

Auction inspires artist Sue Hand

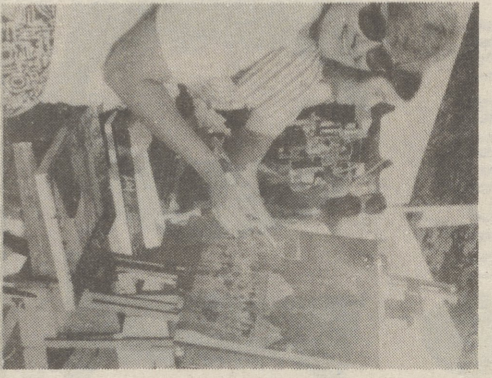
One of the highlights of the annual Back Mountain library auction is scheduled for Sunday night, when an original painting by nationally-known Dallas artist Sue Hand goes over the block. The watercolor will have been painted during the auction, and will capture the fun and excitement of this community event.

"Every year when it goes off, my heart pounds and I feel faint," Hand, whose work is in collections in every state and nine foreign countries, said. "It is a real honor."

No stranger to the auction, Hand was inspired by items she saw there as a teenager. "I remember being 15 years old and watching a Mrs. Neuman doll go off, and thinking, 'Wouldn't it be an honor to create something to sell off the auction block?'"

A few years ago, she took some students (Hand operates a thriving art studio, Sue Hand's Imagery, in the center of Dallas) to the auction to teach them about painting different shapes and lighting conditions, and that renewed her desire to sell original work to aid the library.

"My interest in ein plein (open air) painting helped, and I wanted to try some night scenes," she said. "The auction looked like a challenge."



Sue Hand at work during the 1992 auction

There's no way to know what the subject for this year's work will be, except that it will represent the 1994 edition of a 48-year community institution.

Sue Hand is a graduate of Kutztown State College (now Kutztown University), with a bachelor's degree in art education. She has studied with Don Stone, Charles Reid, Alex Powers, Carlton Plummer and others. Her work is available at galleries in Main and North Carolina, as well as her own studio in Dallas.

ABOUT THE COVER - Sue Hand sketched an original drawing for the cover of this year's Dallas Post auction section. To do it, she combined images from Post photos of the last few years' auctions, capturing the spirit of the annual event. The color was added in printing.



Need a wheelchair? It's here.

In some areas, asking the library to lend you a wheelchair might sound strange. Not in Dallas, where, thanks to a unique community outreach program, the Back Mountain Memorial Library is able to help out when someone needs a wheelchair, crutches, a walker or other items for disabled persons.

Originally instituted by the Dallas Rotary as a community outreach program, the learner program was operated from a member's home until it outgrew its quarters.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, with extra room and a central location, seemed like the ideal spot to relocate.

"We had lots of room, so it was a good move for all of us," said librarian Nancy Kozemchak. Area Rotary and Kiwanis clubs provide wheelchairs, crutches, canes, potty chairs and nearly everything (except for beds) that a disabled person could need, free of charge.

Some items have been donated by friends in the community. New wheelchairs are purchased by the Rotary, while the Kiwanis pays for the repairs and cleaning and the library staff takes care of the paperwork.

"We wish that more people knew about this service," Mrs. Kozemchak said. "People have told me that they hadn't heard of it and had to buy items which we could have provided free of charge for a disabled family member."

For further information on the wheelchair learner program, call the Back Mountain Memorial Library at 675-1182.

Try your luck for these

Raffle chairman Jennie Vallock has rounded up an exciting set of unusual prizes for this year.

First prize is a trip for two to Freeport, Bahamas, with four nights at the Zanzibar Beach Resort, valued at \$1,120.

Second prize is a Cellular One bag phone, valued at \$299.

Third prize is two round-trip tickets for a day trip to New York City on Martz Trailways, valued at \$485.

Fourth prize is a \$25 gift certificate to Country Traditions.

"This is something new and different for the raffle," she said. Tickets are \$1 and will be available at the library and the auction. The prize drawing will be July 10.

Tickets were donated by Automobile City.

Text and photos by Grace R. Dove
All antiques shown will be available
Photos by Charlotte Bartizek

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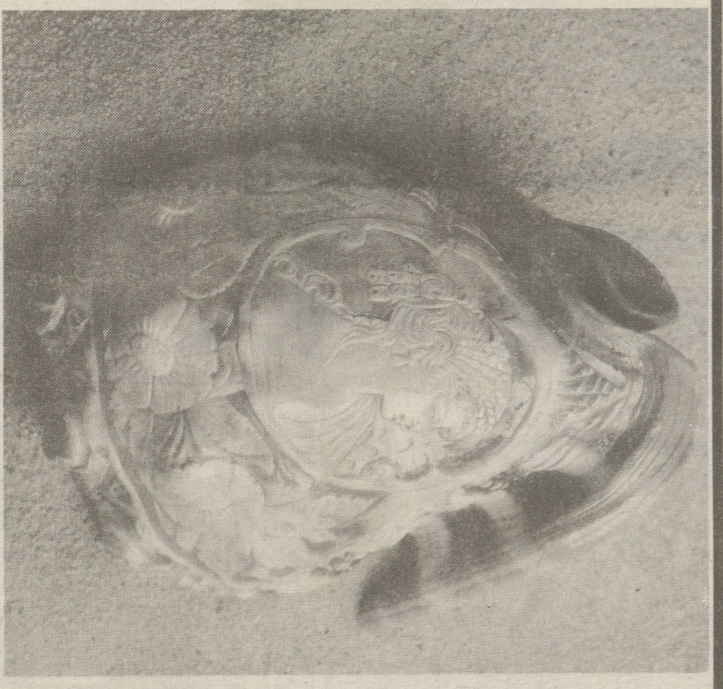
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