

911
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tem which alerts dispatchers of emergencies by telephone. He stated that the enhanced system is better since there needs to be no conversation between the caller and receiver. The name, address and other information comes up on a computer screen when the call is placed. Santayana said that the company would not reject by municipalities attempting to install 911 on their own, but that the countywide installation was the best way to go.

Macekura said that currently the county is seeking the 911 system and if a bill now in the Legislature is passed, there would be a referendum on the ballot in May.

State Sen. Charles Lemmond said that a senate bill passed by the Senate would give grants to counties for the 911 system, but the House version contained low interest loans.

The bill will now go to a

conference committee, which will work out the differences and then send it back for voting. Lemmond said he felt the bill would be approved by January, in time for the public question to be on the ballot in May.

A minimal charge for the continuing cost of the system would be added to residents telephone bills monthly for a period of four years. This cost would be minimal ranging from 26¢ to 74¢ depending on the type of system.

The installation cost for the basic emergency system is approximately \$33,000 with the monthly cost approximately \$6,500. The enhanced system, Type 4, would have an initial cost of approximately \$330,000 and a monthly cost for four years of approximately \$30,000.

Lemmond told members of the audience to call their county commissioners urging them to cooper-

ate in obtaining the 911 system.

Chief Sabol said that the amount of calls to the Back Mountain CommCenter merits the 911 system. Chief dispatcher Bernie Pechukonis reported that the Back Mountain CommCenter averages more than 200 ambulance calls per month not counting requests for the paramedic units. He did not have the figures on the police and fire calls available at the meeting.

"Is a life worth as much as 76¢ a month," asked one of the panel members of the audience.

Lake Township supervisor Charles Balavage said that 76¢ per month was less than one pack of cigarettes or two packages of gum.

"Whether through the county or alone, the Back Mountain municipalities will have the Type 4 911 emergency system," repeated Kingston Township Police Chief Sabol

Communication Center now 'off limits'

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Back Mountain residents should be aware that the Back Mountain Communications Center is off limits to the public according to Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol. That means the center itself is not to be occupied by any persons but the dispatcher or the chief dispatcher.

Sabol, who serves as chairman of the Back Mountain Communications Center Association explained that since the federal scope has been installed in the CommCenter, the association is bound by the Privacy of Informa-

tion Act to keep it off limits to all persons with the exception of authorized police officials or association representatives.

In addition to chairman Sabol, Dallas Township supervisor Phil Walters is vice chairman, and John Fowler, Dallas Borough Police Chief is secretary. The association is comprised of two representatives from each of the municipalities belonging to the center.

These representatives include Sabol and supervisor William Tippet, Kingston Township; Walters and Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers; Harveys Lake Borough Police Chief Lionel Bulford and

Mayor Joseph Boyle; Jack Dodson liaison between the ambulances and the CommCenter and Joseph Bren, technical advisor.

Sabol explained that the CommCenter is a dispatch service and all police information should be released to the public by the police.

"In the future, it is hoped that the Center will be situated in such a way that there will be no need for persons to enter the center headquarters. There will be a window with a speaker to hold any necessary conversation between a person from the area and the dispatcher," Sabol explained.

Arson trial of John Tibus still on hold

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

The long-awaited trial of accused Back Mountain arsonist James John Tibus will not begin this month, and is not expected in the near future.

A spokeswoman for the Luzerne County District Attorney's office told The Post Monday that Tibus' name does not appear on the docket

list for December, which means his trial cannot begin until at least January.

Tibus' trial could be placed on January's docket list; but the list has not yet been released, according to the spokeswoman identifying herself only as Sharon. She told The Post, "You will have to just keep calling back monthly, I guess."

Tibus, 30, is facing two arson

charges and is suspected of setting several other blazes in the Back Mountain and surrounding communities.

The District Attorney's office had a November 19 deadline to bring Tibus to trial, but Tibus agreed to sign his third continuance.

Tibus was arrested August 22, 1988 for allegedly setting a blaze that destroyed Stiner's Barn in the Back Mountain

Dispatcher supports '911' system

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Evening was just setting in when the phone rang at the Back Mountain Communication Center. An infant had stopped breathing and the parents did not know what to do.

But dispatcher Marc Bregman did. Grabbing the phone from the other dispatcher on duty, who took the address and was about to hang up the phone, Bregman calmly explained to the infant's father how to do Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Bregman kept talking to the father as he performed CPR until emergency crews arrived on the scene. The child survived.

That is only one of many situations that Bregman has faced as a dispatcher for local fire, am-

bulance, and police. The above incident shows that a dispatcher is a vital link between the emergency site and emergency crews and not just a messenger.

