

Reporter's notebook



Grace R. Dove

For the past three years it has been my privilege to write the text for our special tabloid on the annual Back Mountain Memorial Library auction, which describes in print and photos the people behind the event and the different items for sale.

It's a good way to meet some very nice people and a great introduction to the auction and its organizers.

Although the first year I was very nervous about being given this responsibility (well, I was nervous about nearly everything then), for the past two years it has seemed more fun than work, a chance to catch up with old friends.

Many auction volunteers have gone beyond the call of duty in helping me with the auction tab.

Without them, it and the auction wouldn't be possible.

When first doing the auction tab, I quickly learned that Mrs. Pauline Kutz knows practically everything and everyone connected with the auction.

If she doesn't have the answer to

Back Mountain Library Auction is a labor of love

my questions, she usually knows someone who does.

Library business manager Mrs. Nancy Kozemchak has been another valuable resource person whom I could call on for help at any time.

From contacting retired children's librarian Mrs. Florence Crump to lending rare photos, Mrs. Kozemchak has been a real life-saver.

Mrs. Kozemchak has originated many library services and programs and writes the "Library News" column for us every week.

It's tough to keep things fresh and interesting week after week, but she certainly does it well.

I enjoy her descriptions of special events and displays (especially the collection of Ninja Turtles several months ago) and look forward to reading her column every Friday when I do the inside pages.

Head librarian Martha Wheeler, always very gracious, is another "library person" whom I can't work without.

She keeps her sense of humor in the most trying circumstances - last week we chose a hot, humid day to rummage through the dusty materials stored on the block, looking for a sign which never materialized.

Jeff and Lois Townsend and their family, who live only a mile from me, have gone beyond the call of duty working on the auction.

Lois helped organize the Children's Auction with the Boy Scouts

this year while recovering from surgery.

Two weeks ago, when I found my car with a flat tire five minutes before I was supposed to be at their house to take a picture, Jeff came over to change it for me, calling one of his sons to bring another jack because mine had broken when he pulled the wheel off.

Thirty sweaty minutes later, we finally made it to their home for the photo.

"This is the hardest I've ever had to work to get my picture in the paper," Jeff joked.

Other old friends - Bennie Matchett, Sybil Pelton, Ernie Ashbridge and Connie Scott - have in many instances been life-savers who have helped me fine tune a story at the last minute.

This is the spirit of the auction: an army of volunteers pitching in to set up a four-day event to benefit the entire community, with no thought of publicity for themselves.

It's an ongoing process - as soon as one auction ends, a new chairman begins planning for the next year.

The library is the people of the community, people who for generations have pitched in to help whenever needed, simply because the job needs to be done.

This is what the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction is about - good old-fashioned Back Mountain cooperation and a year-round labor of love.

Library news

It's the final countdown to the auction

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

This is it! The week that the 48th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction begins. The library auction bell will sound at exactly 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 7 and the festivities will begin. Our faithful auctioneers will man the auction block during the four days of the auction taking two hour shifts. The auction will go until 10 on Thursday; Friday, July 8, from 6-12; Saturday, July 9, children's auction from 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; regular auction from 6 to 12 p.m.; Sunday, auction from 6 to 12. The booths on the grounds will open each day at 4 p.m. A Silent Auction will be held all four days, for area gift certificate packages. Auction week! 1994 July 7 through the 10th. Come early, bring your chairs and get set up for a fun-filled four days of entertainment.

Our on-going 'green jar' savings campaign continues. The new campaign will be titled, "A C

for A C", which is All Cash for Air Conditioning. The library would really like to have air conditioning at some point in the future. The summer time of July and August is the time we and our patrons become aware of how much we need it. The 'green jar' project for July and August will be for air conditioning 'seed money'. Whatever we receive we put aside as the first monies toward this much needed addition to our library facilities. Our friends and patrons are amazing with their contributions to the library funding.

The library "Chefs and Artists" cookbook has received additional orders, thanks to the Good Housekeeping advertisement. Requests have come from: Denver, CO; Mountaintop, PA; Aristes, PA; Greenburg, PA; Kent, OH; Keene, NH; Houston, TX; Monterey, TN; Williamsville, NY; Welch, MN; Cincinnati, OH; N Texas, Dallas, TX; Roanoke, VA; Bloomington, IL; North Jersey, NJ; Annandale,

VA; Littleton, CO; Drums, PA; Santee, GA; Birmingham, AL; Santa Rosa, CA; Omaha, NE; and a request for three copies from Houston, TX. This brings a total of 47 cookbooks we have sold through this advertising in Good Housekeeping magazine!

New books at the library: "The Homing" by John Saul is a terrifying novel that weaves a spellbinding story of a small California community under siege from an unspeakable evil. It will be the sweetest kind of homecoming for Karen Spellman after 10 years of living in Los Angeles. However, something sinister awaits the family, as primal as nature itself.

"Red Ink" by Greg Dinallo is a novel of suspense and intrigue which features an unlikely Russian-American pair of investigators pitted against the world's newest axis of international organized crime. Their chase will lead them from Moscow to Washington.

