

Commentary

Editor's notes

THE 40TH ANNUAL BACK MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY AUCTION is history now - and hats off to the dozens and dozens of volunteers who worked so hard and so long to make it the success it was.

I don't know what it is about that event, though. It seems Mother Nature, for one reason or another, simply refuses to cooperate with the auction and always provides at least one day of a torrential downpour.



DOTTY MARTIN

This year, General Chairman Dr. John Shaskas and Company decided to get a jump on the weather and planned the auction for five days instead of the usual four, eliminating the need to extend it to a Monday in the event of inclement weather.

And - you guessed it! Mother Nature still didn't cooperate, dumping buckets and buckets of water on the auction grounds every time you turned around.

When I was there Sunday - which was probably the worst of the five days weatherwise, auctioneer Monty Evans and Dr. Shaskas were encouraging bidders to seek shelter inside so that the bidding could continue. And, from what I heard later, the skies dried up, the auction went on as planned and Sunday proved to be the most successful of the entire five days. I'm afraid, and maybe ashamed, to have to admit that I did not stick around through the heaviest downpour of the weekend, but rather sought shelter in my car right before the rains came.

CHEERS ALSO to all those auction-goers who supported the library auction, not only by braving the weather, but by bidding on items to benefit the library.

From what I've been told, an awful lot of people managed to pick up some pretty good buys during the bidding process of the auction. I think a lot of that success needs to be attributed to the hard work of the auctioneers.

I know even I like to talk a lot, but I certainly don't envy the position of the auctioneers - that sure looks like hard work. I wouldn't want to have to encourage a crowd constantly like they do. But, the auctioneers at the library event do it, year after year, and manage to do a darn good job as thousands and thousands of dollars are always reaped at this affair.

HATS OFF, also to anyone who was involved in the construction of the new auction block at the rear of the library - it is absolutely beautiful.

The colors of it are really eye-catching and the look of the block and the barn and a really attractive sight. It's nice to see the auction has a permanent home once again.

CONGRATULATIONS to Francis McManus of Harveys Lake who is now the proud owner of a brand new 1986 Chevy S-10 Blazer, compliments of a raffle held in conjunction with this year's library auction.

McManus, who claims he was in the market for a new car anyway, is reportedly tickled pink to be the winner of such a nice shiny vehicle. The black Blazer, which was on display throughout the five-day auction, sure is a nice looking piece of machinery.

Best of luck to you with it, Francis.

I REALLY DO ADMIRE all those who braved the weather, not only to support the auction but those volunteers who worked at it - from the parking lot attendants to the auctioneers to those who manned the different booths set up on the grounds.

Although the early days of this year's auction were provided with some tolerable weather, the weekend was nothing to brag about. But, none of these people gave up - they made the best of a bad situation, stuck it out - and came away the biggest winners of all with a bundle of money to benefit the library.

Just a word of advice to Back Mountain residents. When the week of the library auction rolls around, don't plan an outdoor cookout - leave the weather juggling to the people who know how to do it right - the auction volunteers.

SPEAKING OF OUTDOOR COOKOUTS, Paul and Eunice Rauh of Bunker Hill Road held their annual family picnic this past weekend with a full house in attendance.

In between the raindrops, there were games of softball, volleyball,

horseshoes and lots of good, old-fashioned fun - not to mention the tons and tons of great food and drink.

Cheers to Paul and Eunice who sure know how to put on a good party. I told them I'm going to hire them to plan my next party since they always manage to do such a nice job.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Judie Mathers, a former staff writer of The Dallas Post who is currently residing in Littlestown, Pa. That's right - Littlestown, and for those of you who may have never heard of such a place, it is located somewhere near Gettysburg, or so they tell me. Judie, who migrated to the Gettysburg area when her husband, Hap, accepted a job there, wasted no time getting into the newspaper business once she got there. After spending just a few weeks developing and overseeing a weekly section of the Gettysburg Times, Judie has already moved up in the world and is now employed as Lifestyles Editor of the Gettysburg Times, a daily newspaper serving that area.

And, I for one, couldn't be happier. If I can't have Judie Mathers working for me at The Dallas Post, then I certainly want to see her lending her talents to a newspaper somewhere, wherever that may be. Congratulations and the best of luck to you, Judie - nobody deserves such an opportunity more than you do.

Judie has told me, however, that she had to take this position once it was offered to her in order to pay for her phone calls to Dallas. Maybe now that she's such a big shot, we'll hear from her more often.

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER to our family. His name is Rubin, he's orange and white, he's eight weeks old, and he's as cute as a button.

