

HUNTING SEASONS GREETINGS



Library news

Give a gift to the Back Mountain library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has a special memorial and commemorative gift program. There is no better way to honor a cherished memory or celebrate a special event in someone's life than to give a gift in their name to the library.

A gift to the library keeps on giving and brings enjoyment and the benefits of your thoughtfulness to the people of the community for years to come. A very special Christmas book titled, "Country Christmas" from the Ideals Publishing Company in Nashville, Tennessee has been purchased to commemorate the marriage of Glen and Maureen Kozemchak which took place on July 20, 1991. This book was donated to the library in their name by Nancy S. Kozemchak.

The book is beautifully illustrated and covers chapters depicting "The Countryside at Christmas"; "Nature Shares the Season";

"A Hushed Silence Covers the Land"; "Back Home to the Country Hearth"; and "It Began in a Manger". It features poems and stories pertaining to everything that is Christmas.

Mrs. Florence Crump, our faithful Library Lady, will celebrate her 98th birthday on Wednesday, Dec. 2. This lady has been a part of my life for the 25 years I have been associated with the library and the library has always been very important to her. Mrs. Crump is presently residing at the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas in Room 204 and the last time I visited her there, she seemed to be in good spirits. She would welcome cards and visits from friends. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Crump!

As the Christmas season approaches, we invite community members to attend the Book Club Christmas Party on Monday, Dec. 21 at 1:30. The party will be held in the reading room of the library and will feature a musical portion presented by Ernie Wolfe, played with spoons and group carol singing. The tea table will include coffee, tea, punch, cookies, candy and other goodies. Come enjoy some Christmas festivities at your library!

The library will also have its annual Christmas Open House on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 22 and 23 from 2 to 4 in the afternoon in the reading room. Christmas refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to join in the celebration of the Christmas holidays. This is one way to say Merry Christmas to our patrons and friends.

A new book at the library is "I Can't Believe I Said That!" an autobiography by Kathie Lee Gifford. She is an unabashed optimist—and a woman whose American dream has come true. In the book, she shares the entertaining and revealing story of how it all happened for her, and tells of a family trauma that had a powerful effect on her life.

J.W.J.

Really, the earth is flat...or is it square?

By J.W. JOHNSON

Even a casual look or listen to the world would suggest a significant lack of humanly motivated life. As such, we reduce the mysteries to technological gridlock, prepared in a variety of political kitchens, while offering our children the prospect of dessert filled with more of the same.

We seem to have, especially in those cultures claiming a Judeo-Christian heritage, reached the self-righteous rut of too much time and too much money giving us too little hope and too little solace.

We will, however, perhaps be literally jolted out of this rut some 134 years from now when a comet is predicted to strike the earth.

Still taking yourself as seriously? Then consider this:

Every August the earth passes through the orbital path of the comet Swift-Tuttle. On August 13, 2126, that comet may well collide with the earth...and if it does:

—An enormous crater would be carved

—Tidal waves of 1,000 feet high or higher would be created.

—And a worldwide cloud of dust would rise into the air that could block sunlight for months.

This would then kill most plant life, and ultimately kill those in the plant life food chain...why, that's us, folks.

Granted, the odds are small; about 10,000 to 1. And all of this is pointed out to put things into perspective subsequent to the presidential election.

And if I wish to do this in other way, I remember another event...about 20 years ago when I came across a group claiming that the earth was flat:

I discovered this group when living on the Canadian border, and I was more than a little puzzled back then by a voice from the television. It said:

"We of the Flat Earth Society have elected to dispute the one thing our culture regards as indisputable. We openly proclaim that the earth not only is flat but may well be square."

I then and there decided that the only way to comprehend this announcement of global heresy was to get the facts—straight from the horse's mouth. To do this I set out to meet this Flat Earth Society man.

Dr. Leo C. Ferrari, Australian born world traveler and one-time chemist, was a professor of philosophy at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The university was headquarters for Canada's Flat Earth Society members.

"I'm quite serious about the earth being flat," Ferrari said when I first talked to him. "We are so brainwashed, and I rebel."

I asked him to put this in context, and he directed me to the society's official organ, called "The Official Organ". There I came across a section entitled "Official Aims." It proposed:

—"To restore man's confidence in the validity of his own perceptions. For more than 1,500 years man has been blinded by metaphysics and coerced into denying the evidence of his senses. The Flat Earth Society stands for a renewed faith in the veracity of sense experience.

—"To combat the fallacious (that means deceiving to the eye or mind, Tom) deification (and you already know what that means) of the sphere, which ever since the deceptions of Eudoxus has thwarted Western thought.

—"To spearhead man's escape from his metaphysical and geometrical prison by asserting unequivocally that all science, like all philosophy and religion, is essentially sacramental and, therefore,

all reality, as we verbalize it, is ultimately metaphorical..."

It was at that point I looked up to see Dr. Ferrari smiling.

"You think I'm crazy, don't you," he chuckled.

"On the contrary, I said, smiling myself. "From what I've just read, I get the feeling your stand on the shape of the earth is not really what you're trying to say."

"Exactly," he beamed. "We're not really obsessed with the shape of the earth. We say it's flat to dramatize our desire to keep our God-given senses from being numbed by technology. We want to provide some resistance to the forces of conformity. The scientific way of looking at the universe isn't the only way. The myths are dead. Mystery has gone out of life. We have to change our whole way of thinking. Believe what you see...I mean, really look out the window right now."

The request puzzled me, but I complied.

"Now tell me honestly...do you really believe that right now we're spinning around at about 24,000 miles an hour?"

As I watched, the brilliant calm of an early June day made his point quite nicely.

Unable to contain myself further, I spurted, "You expect me to believe the earth is flat, the NASA photos are optical illusions and the earth is not spinning?"

A quite voice of sincere benevolence stopped me on inhaled. "I expect you to be aware and to question. To quote G.K. Chesterton, "A man should always question the strongest beliefs of his age, for those convictions are invariably too strong."

Strangely enough, upon that quiet note, my pencil point shattered.

And aren't you just a little curious about this comet?

Tables for sports card show are available

The Back Mountain Kiwanis Club will present a Sports and Non-Sports Card plus Memorabilia Show on February 20, 1993, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at The "Dallas Junior" High School, on Hildebrandt Road in Dallas.

Persons wishing to partake in this event are asked to respond early as space is limited for the

show.

If you wish to reserve space you may do so by contacting Art Parks, Chairperson for The Sports Show. He can be reached at 675-0755 or by writing to him in care of The Back Mountain Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 2, Dallas, Pa 18612.

Tables are restricted to first come first serve basis. There will also be plenty of free parking for the event

and dealers will have reserved parking.

Anyone seeking further information on The Back Mountain Kiwanis Club is cordially invited to attend their meetings on Saturday mornings starting at 8:15 a.m. with breakfast followed by the meeting at 9 a.m. at Friendly's Restaurant at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas.



Anyone remember this group of "Imperialettes"?

This is one of our photos from the photo file - however, we're not calling it an "old photo"! It's only around 20 years old and you'll identify with a lot of these faces. There are some we know for sure; they are from left, Marie Ritts, the late Charlot Denmon, Sally Riegel, unknown, Nancy Buss, Joan Bolinsky, Rose Radzinski, unknown, unknown, unknown. If we're wrong call and tell us, better yet call and ID them all!

We've decided to run 20 years ago and older photos since a lot more people will find them fun to look at. We're trying to find group photos that will bring back a lot of fond memories and maybe rekindle some old friendships...

Call and tell us a little about the Imperialettes.

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