Ham 'n' Yegg clubbers donate to auction

The Ham'n Yegg Club is one of the outstanding facets of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Back Mountain Memorial Library Ham'n Yegg contributors as of June 30 for the 1994 auction have donated \$2,086 and are: Mac and Lynn Ahmad, Mr. and Mrs. James Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. William Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Anees Barakat, Drs. I & P. Berger, Austin Bergman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Morton Blum, Alice C. Borthwick, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Brislin, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Bucan, Robert L. Casper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coscia, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Crahall, Lettie Culver, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Demidovich, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Epstein and Mrs. Glenn Eytet.

Also, Fino's Pharmacy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fleming, Dorothy Flynn, Inga V. Goldsmith, Agnes Gregson, Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Gunster, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Hadsall, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hall, Mr. and Mrs. John Horoshko, Dr. I. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Klaboe, Mr. and Mrs. James Knecht, Lillian Krasner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Laux, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Levinson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lumia, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Marchakitus, Mr. and Mrs. W. Charles Maxwell, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Mokychick, Elizabeth Montgomery.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. William Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Moyer, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Myers, Gloria McCartney, Mr. and Mrs. George McCutcheon, Mr. and Mrs. Jo-

seph Nalbene, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nobel, Dong and Sue Oh, Mr. and Mrs. James Oliver, Robert Opel II, Mr. and Mrs. William Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Otto, Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd Pawling, Benjamin Phillips, Dr. and Mrs. David Rimple, Atty. and Mrs. Bruce Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ross, Jr.

Also, Dr. Marshall Rumbaugh,

Mr. and Mrs. William Runner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saul, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith, Margaret Spencer, Ann Stine, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Templin, Cromwell Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tillman, Frank Townend, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tupper, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Winter, W.A. Woolbert and Mrs. Harold Zimmerman.



Generous donation

The Back Mountain Memorial Library recently received a \$3,000 donation, to be paid over a two year period, from Franklin First Savings Bank. Above presenting a check of \$1,500 is President and CEO of Franklin First, Thomas H. van Arsdale, Martha Wheeler, Library Director and Board Member, Bruce C. Rosenthal, Esquire. This donation will be used toward capital improvements of the library.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Did the Juice actually kill his wife? Add that question to all those others America has savored over the years, like Lee Harvey Oswald and the Single Bullet Theory, and did Marilyn actually commit suicide? We seem to delight in alternate theories; nothing is straightforwardly simple anymore.

Sixty years ago there was another mystery called "The Crime of the Century." A trial opened in Flemington, N.J. which ended with the execution of one Bruno Richard Hauptman for the kidnapping of the Lindberg baby.

Charles A. Lindberg, known fondly as "Lucky Lindy," was an American hero. In 1927 he was the first to fly the Atlantic from New York to Paris, piloting a frail, single-engined monoplane named "The Spirit of St. Louis" after a group of St. Louis businessmen put up \$15,000 to buy it.

At 25, although he looked 18, America fell in love with Lindberg

O.J. Simpson, media hype and the crime of the century

and, after his solo flight, so did Europe. He was invited to Buckingham Palace to meet the king, who asked how Lindy managed during those two days and one night without a bathroom, although the king did not put it quite so delicately.

Hauptman was another breed of cat entirely, an illegal immigrant with a criminal record. He was the only likely suspect. Although \$50,000 in ransom money was delivered after the kidnapping the baby was found murdered several months later.

Several years after, Hauptman not only passed a "gold certificate" (they were all supposed to have been turned in to banks) from the ransom money but he told a gas station attendant that he "had more like that one at home."

Three days later he was arrested and the stage was set for a trial which has had no equal before or since. Flemington's population was 3,000, completely unprepared for the blitz which descended on it. Hardly a newspaper worthy of the name failed to send at least one reporter. There was no TV yet, but more than 300 newsmen were counted, and more than 100 photographers.

Celebrity writers included Alexander Woolcott (at that time drama critic for the New Yorker), Dorothy Kilgallen, Heywood Brown, Edna Ferber and Walter

Winchell, the famous gossip columnist sporting the first pair of dark glasses ever seen indoors.

Winchell always had a favored seat (Seat 5, Row A, through 42 days of the trial) and passed notes frequently to the prosecution. In his radio broadcasts and in his column he called Hauptman guilty many times, and jurors who heard or read Winchell were excused.

Author Charles Fisher, who covered the entire case, recalls listening to Winchell broadcasts somewhat nervously. He said, "I still have an uneasy feeling that Winchell occasionally offered information of which neither my colleagues nor I had been aware. He made the first announcement of the fact that one rail of the kidnap ladder had been found to match the wood flooring in Hauptman's attic. It was one of the major points upon which Hauptman was convicted, and quite likely the most important of them all."

Hauptman's widow, Anna, has never given up hope. "I am waiting for the truth to come out. When it does, I die the next day. And I die in peace." I don't have a book count on how very many were written about this notorious case.

In view of this parade of alternate theories however, I am planning a book of my own. Its title will be "John Wilkes Booth - Did He Act Alone?"

Complete service project

Lady Toby #514 Rebekah Ladies met at Lehman June 22 to complete making their yellow roses which were placed on a homemade trellis delivered to the Mary Hill Nursing Home. The project for the month of July has already been started.

New Goss Manor plans garage sale

New Goss Manor's first annual garage sale will be held July 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Anyone interested in participating may call 675-0386 for more information.

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