

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

A ban on burning the flag would trample other rights

freedoms stem from the right of free expression.

Nixon's point is that the flag should not be the subject of worship as an idol, but rather should be approached as a symbol which represents our heritage. He believes that respect for the flag cannot be legislated, but can only come about by citizens' understanding and appreciating that heritage.

"If the day comes when (citizens) refrain from desecrating it only because of the law or some dimly remembered custom, it will have truly become an empty symbol," Nixon said.

Amen, ex-Mr. President. For me, the choice between the flag and the First Amendment is a clear one. The flag is a symbol of First Amendment principles. It would be a serious mistake to erode one of those principles in order to protect the symbol.

To have a flag burning amendment would be sort of like the tail waving the dog.

Likewise, there has been no great rash of flag burnings, and the issue certainly isn't of the magnitude to warrant throwing the baby out with the bath water.

In any event, our forebears were smart enough to make it difficult for us to mess with our basic charter. Any proposed amendment must first be approved by two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Then it must be ratified by 38 state legislatures.

More to the point, each time such an amendment is proposed it is defeated...but by only seven votes the last time it was voted upon.

However, it's not likely that, even if such an amendment were to pass the House and Senate, it would then pass citizen muster, particularly when citizens would come to realize that it would open the door to a further erosion of the individual liberties found in the Bill of Rights.

In short: leave the Bill of Rights alone. Thankfully the House has consistently agreed.

At the same time, what about this symbol, this flag of ours? There is cause to be concerned about - not only its worship as an

idol, but also about its idle worship, particularly in the hands and minds of those who have no idea why its being waved?

It was Abraham Lincoln who said: "This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

And, of course, the symbols waving during this most perilous time for us as a nation were the American and Confederate flags.

Uttered in 1863 by Lincoln in his now famous Gettysburg speech, we would do well to also remember that the freedom Lincoln spoke about and which is symbolized by our flag, is not present in the hot dogs we will soon eat July 4, nor can it be found in our browning in the summer sun, nor in our watching sports on television, nor in our gazing skyward to see man-made glories which go bump in the night.

Freedom is not a commodity for installment plan purchase, nor can it be found at summer auction or yard sales, and it can't even be inherited as a birthright.

Freedom is not present in any manner simply because we wish it to be so.

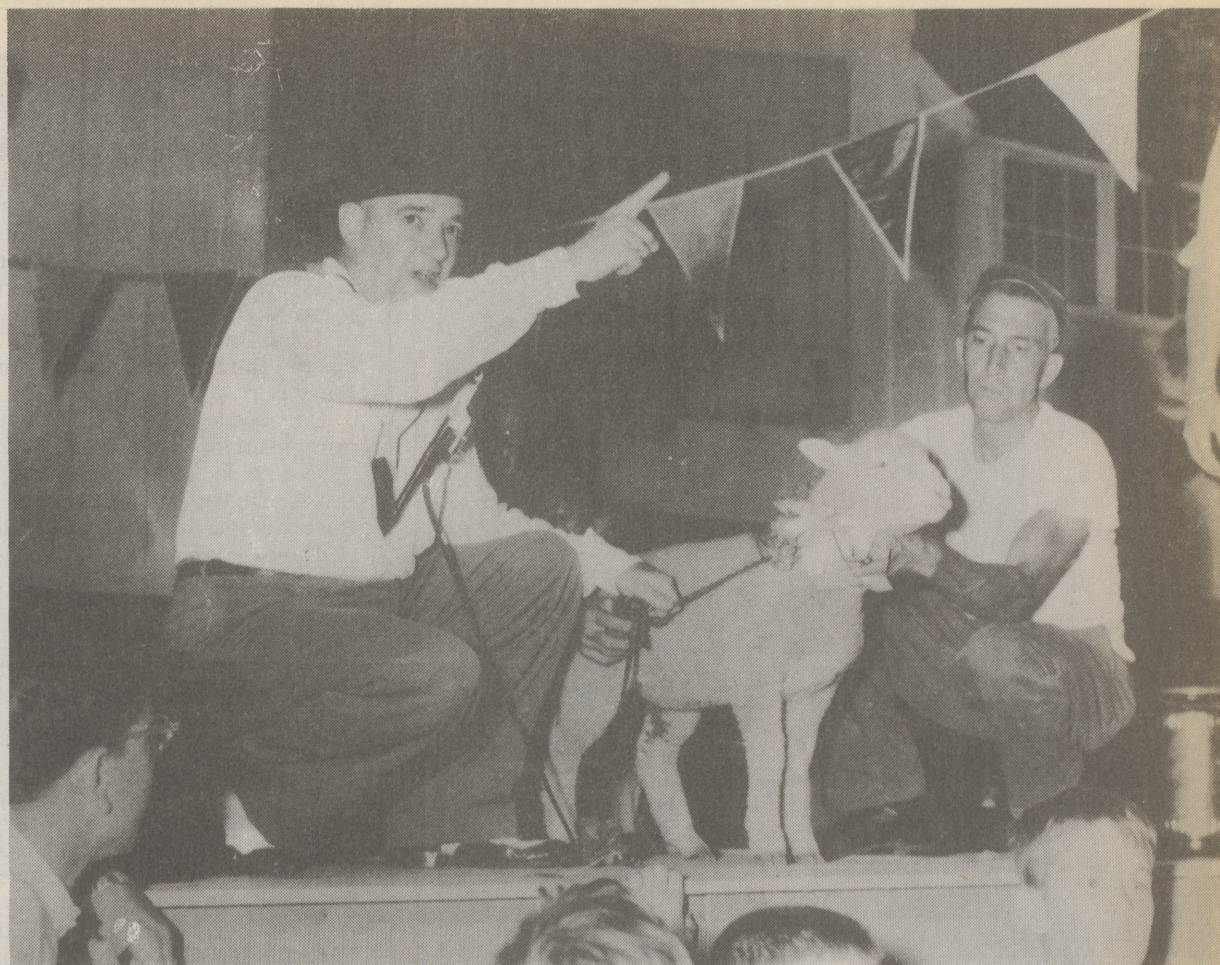
Freedom is not material. It is an idea which requires nurturing and affirmation through the free flow of information and ideas. It needs an informed, involved citizenry to grow and remain vibrant.

