

## Library

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"We have investigated other funding sources, including state and private grants. We can use Legislative Initiative Grants obtained through area legislators for capital improvements, such as expanding facilities. We also apply for grants from private foundations wherever possible."

The library recently began an endowment program, in which money earns money, Rosenthal said. Contributions are placed into an interest-bearing account. The library spends only the interest, so that monetary gifts work in perpetuity.

The library board has also devised an innovative plan to raise \$22,700 in municipal and school district support. Each municipality would contribute 16¢ for every book borrowed by its residents and school districts would contribute \$2 per registered student. The library would track the number of books checked out by borrowers in each of the nine municipalities.

Under this system, Lake-Lehman would contribute \$4,600 instead of its present \$3,000, while Dallas would contribute \$5,200 instead of its present \$1,000.

The smallest municipal contributions would be made by Franklin Township (\$400), Ross and Lake townships (\$600 each) and Lehman Township (\$700.) Jackson Township would donate \$900.

The largest municipal contributors would be Dallas Township (\$4,400) and Kingston Township (\$2,700). Harveys Lake would contribute \$1,000, while Dallas Borough would contribute \$1,600.

The library's smallest contributors are Dallas Borough and Franklin Township, which each provide \$100. Harveys Lake and Lehman and Ross townships don't contribute anything.

Lake Township's share is \$500, while Jackson Township donates \$900. Dallas and Kingston Township each contribute \$2,000.

Board members will approach municipal governments during the next two months to request their support. To help in the effort, a petition requesting that municipalities comply with the library's request is available at the library for borrowers to sign.

Last week board members Ruth Tetschner and Barbara Lemmond asked the Dallas school board to increase its donation from its origi-

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Pauline Kutz  
Library volunteer

nal \$1,000 to \$2 per student, which works out to \$5,200. The school board unanimously

approved the change.

Although neighboring counties either have a library tax or are considering enacting one, Rosenthal doesn't think it would be successful in the Back Mountain. Approximately 20 years ago a referendum for a library tax failed here, he said.

"The work of the library and its volunteers never stops - it's a constant effort to keep our resources up to date," said library board secretary Pauline Kutz. "It's important for the community to remember and support us."

## Other counties have library tax, or want one

**BACK MOUNTAIN**-Faced with meager support from the nine municipalities and two school districts which it serves, the Back Mountain Memorial Library is exploring ways to raise money to meet operating expenses.

Although state law allows municipalities to enact special property taxes solely for funding libraries, a similar referendum failed in the Back Mountain about 20 years ago, according to board member Bruce Rosenthal. A three-mill tax would cost the owner of a property assessed at \$10,000 an additional \$30 per year.

Lackawanna County instituted a 1.6-mill tax in 1982 and Wyoming County's voters are attempting to put a referendum for a 1.75-mill tax on the November election ballot.

According to Lackawanna County Library System administrator Sally Felix, the county created a county-funded system from four local libraries because of drastic funding cutbacks. The former Scranton Public Library, the county's largest and best-supported, was made the central facility. The tax generates \$1.9 million a year for the four libraries in the system.

"The tax costs the owner of a property assessed at \$10,000 for tax purposes an additional \$16 a year - a real bargain, considering a hardcover book costs more," she said.

Since the county system was created in 1982, "usage has increased dramatically," Felix said. Library programs have expanded to include children's summer programs, bookmobile service and a better selection of books.

Voters in Wyoming County are circulating petitions to place a referendum instituting a 1.75-mill library tax on the November election ballot. It would cost owners of property assessed at \$10,000 an additional \$17.50 a year.

Wyoming County has six small independent libraries - Tunkhannock, Factoryville, Meshoppen, Mehoopany, Laceyville and Nicholson, the largest of which is the Tunkhannock Public Library.

According to Tunkhannock librarian Susan Turrell, her library has 9,000 patrons and a yearly circulation of more than

100,000 items (27,000 a week).

It runs an outreach program, which sends books to the five other libraries and deposit stations in stores, senior citizens' centers and post offices. Wyoming County's other libraries are very small - one doesn't even have a phone, Turrell said.