Rubin entered my life, not by choice, but rather by fate. Last Sunday evening, as I was returning from a day of boating and water skiing at my brother's in New Jersey, I met this little feline as he pulled himself across a street near my house, dragging his back end because it was totally out of commission. Rubin had been hit by a car and left to fend for himself. As a pure animal lover, I couldn't pass up the chance to help this poor critter, even though he managed to bite me out of fright and force me to have a tetanus shot later. We were finally able to get this little guy into a box and take him home to our house.

Since it was a Sunday at approximately 10 p.m. and our regular veterinarian was not on duty that particular weekend, I chose to take this critter to the vet who was covering at the time. When I arrived, the verdict was simple, or so I thought - this cat is ruined. He's done. His back legs are both crushed and he'll never walk again. There's nothing you can do for him. He'll have to be put to sleep. That was the advice of the veterinarian.

Being rather unable to accept that diagnosis - or prognosis - if you will, I chose to argue with the man who supposedly knew what he was doing. When he explained to me that I would have to accept reality, I paid his \$30 fee and left his office.

Once out in my car, I really don't know what came over me, but I was hit with the realization that if I left this cat there to be put to sleep, I would never be able to live with myself.

Trudging back into the vet's office, I simply asked if the cat would make it through the night. He told me that was a possibility but that I could take the cat to any vet in the country and would get the same advice. I took him up on his offer and took the cat to the veterinarian I take my dog to all the time.

Dr. William Rubin gave me two choices - force the cat to undergo two separate operations, one on each leg to put pins in them so they would heal - OR - confine him to a box for three or four weeks and his bones would heal themselves so that he could walk again.

Imagine the thrill of victory I felt when I heard those words. Anyway, Rubin (appropriately named after the man who gave him a second chance on life) is now a full-fledged member of our household and even though he walks with a limp, he does walk - and it's only been a week and a half since his unfortunate encounter with that car. He eats like a horse, purrs like he should, romps with the dog and is preparing to lead a very normal life. As Dr. Rubin put it, "Wouldn't you rather grow up with a bum leg than never grow up at all?"

I thought the man had a rather valid point with that statement.

(Dotty Martin is the Executive Editor of Pennaprint Inc., publishers of The Dallas Post. Her column appears weekly.)



REMEMBERING

Dallas Bank

Shown here is the current Dallas Branch of United Penn Bank which was, at the time of this photo, the First National Bank of Dallas.

Only yesterday

Severe heat wave finally leaves Back Mountain

50 YEARS AGO - JULY 17, 1936

The area's most severe heat wave in all recorded history departed bringing light, cool breezes. However, the cooler weather did nothing to relieve the threatened crops suffering from the drought.

Luzerne County's 1936 Presidential campaign opened at Lehman High School with a meeting of the National Republican Builders of Luzerne County.

Vigorous attacks upon the New Deal policies of President Roosevelt were made. Optimistic predictions of victory for Landon and Knox were stated.

Married - Mary E. Keyser and Jack V. Crocker.

Deaths - Luther Roushey, Shavertown. You could get - Wheaties cereal 10c pkg.; coffee 17c lb.; macaroni 2 pkg. 19c; salad dressing 2-25c; ice cream 25c qt.; salt 3 pkg. 10c; condensed milk 20c can; Pillsbury's flour 48 lb. \$2.19; corn 3 cans 29c; apricots lg. can 15c; pears, tall can 10c.

40 YEARS AGO - JULY 19, 1946

William George Hart, Dallas Township High School graduate was selected as one of two Luzerne County winners of a four-year State scholarship to be used at the college of his choice.

Three new teachers were hired by the Dallas Township High School, school board, Helen Guyler, Jane Nagro and Grace Moore joined the staff.

Allen Bisbee, executive of Native Lace Works Inc. made preliminary arrangements for construction of the company's new lace plant which would be known as Natona Mills.

Engaged - Cora Clark to Daniel Joseph Carey; Elinor May Dieruff and Robert Francis Niemeyer.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cairl, Dallas, 55 years.

Deaths - Anna Lozo, Shavertown. You could get - Peaches 3 lb. 29c; onions 4 lb. 19c; cucumbers 2-9c; carrots 2 lg. pkg. 17c; pollock fillets 25c lb.; Spic & Span 20c pkg.; Nabisco Shredded Wheat 2 pkg. 21c; rye crisp 14c pkg.; Koolade 5c pkg.; mason jars, pts. 55c doz.; qts. 65c doz.

