



## The Economic Viewpoint

### Back Mountain needs a broader tax base

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

21st Century Life in the Back Mountain will not be complete without attention today being given to planned economic growth. Basically a bedroom community, the Back Mountain has not paid significant attention to ways to stimulate economic growth, thus improving the tax base of the area and encouraging an economy which can meet the needs of the fastest growing part of Luzerne County.

Broadening the tax base is not an easy function. It requires long range planning which can identify land most suitable for economic development of the type desired by the municipality and its citizenry. The completion of the Cross Valley Expressway has made it even more apparent that the Back Mountain may well be a suitable location for new economic development which can help provide employment within the area in addition to alleviating fiscal and tax burdens of the community.

Local governmental officials as well as school board members in Lake-Lehman and Dallas should join together to form an economic development task force and work closely with the Back Mountain Citizens Council with respect to this issue. While economic development continues to occur along Route 309, it is almost an accident that such development happens

and it may not necessarily be in the best interest of the area.

Strip commercial development can have a negative impact which can generate traffic and cause other types of access and egress problems and other problems of difficulty to the area. Planned economic development, on the other hand, can be a major positive addition to the Back Mountain landscape, affording positive opportunities to blend these uses of land for the betterment of those living in the Back Mountain today and those who are the future generations of Back Mountain citizens.

A task force specifically charged with examining new economic development potential could work toward this goal by developing a marketing strategy designed to specifically attract a type of economic growth desired. It could develop an assets and liabilities analysis which could go a long way toward making the task easier to achieve. It could help designate likely areas for economic growth and encourage appropriate development techniques which could be helpful in implementing economic objectives.

By working closely together, officials from those school district areas could reinforce one another and strengthen the likelihood that planned economic growth could occur which would benefit both district areas.

Existing technical support is available from organizations in the region to assist in this type of activity. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership and its constituent organizations such as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and the Committee for Economic Growth can be helpful partners in this regard. The Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP) can be a source of information and support. The Office of Community Development of Luzerne County and other organizations can be called upon to provide assistance with respect to this approach.

As the new century quickly appears, the time is immediate for establishing a Back Mountain Economic Development Task Force, one which will have a sense of urgency as well as a long range perspective, designed to focus attention on a critical issue for the betterment of the area's future. Appropriate economic development is as important a consideration as water resources, waste management and recycling, public sewers, and a host of other vital community needs which have been identified by many groups as important to the Back Mountain.

Special attention to economic growth and the implications for the Back Mountain's continued prosperity is a task whose time has come.



### Dallas Rotary hosts Rotarians from India

The Dallas Rotary hosted a Rotary group study exchange team from India at a recent zone meeting held at Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake. Eleven area Rotary Clubs were at the zone meeting. Shown from left are, front row: Sonalini Mirchandani, Ameer Parikh, Dr. Chand Nair, Shirish Sawale. Back row: Ashish Bhasin, Pritan Lalwani, exchange group leader; Howard Stom, incoming president of the Dallas Rotary. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

## Library news

### Books are still for sale in library basement

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction had a successful year once again with the Book Booth in particular netting a larger profit than last year. There were many good books donated for the auction this year and we have replenished our downstairs book sale rooms.

The Special Book Sale Room features, 'Buy a bag of books for \$1.00 and receive the second bag free'. This will continue for the present time. A new addition, the second book store room will have a selection of fairly new, clean fiction and non-fiction for sale at \$1.00 a book. These were donations that arrived too late for the auction and we are offering them for sale at this special price now.

Both of the book store rooms will be open for browsing and buying on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 to 5. In addition to these sale rooms in the basement:

there is a special shelf of hard covers and one of paperbacks, practically new, for sale in the office area of the library. The hardcovers range in price from \$2 to \$5 and the paperbacks are 50¢ each.

New books at the library: "Lincoln at Gettysburg: The words that remade America" by Garry Wills is a story that explains how Lincoln wove a spell that has not, yet, been broken. The Civil War is, to most Americans, what Lincoln wanted it to mean.

Wills shows how Lincoln came to change the world, to effect an intellectual revolution, how his words had to and did complete the work of the guns. The power of words has rarely been given a more compelling demonstration than in the Gettysburg Address.

Lincoln was asked to memorialize the gruesome battle. Instead he gave the whole nation "a new birth of freedom" by tracing its first birth to the Declaration of Independ-

ence (which called all men equal) rather than to the Constitution (which tolerated slavery). A history masterpiece.

"Rum Punch" by Elmore Leonard is a Book Club purchase written by the greatest living writer of crime fiction. It is the story of Jackie Burke when her future looks grim. She has been a flight attendant for 20 years and she is down to working for an island-hopping airline the day she lands at Palm Beach International with 50 grand and is taken into custody. The Feds know she works for a man who sells machine guns to bad guys but they don't know his name.

Jackie looks at her options; she can tell what she knows about the gun dealer and get off—or if he suspects you are talking about him, you're dead. She can keep her mouth shut and do five years. Then she meets Max Cherry—late fifties, recently separated and a bail bondsman—and sees she has more options than she thought.



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