Back Mountain is home to big events

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

On the face of it, the Back Mountain is made up of bucolic bedroom communities, rolling hills, farms and a few industries.

But each year the area hosts events which draw thousands from across the region and sometimes around the world.

One aspect that helps these events become so successful, and sets them apart from similar events in other communities, are the efforts of the volunteers who make them happen.

Library Auction

As spring rolls into summer at the beginning of July, the Back Mountain Memorial Library holds its annual auction. The library depends on the auction for 25% of its budget.

Featured in a New York Times article some time ago, the auction is in its 46th year in 1992. This year's auction is planned for July 9 to 12, on the library grounds off Huntsville Road in Dallas Borough.

Scouts, and many community groups man booths selling various household items, used books and food. In the months preceding the auction, volunteers and library board members scour antique dealers throughout the region for pieces to be put on the auction block while others solicit new items from

local businesses.

Even the auctioneers are volunteers, many with years of experience at this "social event of the year."

Thousands of people attend the annual event, some in search of a good buy, others looking simply for a good time. Former residents often schedule vacations around the auction.

Greater Wilkes-Barre Area Triathlon

For years, Olympic-caliber athletes from all er the world have converged on the Back Mountain in August for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon.

Now in its 11th year, the 1992 Wilkes-Barre Triathlon also will be the 1992 United States Professional Championship. And it's certainly an honor that the triathlon deserves. Athletes have called it one of the most grueling courses around. Triathlon Magazine has named it to its 10-best list. The race draws athletes from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and across the United States.

On triathlon day, which this year will be August 16, the athletes start off with swimming ninth-tenths of a mile in the cold spring-fed water of Harveys Lake, the state's largest natural lake.

After swimming, the athletes climb on their bicreles to ride over 40 kilometers, or 25 miles of hilly is ads.

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