Freedom thrives with us as people through expressions of sentiment and desire, and in us as a nation through the ideal that all humans are created equal with liberty and justice for all.

Those words remain just words in the mouths of those who are idol (or idle) flag wavers—just as the flags which will be waved during Flag Day, and which will be waved on the upcoming July 4 holiday—will remain just pieces of cloth in the hands of those who wave them without knowing why.

If the flag is not found within us as citizens, then it cannot be found anywhere no matter how many of them are waving.

Fly the flag, yes. But we ought to understand why.



The way it was

A fine lamb, destined for the pasture or the cookpot, goes over the auction block in this photo from the 1955 Back Mountain Memorial Library auction.

Library Auction Corner

For 47 summers, the people of the Back Mountain have come together to donate their goods, services and time for the auction block of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

The life of the library is a year-to-year proposition, and the auction is crucial to its operation. Twenty-five percent of the annual budget comes from the auction.

This year's 48th annual auction will be held July 7-10 at the library grounds on Huntsville Road in Dallas.

Any and all donations of cash or saleable items can help assure continued service of the library to our communities. For more information, call the library at 675-1182.

July 7-8-9-10

A sampler of items that will be on sale:

Primitive jelly cupboard
3-foot, #2 sub, Minotti's
Tiffany-style lamp

Limoges
3, \$20 gift certificates, Mr. Z's Market
Washbowl and pitcher set

Support the Back Mountain Library

One-fourth of the library's annual budget comes from the auction.

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96 Huntsville Road, Dallas PA 18612
Call 675-1182 if you have any questions. Donations are tax-deductible.

This message donated as a public service by The Dallas Post

Library news

Area service clubs buy books for library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received many requests for the library cookbook, "Chefs and Artists" because of the recent article in the Good Housekeeping magazine featuring the regional cooking section. The total orders received to date are 23. The most recent requests came from Ray City, Georgia; Watertown, New York; Los Angeles, California; Conway, New Hampshire; Las Lunas, New Mexico, Des Moines, Iowa and Circleville, Ohio. The cookbook is still available for sale at the information desk in the library for \$12.95.

The Dallas Lions Club has donated a check for \$500 to the library for the purchase of large print books and audio visuals; which items help with the Lions special project; the care and protection of the eyes. This donation is greatly appreciated.

The Dallas Area Federated Womens Club has contributed a check for \$500 to the library for the purchase of current books for the library collection. The donations from the various organizations in the Back Mountain help the library maintain the current collection of new titles; fiction, non-fiction and mysteries. These monies help with library funding.

The summer reading program, "Reading Is A Magic Trip" begins on Monday, June 27. Children aged 4 through 12 are invited to come to the children's room between 2 and 4 p.m. on that date and sign up for the program. The program was developed by the American Library Association with the support of McDonald's family restaurants.

New books at the library: "The Chamber" by John Grisham takes place in 1967 in Greenville, Mississippi, when known Klan member Sam Cayhall is accused of

bombing the law offices of Jewish civil rights activist Marvin Kramer, killing Kramer's two sons. Cayhall's first trial, with an all-white jury and a Klan rally outside the courthouse ends in a hung jury; the retrial six months later has the same outcome. Twelve years later an ambitious district attorney in Greenville reopens the case. This time with a jury of eight whites and four blacks, Cayhall is convicted. He is transferred to the state penitentiary at Parchman to await execution on death row. In 1990 Adam Hall asks to work on the case. Why?

"Remember Me" by Mary Higgins Clark is a riveting tale of suspense revolving around a young mother's guilt. Menley Nichols has never stopped blam-

ing herself for the accidental death of her two-year-old son Bobby, even though she was blameless—her car had been struck by an oncoming train at a railroad crossing.

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