

As I was saying...

Jack Paar: the maestro of late-night TV

By JACK HILSCHER

I don't watch much late-night TV these days...when I do, Letterman is okay, Leno so-so, Arsenio leaves me cold and Conan is still an unknown. One thing for sure...I would not trade the whole bunch for one Jack Paar. There was an absolute master and they don't make them kind no more.

Jack Gould of the New York Times once said, "Mr. Paar is not the traditional trouper; he is a creation of television. If he began as a light humorist, his true forte on his own show has been his outspokenness..."

True. He also had a very short fuse which caused him to walk off his show over thirty years ago because the NBC censor cut a story out without telling him. This made it seem that Paar had told a "smutty" story on the air, and this made him even madder than the cut.

I wrote a column about Paar for the Times Misleader (as the Citizen's Voice calls it) which caused a lot of amused comment at the

time. (This says a lot about the cultural level of my readership, as you will see when you read the story.) Since it is practically public domain by this time, I don't think the Misleader will mind my recycling it here.

From 1960, here is the "offending" story: "An English lady, while visiting Switzerland, was looking for a room, and she asked the schoolmaster if he could recommend anything to her. He took her to see several rooms, and when everything was settled, the lady returned to her home to prepare to move.

When she arrived home, she thought suddenly that she had not seen a "W.C." and immediately wrote to the schoolmaster asking him if there was a "W.C." around. (In those days, a "W.C." in Webster's meant "a toilet flushed by water.")

The schoolmaster, not being much of an English student, asked the parish priest, who came up with the answer that "W.C." meant "Wayside Chapel" and the schoolmaster wrote back as follows:

"Dear Madam: I take pleasure in informing you that the W.C. is situated nine miles from the house you will occupy, in the center of a beautiful grove of pine trees. It is capable of holding 229 people and it is open on Sunday and Thursday only.

"As there are a great number of people expected this summer I would suggest you come early; although there is plenty of standing room as a rule. Some bring their lunch and make a day of it; others arrive just in time. On Thursdays there is a musical accompaniment. I shall be delighted to reserve the best seat for you if you wish where you will be seen by all. I remain, Sincerely, The Schoolmaster"

Poor Paar, and that poor censor. They wouldn't believe the stuff aired today. One viewer wrote Paar that she kept his show on at night but with the sound off. She said it made a good night light.

Paar mused, "It's depressing after more than twenty years in show business, to be used as radar to the water closet!"

Back Mtn. briefs

DAMA will send 1994 trash schedule

DAMA has prepared a 1994 trash and recycling schedule to be distributed to all residents in January. All routes and collection days will remain the same as before. Until residents receive the schedules, please refer to the following guide for Blue Bin (comingle) and newspaper collection weeks.

January 3-7, newspapers
January 10-14, Blue bins
January 17-21, newspapers
January 24-28, Blue bins

Vietnam Vets will meet January 5

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 539, will hold its regular meeting on January 5. The meeting will be held at the Dallas American Legion, Route 415, and will start at 7 p.m. All veterans and interested parties are invited to attend.

Lake Twp. recycling center open Jan. 8

The Lake Township Recycling Center will be open on Saturday, Jan. 8 from 10-12 noon, accepting aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass. Plastic #1 and #2 only can be accepted. No motor oil containers can be accepted.

Tax/rent rebate deadline Dec. 31

The deadline to file 1992 property tax/rent rebate applications is Dec. 31, according to Rep. George C. Hasay.

Eligibility for the program is limited to individuals age 65 or older, widows, and widowers age 50 or older or permanently disabled persons with total household incomes not exceeding \$15,000.

Total income received and property taxes or rent paid in 1992 are used to determine eligibility.

Detailed eligibility information is included in the application booklet available at Hasay's office in Sweet Valley next to the Post Office, telephone 477-3752.

The maximum rebate is \$500. The property tax/rent rebate program is funded by proceeds from the Pennsylvania Lottery.

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Book report

Library's friends enjoy holiday celebration

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library held its Christmas tea on Monday, the 20th in the reading room at the library. A total membership for 1993 of 229 gave the club \$2,087.50 in dues to purchase books for the book club shelf. The program presented by the handbell quartet of Shavertown Methodist Church was well received; and the participation by the entire group in ringing bells for special Christmas songs was enjoyed by all. The 1994 Book Club dues will be \$10 for a single and \$15 for a double membership, payable beginning January 1. The Book Club does not meet in January or February. The next scheduled meeting is set for Monday, March 21.

The Back Mountain Color and Read Book is available at the library for purchase with a donation of \$5.00. Thirty three winners recently named in the con-

test have their illustrations included in the publication. Kristy Rice and Sarah Williams, high school students from Dallas and Lehman, prepared the illustrations for the printer as a community service project for the Pennsylvania Governor School of the Arts.

New books at the library: "Musical Instruments of the World" by the Diagram Group is the most comprehensive illustrated reference to all the musical instruments in the world. The range of instruments included is extraordinary: orchestral, popular, classical, ancient, folk; from the most primitive whistles to the most sophisticated electronic equipment. All the instruments are magnificently drawn, revealing structure, function and decoration in exquisite detail. The encyclopedia is organized according to the classic Hornbostel and Sachs system of classifying instruments by family groups. It is a reference work of the highest

value. The book is presented to the library by Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council in memory of James Campbell.

"Exterior Details" by Jocasta Innes is an inspirational and practical guide to transforming the outside of your home. It is a unique source of inspiration and advice for anyone who wants to make the most of the outside of one's house or apartment. First impressions etch deepest and last longest, and the first point of contact that friends, colleagues, or potential purchasers will have with your home is with the exterior, not with the fitted kitchen, handpainted wallpapers, or soft furnishings inside. In a world overflowing with books on interior design, this is the first to be solely devoted to stylish ideas for that most influential aspect of your home, the exterior. A single volume of creative incentive. The book is presented to the library by Terry Parsons in memory of Alvah Durland.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?
A: Only in The Dallas Post

from This Day forward



A Special Feature in
The Dallas Post and The Abington Journal

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 26
AD DEADLINE: WED., JAN. 19
(One day earlier if proof is needed)

Each January, readers of the Journal and Post look forward to this special feature section filled with advertising, articles and photographs to help them plan the perfect wedding. And each year, advertisers find they reach Northeastern Pennsylvania's most affluent markets at reasonable rates in these community newspapers.

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For more information on From This Day Forward, call

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Closed January 1 and 2, 1994

Specials honored Dec. 28 - Jan. 3 at both locations

