

As I was saying...

Looking for Chez Pres at the neon pork pie

By JACK HILSHER

Sunday nights aren't the same anymore...Dan Evans has left WVIA-FM and his popular "Swing Street Jazz" program is gone.

Swing Street featured recordings from an amazing assortment of 4500 albums, once appraised at \$40,000 and donated to WVIA by Michael Adams of Overland Park, Kansas.

In the hands of Dan Evans, that "Adams Collection" provided many hours of tasteful and inter-

esting jazz programs...one week classic tenor sax stars were featured, another week piano soloists, then big bands of the 30s, the 40s, and so on.

Another favorite Evans feature was his weekly tribute to a popular Wilkes-Barre night spot named the "Chez Pres" after Lester Young, the star tenor jazz artist whose nickname was "Pres" and whose trademark was his ever-present pork pie hat.

A typical Evans pitch: "Folks don't miss tonight's big jam session at the Chez Pres, Wilkes-Barre's one and only jazz hot spot, conveniently located just around the corner from the Kirby in downtown Wilkes-Barre, under the sign of the pork pie hat."

some blues. If you like stale jokes, thick smoke, mellow folks, good jazz and the best bar food in town, come on down to the Chez Pres where the drinks are still at '59 prices. I'll see you there."

Now, after that, wouldn't you want to head over to Public Square? Or did you realize it was all only a creation of Mr. Evans' fertile imagination? Many didn't, and cruised around vainly looking for a neon pork pie. A night clerk at the Best Western Inn nearby said, "If I had a dime for every motorist asking for Chez Pres directions I could retire tomorrow!"

Dan also hosted "For The Folks Down Home" Saturday nights, a program I cannot comment on for I am allergic to country-western. However, that show had its fans too. WVIA's Bill Kelly has said they cannot afford both Evans and the syndicated "Prairie Home Companion." CEO Kelly also stated, in response to questions about Evans' abrupt departure, "It was a management personnel decision." Well, I am sure it was, but it was also a decision to regret.

Dan Evans, you are missed. Good luck wherever you land, on your feet I know. But Sunday nights aren't the same anymore.

Breisetth to speak at VNA meeting

Christopher N. Breisetth, Ph.D., President of Wilkes University, will be the guest speaker at the Visiting Nurse Association's 86th annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Ramada Hotel, Wilkes-Barre.

The public is invited to attend the VNA's annual meeting, but since a luncheon is included at \$8.25 per person, reservations are necessary. Please call the VNA at 283-0681 or 1-800-432-9791.

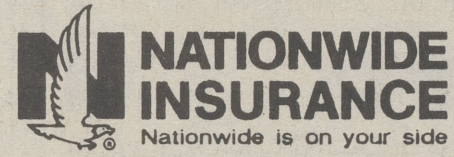
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Library news

Winter story hours are now in full swing

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The story hours at the Back Mountain Memorial Library are underway for the winter-spring season of 1994. There are 65 children attending the four story hours. Toddler hour is held Tuesday morning; three 3-5 year old story hours are held on Wednesdays.

Two Cub Scout dens from Lehman visited the library with their den mothers. They were all dressed in uniforms and came to learn about the library and how it operates and were also given information about the history of Dallas.

Our "Pennies" project is going very well. Children love to drop pennies in the large green bottle in the foyer of the library. A woman came in last week with four rolls of pennies and dropped them in. Another lady came in with a five pound can filled with pennies, which she added to the jar.

The annual meeting of the library board of directors was held on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at the library.

The total book inventory as of Dec. 31 was 60,166; total circulation was 92,261; 52,729 adult titles and 39,532 juvenile titles. Reference questions totaled 4,492 and Interlibrary loan transactions were 634 with 163 of our books loaned to other libraries for a total of 797. Book Club books circulated 2,885; volunteer hours totaled 2,263. There were 1,305 new patrons joining the library in 1993; 674 adult and 631 juvenile; Re-registrations included 1,165 adult and 1,324 juvenile for a total of 2,489. The total estimated active borrowers to date stands at 11,428.

A new memorial book has been given to the library by Elin Northrup in memory of Robert Bachman of Dallas. "Objects of Desire" by Thatcher Freund is a

vivid journey into the world of antiques which follows the fortunes of three 18th-century pieces of American furniture as they pass through the hands of 20th-century pickers, dealers, restorers, and collectors, accruing value while becoming objects of desire. Among the many desirable objects on offer during the 1991 Americana Week in New York—the annual high point of antiques sales—are the three prized pieces. How these three pieces came to me at the apex of the American antiques market is the story of the evolution of the world of antiques: a world of bold enterprise, canny deal making, consuming aesthetic vision, and obsessive pursuit—all fueled by a passionate attraction to objects. The book enlightens, educates, and entertains all at once—no mean feat.

Named to Slippery Rock Dean's List

Dallas resident Kami M. Skanderson, student at Slippery Rock University has earned Dean's List honors for the 1993 fall semester. To qualify for dean's list honors, a student must earn a 3.5 grade point average or higher on a 4-point scale while taking 12 graded hours or more of course credit.

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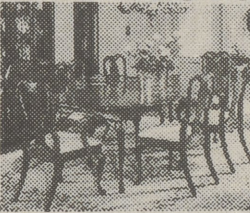
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