

Auction grounds have different look today

BY JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will be sporting a new look when it kicks off its 40th annual affair beginning tonight.

The auction, which will run from July 9-13, will again be held at the new library grounds located on Huntsville Road, but a number of structural changes will make this year's event even more attractive.

In addition to the auction block, which was constructed last year, an antiques and new goods room have been attached on either side of the block, making easier access for items to be moved and put on display.

"This year's setup is bigger and better than the one we had on the old library grounds," said Kerry Freeman, co-chairman of the auctioneers along with Dr. Craig Aicher. "There is a lot more storage space and there will be more room for the people, too. The area in front of the auction block is about 90 per cent paved, as compared to the old side which was only done partially, so it should be more comfortable for them also. And the new rooms will offer better protection for the merchandise from the elements."

Because of a time factor, those additions were not able to be constructed last

year and everything had to be kept under tents.

"We still have about eight tents this year, too," Nancy Kozemchak, publicity chairman said. "But they will be for odds and ends, things like T-shirts, books, pizza, and we will have a Hillside Ice Cream truck there, too."

Work on the new additions, which was completed over the weekend, actually began last November. Nothing was done during the cold weather months, but building again resumed in April.

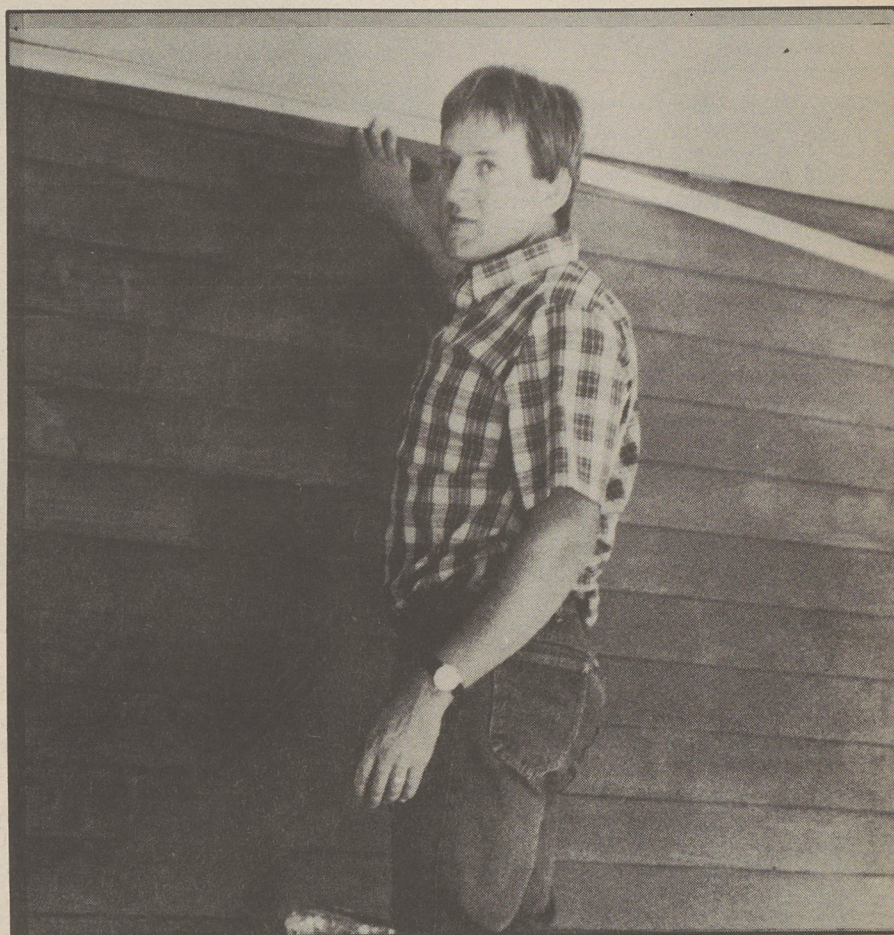
"We still have a few finishing touches to make, but everything will be completed by the time the auction begins," Gary Foltz, who spearheaded the effort said. Along with Foltz, Brian Andes and Mike Mayerski, helped with the project in addition to several volunteers from the library.

Officials hope to clear \$55,000 for this year's event after coming off a sub-par \$32,000 figure last year.

"We were washed out on Friday and Sunday last year," Kozemchak said. "Friday is usually our biggest night, but we got completely rained out. That's why we added another extra day this year."

As of last week, 550 antiques had been amassed with more expected.

"Ernest Ashbridge has been in charge of that department and he's been doing an absolutely super job," Kozemchak beamed. "I can't say enough for the work he's done."



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FINISHING TOUCHES — Gary Foltz puts the finishing touches on the barn and block he completed in time for this year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Gary is grounds chairman for the 1986 auction.

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