The Tunkhannock Library presently receives \$8,000 from the county, which also donates a total of \$3,000 to the other five libraries. The bulk of the six libraries' expenses are paid for by the Wyoming County United Way, which has suggested they find alternate funding sources. Other income comes from the state, but it's not a lot, Turrell said. In order to raise more money, the Tunkhannock Library holds fundraisers - a Christmas show, quilt shows, book sales and a craft show - but "nothing as successful as the Back Mountain Memorial Library auction," she added.

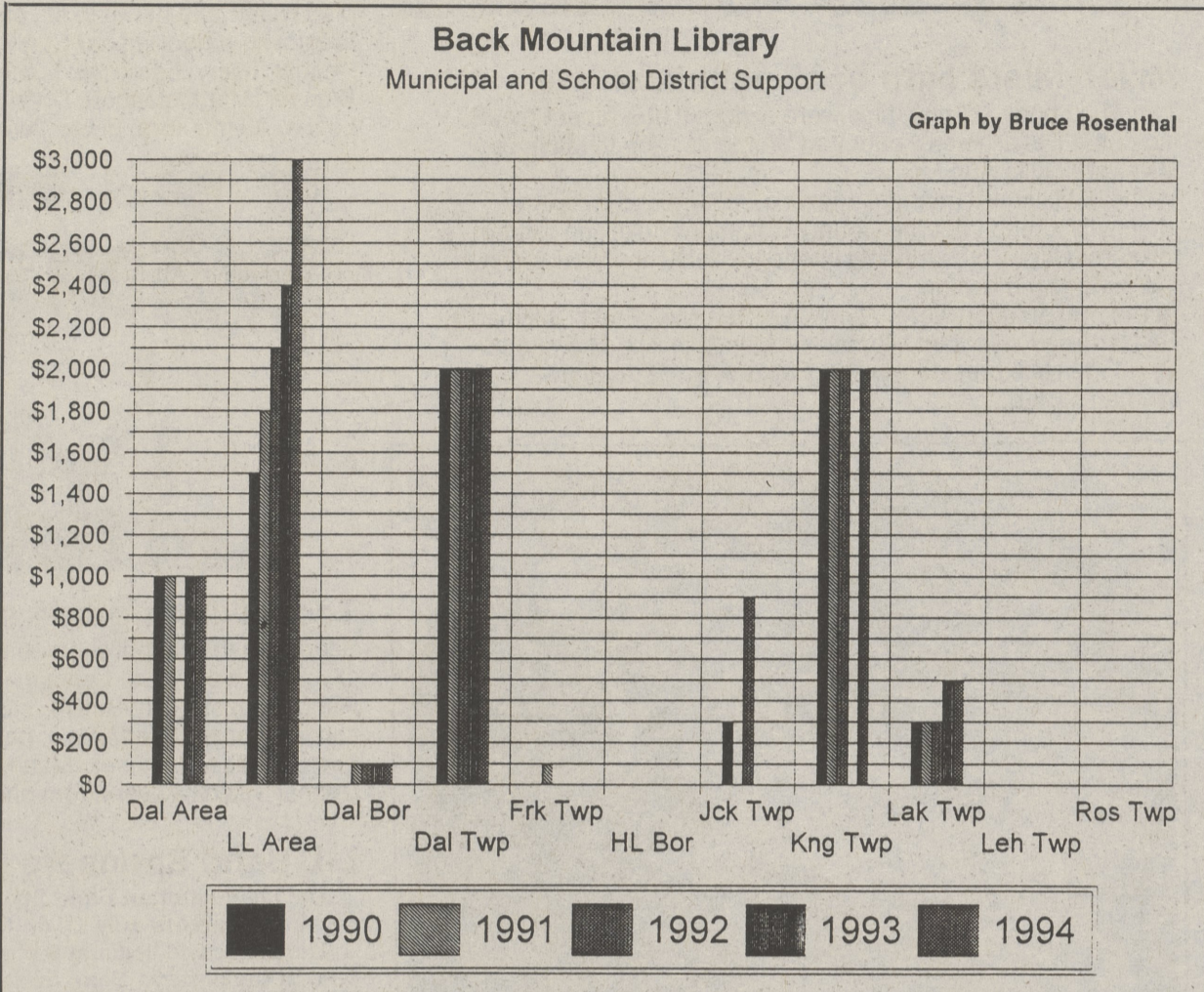
If the referendum makes it to the November ballot and is approved by the voters, the county would create a library board composed of representatives of all six libraries. Each library would keep its own separate identity and governing board. Tax money would be paid to a county board, which would divide it up among the six libraries.

