

CHAIRING THE AUCTION - Auction co-chairman Bill Jones, left, chairperson Connie Scott and finance committee chairman Patrick Bellardi, right, finalize plans for this year's auction. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Connie Scott chairs auction second time

Connie Scott's goal as auction chairperson is to organize a successful event that will raise as much money as possible for the library and still be enjoyable for the entire family.

"The auction should be for families as much as the library is," she said. "We want to maintain many of the good old traditions which people enjoy every year, while adding new items to appeal to more youthful interests.

Some new additions include live entertainment, a country crafts booth, a balloon vendor, kids' face painting, a baseball card stand

and a display and sale of old-time photos of Wyoming Valley.

Two oldies but goodies, the Back Mountain Women's Service Club's famous fudge and Welsh cookies made fresh at home by the Women of the Rotary also will return after a long absence.

Having served as auction chairperson in 1990, Connie has found that her job is a bit easier this year in many ways, but the slow economy has made some things more difficult. Working with many people who have served at previous auctions is certainly an asset. But the auction still requires the same amount of hard work and the same deadlines for all involved.

"The state of the economy and recent cuts in state funding for local libraries make community support of this valuable community resource especially important," Connie said.

"There is no way that the Back Mountain Memorial Library could survive without its volunteers and the support of the community. It's a two-way street: we hope that people can in some way give back as much to the library as they receive from it."

Success to the Auction

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Book booth offers buys for readers

Priscilla Liput and "Benny" Matchett have sorted and priced nearly a tractor-trailer load of books to sell at the books booth.

"This is better than a bookstore," Mrs. Liput said. "You'll find something to suit just about any reading level or interest. We have one of just about everything imaginable."

Used books have been coming in since last summer: kids' stories, romance novels, crafts, cookbooks, current paperbacks and history. Many "collectible" books, such as old magazines, yearbooks and antique books also will be available.

A new category this year is the "Coffee Table Books" section, featuring reasonably priced specialty books in mint condition.

The book booth has become a family affair, with Benny Matchett's husband, Ken, and Priscilla Liput's sons Colin and Justin pitching in.

Rotary will prepare eats

When the bidding gets fast and furious at this year's library auction, you won't have to retreat home to find some food to satisfy a growling stomach.

The Dallas Rotary Club will be manning the food booth, ready as they have been for the past five years to supply the provisions.

This year, besides the traditional hamburgers, hot dogs and french fries, the club will feature the Dallas Rotary Ham and Cheese Sandwich.

"It's a very good portion of ham and Swiss cheese on rye bread," says Jim Coccolin, chairman of the food booth.

The booth also will sell potato salad, cole slaw, soft drinks and pizza.

For the last two years, Pizza Hut has come and set up," said Coccolin, with a good portion of the proceeds helping the library.

The booth will open at 5 p.m. each day, and close at 10 p.m. Thursday and Sunday, and midnight Friday and Saturday.

"If it's a good night, sometimes they'll run a little late," said Coccolin.

Grilling up a 1,000 hamburgers and close to a 1,000 hotdogs over the course of the auction isn't a problem for the club. At least ten people show up for each of two shifts each night, says Coccolin.

Members of the Rotary Club and Rotary Annis are joined at the booth by people from the local Century 21 and Coldwell Banker offices.

"We get a lot of extra people who show up," said Coccolin. "A lot of the older kids come so we never have a shortage of help."



BOOK BOOTH - Setting up the book booth has become a family affair, as "Benny" Matchett, left, and Priscilla Liput are joined by Priscilla's sons, Colin, left, and Justin. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

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100's of new goods on sale

An army of 43 volunteers have solicited area businesses for an anticipated several hundred new items to be sold across the block at the auction, according to new goods committee chairman Charles Wasseroff IV.

A Sharp laptop computer donated by Campbell Business Machines, a lift seat chair from Patient Care, a beautiful figurine from Ye Olde Clock Shoppe, fire extinguishers from Danchuck Fire Equipment and gift certificates are some of the many items contributed by businesses in the Back

Mountain and Wyoming Valley. "We have had a great response from area merchants," Wasseroff said. "I am impressed with everyone's generosity, especially in these tough economic times."

Wasseroff credited his co-chairpersons, Lois Townsend, Peg Harvey and Paula Scott for their assistance.

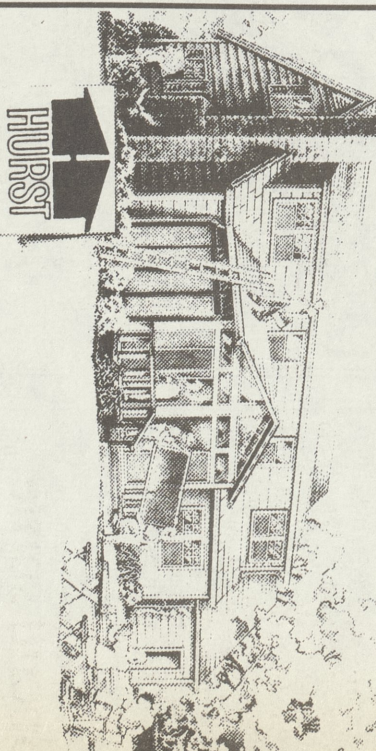
"This is my first year heading this committee," he said. "Their experience and the dedication of our committee members have made some of the many items contributed by businesses in the Back

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