he became chairman. He recruited a lot of new volunteers, volunteers of all ages, which he believed would help arouse new interest and increase the auction receipts.

He did away with the traditional kick-off dinner and instead had a Christmas Dinner at the Woodlands with an attendance of 40 people. He ran a Christmas Auction which netted about \$1,000.

New to the auction this year is the lemonade and pizza stand, fruit salad booth, pony rides, and children's games. The Biathlon is being held for the second consecutive year and chicken nuggets have been added to the general refreshment stand.

There are a number of different types of donations made this year — many as dinner gift certificates, dinner theatre



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certificates to a theatre in the Poconos, a plant of the month from Hill the Florist, Dinner for four including parking, cocktails and the track management matching the person's betting, dollar for dollar. There also is a bicycle donated by Commonwealth Telephone Company.

"We have a lot of new gifts of better quality this year," said Shaskas.

A native of Wilkes-Barre and a graduate of what was formerly West Side Central Catholic, Shaskas had once heard of the auction, but was never very interested. He attended Wilkes College where he received a B.S. in biology, then went to Purdue where he received a Masters Degree in Veterinary Physiology. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Purdue University in 1978.

He worked with two different practices in Hazleton for a year, then came to Dallas in 1979, where at first he treated only horses. A demand for the treatment of small animals increased the volume of his business so he opened a small animal clinic in 1980.

He now has an assistant, Dr. Horn, and four animal technicians.

Shaskas is a member of the American Veterinarian Association, the Pennsylvania Veterinarian Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, and is also a full-time practitioner at Pocono Downs. He also is involved with Ducks Unlimited, working with Rusty Fluck in the selection of art works for the Ducks Unlimited banquet and the auction.

The goal for this year's library auction

is \$75,000. Last year the auction raised \$50,000 for the support of the library.

This year's auction which opens this evening will give the volunteers an extra day. Shaskas hopes for five days of nice weather but if the auction is rained out, it will be held the following weekend.

The chairman also hopes the many new ideas added this year will renew increased interest in the event which is held to help defray expenses of the Back Mountain Memorial Library in its new location on Huntsville Road, Dallas.

Something for everyone

You're tired of the auction? Oh, but wait — you haven't seen anything yet! This year's auction will be different than ever before.

There will be new faces, new ideas and new activities. No longer do you have to sit and wait for something to purchase over the block, although you should.

There are many new activities, new stands this year.

How about a glass of freshly squeezed lemonade (perhaps while you wait) and a piping hot piece of pizza, or, if you prefer, a chilled dish of fresh fruit salad.

If you have a sweet tooth or if you like homemade bread, stop by the baked goods stand, staffed by Dallas School District teachers and chaired by Larry Schuler.

You have no babysitter — no need to fret, take them along. Adolph and Phyllis Sappe have planned a wide variety of games for the young ones and for the older ones, too. Not too expensive, either, just three for a dime for ages three to eight or 25 cents for older youth.

Take money with you for a tee shirt, or maybe two or three. Yellow, white trimmed with blue, or a navy sweat shirt, crew neck or hooded, all bearing the library emblem.

For lunch or dinner, stop at the refreshment stand for a hot dog, hamburger, swissburg or auctionburger or try some chicken nuggets. If you want more than a sandwich, enjoy one of the platters complete with one of the aforementioned and some fresh cole slaw, baked beans or potato salad.

There are even pony rides for the little ones — something for everyone at this year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Best of all, you'll stand a very good chance of meeting friends there you haven't seen in a long, long time.

Come out and have a good time while you support your (yes, your) library! Be a sport.

P.S. Buy a chance — you may win a Blazer. It couldn't happen to anyone nicer!

— CHARLOT M. DENMON

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