30 YEARS AGO - JULY 20, 1956

Back Mountain Memorial Library's Tenth Auction netted a profit of approximately \$11,000. Bad weather cut profits and prevented emptying of the barn. A special auction was scheduled for August 11 to dispose of leftovers.

Pupils in the Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Joint Schools purchased \$9,406.80 worth of stamps and savings bonds during the school year. Trucksville students purchased the most with a total of \$2,718.30.

Engaged - Doris Ruth Bush to Carl G. Henning; Faith Harding and Daniel Koziak; Wilma Ruth Titus and Frederick Mahle.

Married - Nancy D. McGraw and Lawrence Brace.

Deaths - Anna Check, Dallas; Lester Davis, Hunts-

ville; Mabel Knorr, Trucksville; Vera Gale, Huntsville Road; Guy Woolbert, Forty Fort.

You could get - Sirloin steaks 79c lb.; veal roasts 49c lb.; fish sticks 3 8-oz. pkg. \$1; honeydews 49c ea.; blueberries 35c pt.; Eskimo pink salmon 16 oz. can 55c; Philadelphia cream cheese, 8 oz. pkg. 35c; cider vinegar 18c pt.; Minute Maid frozen orange juice 4 cans 85c.

20 YEARS AGO - JULY 21, 1966

During one of the hottest weeks of the summer season forest fires kept Trucksville and Harveys Lake Fire Companies busy with persistent flare ups demanding their almost constant attention. The problem areas were located in Meeker and Carverton.

Snowball, a young sheep belonging to the Roy W. Thomas family, was killed by a bear. The Thomas' lived in Mt. Zion. Black bears had been sighted throughout the Back Mountain area for the past few weeks.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Laskowski, 25 years; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bottoms, 33 years; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Paeglows, 17 years.

Deaths - Alice Kilpatrick, Shavertown; Chester Shields, Exeter Township; Phoebe Henderson, Dallas.

You could get - Semi-boneless hams 69c lb.; chuck roasts 59c lb.; turkey breasts 69c lb.; white seedless grapes 29c lb.; cantaloupes 3-\$1; bananas 2 lb. 25c; lemons 5-29c; mild cheddar cheese 65c lb.; cottage cheese 29c lb.; Campbell's soup 6 cans \$1; Tide detergent 3 lb. pkg. 65c; Ivory soap 4 bars 27c; stuffed olives lb. jar 95c.

10 YEARS AGO - JULY 22, 1976

Lake-Lehman School Directors affirmed their pledge to open the Noxen Elementary School in September. The board applied for an emergency construction permit from the Department of Education to enable necessary repairs to be made.

Area firemen were kept busy attending to fires. Sweet Valley volunteers fought a cottage fire that was suspected arson. Harveys Lake firemen fought a garage fire on the property owned by A.L. Berrettini of Sayre. Kunkle firemen assisted in fighting the fire.

Engaged - Barbara Kwasnik and Michael John Schmidt.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Steven Pavlick, 50 years.

Deaths - Rev. J. Rolland Crompton, Harveys Lake; Catherine Gaynor, Harveys Lake; Sophie Hart, Trucksville; Thomas Yeager, Harveys Lake; George Sponseller, Chase Road.

You could get - Chicken legs 49c lb.; chicken breasts 53c lb.; pickle loaf \$1.29 lb.; Spic 'n Span 16 oz. box 35c; Tide 49 oz. \$1.29; Miracle Whip 99c; cauliflower, Green Giant frozen 10 oz. 59c; plums 49c lb.; cantaloupe 2-99c.

Library news

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

If one day into the 1986 library auction is any indicator, this 40th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction should be the best ever. The tents were so festive looking on the grounds, the new booths added so many extras and the people attending, both sitting and selling, were super.

This year the auction was planned for a five day period, including the first Wednesday ever. The rain stopped in time for things to dry a little, the sun came out, the people arrived and the crowd was just great. Actually, this first Wednesday surpassed most Thursdays and even some of the Fridays in years past.

The cash sales over the block and from the booths were \$2,358.15 and the charge amounts came to \$1,627.00 for a total of \$3,985.15, which is a good amount for the first Wednesday of a five day auction.

Monty Evans appeared as one of the auctioneers wearing his auction tuxedo jacket from last year. It has become a conversation piece because of the axle grease which he acquired while reaching under the flat bed temporary auction block last year to adjust some wiring. Most of us were given the opportunity to autograph the jacket after that and it has now become his 'auction jacket.'

I had seen a special flag at the Meadows Apartments on my visit hanging with their American and Pennsylvania flag and inquired as to where they had acquired it. I was told they had purchased it from Frank's Flags in Nanticoke.

