

Youngsters can get into the act with Children's Auction

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Aicher, Freeman round up auctioneers

For 20 years, Dr. Craig Aicher and Kelly Freeman have co-chaired the auctioneers committee, consisting of 13 auctioneers and 10 people working behind the block.

Each auctioneer has developed his own personal style to keep the bidding interesting and make sure that it moves smoothly. Working half-hour shifts, they also help to display items for sale and spot bidders when they're not at the microphone.

Workers behind the block sort items, paying attention to what is moving and what people are looking for. During prime bidding hours, competitive bidding on popular items keeps them busy.

Many antiques committee members and former auction chairmen help out both behind the scenes and at the microphone, Aicher said.

"In the past, we have had several good female auctioneers," Dr. Aicher said. "Although all our auctioneers are men this year, we certainly welcome help from the ladies. A good auctioneer is outgoing and develops a good rapport with the audience. It also helps to be a bit aggressive, to keep the bidding moving."

The auctioneers committee always welcomes new members, Aicher said. On-the-job training, starting out working behind the block and gradually working up to short turns behind the microphone, is provided.

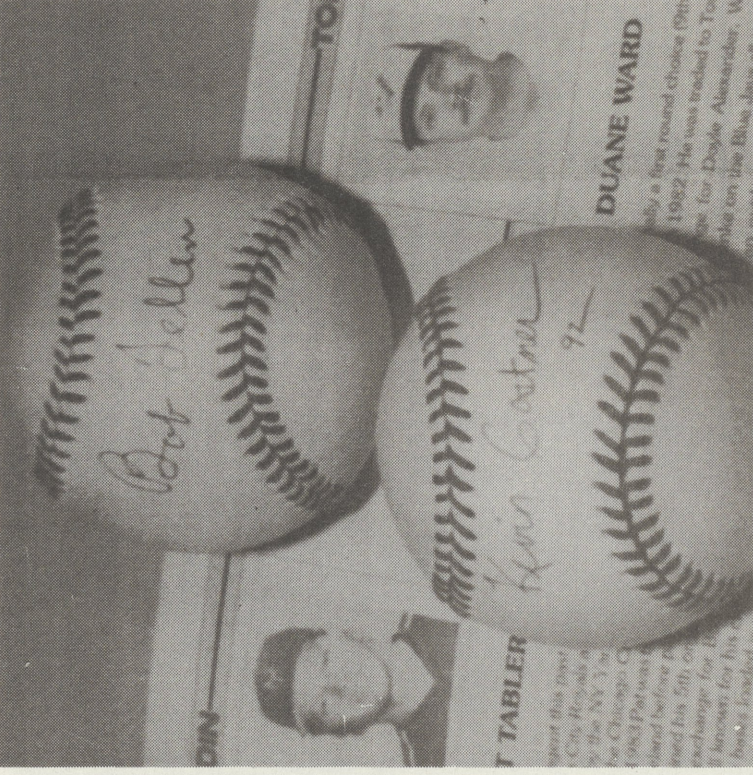
"The community has been very supportive of the library auction," Dr. Aicher said. "People who have moved out of the area often schedule visits to the Back Mountain to coincide with the auction. It's a great social event, as well as being a good fund-raiser."

Outdoor plants, shrubbery and various seasonal plants will be featured at a special Plants Booth, a change from last year, when they were sold as part of the auction.

Headed by Loretta Jones and Sally Dantonio, the booth also will offer hand-made bird feeders, bird seed, cactus and a special treat for the kids, firefly cages designed by Kim Stager of Jackson Twp.

Shrubbery donated by Rave's Nursery and used to decorate the jumps and ring at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Horse Show also will be sold.

Spend some green on plants



SPECIAL AUTOGRAPHS - These baseballs, autographed by Hall of Fame star Bob Feller and actor Kevin Costner, are two of the many celebrity items to be featured at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

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Signature items from celebrities will be auction highlight this year

This year the auction will offer a special treat, items autographed by sports and movie personalities.

Friday evening, June 10, will feature baseballs autographed by Tom Selleck and Kevin Costner, who played in a celebrity game in Tampa, Florida at the beginning of spring training season.

Baseballs and programs signed by Hall of Famer Bob Feller, members of our local Red Barons baseball team, Willie Randolph, Ramone Martinez and other players also will be autographed copies of it. For those who missed it at bookstores, copies of Ms. Stallone's book will be sold at the auction.

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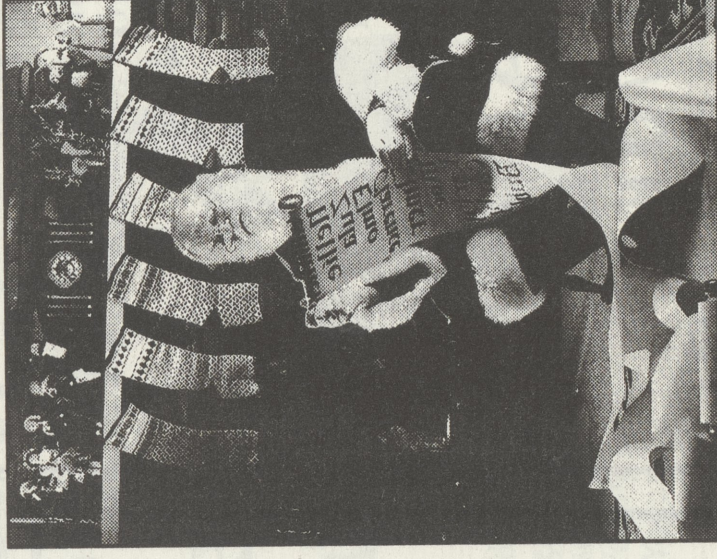
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