And when it comes to discussing the proposal of installing the 911 emergency number in this area, Bregman supports it entirely.

"Definitely 911 should be brought in," Bregman said Friday. He explained that the 911 system would save valuable time and provide vital information for a dispatcher.

Bregman is careful to point out that he would only agree with the implementation of the enhanced 911 System, and not the regular 911 system. "If we go to the original 911 system, we would be going back in time," he said.

"The enhanced system would show us the number of people in a home, any medical problems at the residence, medications (of residents), along with the address of the call," Bregman explained. This information is supplied by computer when a distress call is received. With the original 911 system, the only benefit is a short telephone number.

As for the thousands of dollars in installation and maintenance costs, Bregman said he feels the price tag will be worth the move. He said one way to pay the price tag could be through the phone company. "50 to 75 cents may be added to each subscriber's phone bill each month for the service," Bregman estimated adding, "What is 75 cents to save a life?"

Library news

Holiday items from Bay Window on display

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is showing some unique and unusual items loaned to the library from The Bay Window Shops of Shavertown. Michael Morag was kind enough to bring the items to the library and set them up in the display where they look simply elegant. The Bay Window is a group shop featuring many diversified items for sale.

We have in the display from Courtney's Corner mint bags, a sweet mint blend for peas and potatoes; ginger preserve; raspberry jam; orange blossom honey; all butter golden shortbread fingers.

Nothing Fancy is showing wooden items, wreaths, hand painted ornaments and old fashioned hand paintings. Fabric Creations has a rabbit, made from an old quilt and soft fabric items, such as an old fashioned Humpty Dumpty. The Doll Cottage has displayed bears and dolls, a German grisly bear, French doll and a doll from England and Russia.

The Niche is featuring potpourri and wreaths and pine cones. Whimsy has a Santa of wood and wreaths, a special antique box of cards and an angel ornament.

Turtle Hollow Antiques show a bowl with tea cup and a special plate. Lekstrom Antiques has displayed a Japanese dish, antique jewelry, antique pins, silver napkin rings, and linens. Painted

Threads features handpainted clothing. There is also in the display a theorem painted santa.

Also featured at the shops is a quality second hand clothing shop, quilting, pottery, wallpaper, and specialty foods. The Bay Window Shops has been referred to as 'The most elegant country store in Pennsylvania.' The display will be at the library until December 27.

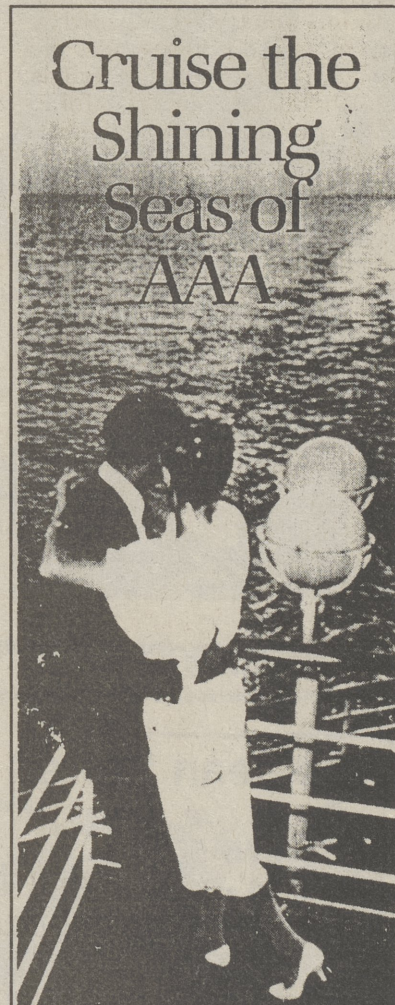
The Book Club of the library is planning a Christmas tea and program on Monday, December 18 at 1:30 in the reference room at the library. Along with Christmas readings, a special program will be presented by Inga Goldsmith titled, "Christmas in Denmark".

The Book Club members have invited the Friends of the Library members and the library volunteers to attend this special Christmas celebration and invites interested members of the community to join in the festivities. Refreshments will be served including special Christmas delicacies.

New Book Club books: "Buffalo Nickel" by C.W. Smith is a sprawling saga of love and money in the American West—the story of 'the world's richest Indian'. In 1917, oil was discovered on David Copperfield's land in Oklahoma—and overnight the Kiowa ferryman, a.k.a., Went on a Journey, became a millionaire. Unfulfilled yearnings causes an explosive climax.

"U.S.S.A." by David Madsen is an ironic mystery novel set in Russia after the United States has

won World War III. It is a story of ex-intelligence agents and corporate espionage jobs. This story shows us a glimpse of a fearful vision that could easily come to pass.



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