I called there and ordered one for our flag pole and they then donated one to us for the auction. It is a special Statue of Liberty flag with a picture of the statue and the years 1886-1986 - a very special flag. It is now flying on our flag pole on the auction grounds with the American and Pennsylvania flag.

(Nancy Kozemchak is the assistant librarian at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Her column appears weekly.)

State Capitol roundup

By REP. FRANK COSLETT
Special to The Dallas Post

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill last week from: Rep. Frank Coslett, 120th Legislative District.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - When deciding whether to impose the death penalty, juries in Pennsylvania will have two new factors to consider under legislation signed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh this week. Sponsored by Rep. Dennis O'Brien (R-Phila.), the law will expand from 10 to 12 the number of aggravating circumstances to be considered when deciding to send a convicted murderer to the electric chair. The new circumstances would be whether the individual was previously convicted in another case of murder or voluntary manslaughter. O'Brien said the statute would prevent a two-time murderer from escaping the death penalty.

GAME LAWS - With a swipe of the governor's pen, the first major revamping of the state's game laws since 1937 occurred this week. In general, the bill increases penalties for most game law violations and hikes the fees for most special permits. It also creates the violation of hunting under the influence of liquor or drugs and moves the beginning of the licensing year from September to July. "This is overdue legislation. Pennsylvania has changed greatly since 1937 and it's about time we brought the laws governing hunting up to date," said Rep. Bruce Smith (R-York), a member of the House Committee on Game and Fisheries which developed the bill.

TEEN SUICIDE - The House Select Committee to Investigate Teenage Suicide concluded its series of statewide hearings in Harrisburg this week. The panel was eager to receive testimony from Nancy M. Noonan, president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), on the issue. It was the first time the committee heard officially from teachers. Noonan said teachers are willing to help in the battle against teen suicide but need training and resources to be effective. Rep. Roy W. Cornell (R-Montgomery), vice-chairman of the committee, said the educational system must play a significant role in stemming the tide of suicide. "One message we've heard repeated by parents, experts and now the teachers is that schools must be involved with developing and instituting a program in (self-esteem improvement) for children." The committee will now consider its findings and report to the House.

(Rep. Frank Coslett serves the 120th Legislative District which encompasses parts of the Back Mountain area. His column appears weekly.)

Letters

Pioneer Ave. resident invites drivers

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently you printed a story about the new traffic lights at the intersection of Routes 309 and 115, by Franklin's Restaurant in Dallas.

In the story, your writer basically said, "It's about time." I agree, it IS about time, and the saving of it for those who drive.

As a resident of Pioneer Avenue, I would like to inform the motoring public that our street is available for your use to avoid this new light, as well as all the other lights, and has virtually NO police harassment.

You can enter at the light in Dallas and get back on 309 by Duke Isaacs, and vice-versa, without a stop or a worry about a police officer interfering with you. I know, because I checked with the State Police, and they've told me that while Pioneer Avenue is regulated by the state, the local police are supposed to patrol it, and they have NEVER asked the State Police to help them by setting up a radar trap.

This means that you can drive just about as fast as your automobile and your driving skills allow! If you find that there is a driver in front of you who is obeying the

posted 35 Mile-Per-Hour limit, well, just pass him! You can go on your merry way, and perhaps save as much as five minutes of your valuable time going to and from work.

Since it's now summer, and Pioneer Avenue has children walking along it, as well as people on bikes and walking dogs or whatever, your dodge-'em and honk skills could be sharpened, too. If you happen to hit and kill someone, well, that's their hard luck, right? After all, for you to be able to save a few precious minutes is more important than the life of another person or two. Besides, they

shouldn't have been anywhere near the street anyway, even though they live on it.

You can ask the drivers of the school buses, or any of the commercial vehicles that use our street as a shortcut, 60 MPH isn't too fast when your time is at stake. You want to get home to your family, and we can appreciate that; life is too short to waste a second of it sitting at a stop light.

To sum up, then, come on down our residential street. If we don't like the way you drive, we should move.

ANNNOYED RESIDENT

Airport grateful for coverage

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport's Board of Commissioners, we would like to again thank you for the excellent coverage and cooperation you and your staff extended in connection with the ARMED FORCES AIR SHOW & TRANSPORTATION EXPOSITION at this airport.

The airport appreciates your con-

tinuing interest in our events and the coverage which you gave to the show added greatly to its overwhelming success.

We look forward to working with you during next year's show which is scheduled for June 27-28, 1987. Once again, thank you for your cooperation.

ROBERT J. KEMP R.A.
AIRPORT DIRECTOR

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