"The library tax would increase revenues, particularly to the smaller libraries," Turrell said. "It could help them qualify for state aid, which is based on the library's size, number of patrons, number of books and use."

The tax would also free up United Way money, which could be used by the member social service agencies, she added.

"When times are difficult, people tend to use the library more because its books, tapes, newspapers, magazines and other resources are available for free," Turrell said. "But difficult times also mean cuts in state aid to libraries. We can always use more funding. Right now I have 42 people waiting to read one popular book."

by Grace R. Dove



## 1995 is 10th year in former schoolhouse

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

In addition to being the Back Mountain Memorial Library's 50th anniversary, this year marks its tenth year in the former Dallas Borough Elementary School on Huntsville Road.

Originally housed in two stately old homes on 1 1/2 acres at 69 Main Street, the library had outgrown its quarters after four decades. It purchased the school building in 1984 for \$30,000 and spent another \$100,000 on renovations before the books and staff moved in.

When Nancy Kozemchak closed the doors at the old library for the last time February 16, 1985 at 5:30 p.m., "a teardrop fell," as she wrote in her Library News column in *The Dallas Post*.

The library was closed for two weeks for the move, accomplished by a small army of volunteers - families, Scout troops and friends.

Mrs. Kozemchak wrote that former children's librarian Mrs. Florence Crump got up every day at 6 a.m. to bake chocolate-chip cookies for the many volunteers: Mel Congdon, Carl Oberst, David Smith, Kerry Freeman, Jean Warneka, Lori Warneka, Mary Thom, Jean Alexander, Bennie Matchett, Joanne Runner, Gerri Graham, Irma Jacobs, Morag Michael, the Rotary, Back Mountain Kiwanis, Boy Scout troops 281 and 232, Dallas Kiwanis, Brownie Scouts, Girl Scouts, Blaise Hoyt and many others.

The formal ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the new library on Huntsville Road at 9:30 a.m.

March 3, 1985 - just in time for National Library Week that April.

In conjunction with the move, the library held a three-week "forgiveness period," in which people who had overdue or missing books were encouraged to return them, no questions asked. Collection boxes were left at First Eastern and United Penn banks and Back Mountain Lumber Company.

Sadly, much effort needed for settling into the new building had to be diverted in April and May, 1985, when vandals smashed in a basement door, destroyed shelving temporarily stored outside the building, smashed the old white auction ticket booth, leaving only its axle and large wheels intact, paved the play area with broken bottles and defaced the building with graffiti.

The library sold its Main Street property for \$69,000 to the Calvary Baptist Church, which transformed the old auction barn on Rice Street into its sanctuary, complete with white steeple, the former children's library into the pastor's home and the old adult library into a combination Sunday school building and meeting place, where the congregation also hoped to eventually set up an apartment for a missionary or youth minister.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library continues the philosophy of service to the community which it began when it first opened in 1945: "To be a living memorial to the Back Mountain men and women who have served in all wars to preserve the American ideal."

## Budget

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\$243,000. Local income, primarily from the property tax, is expected to increase only 2.2 percent, to \$9,684,713.

The largest increases will be in regular programs, special programs, vocational education, pupil personnel services, transportation and construction or improvements.

Regular programs will increase in cost 14.5 percent, from \$7,497,335 to \$8,580,990, while special programs will increase 5.5

percent, from \$1,166,690 to \$1,231,235. Most of the increases are for purchases of textbooks and supplies, retirement contributions and early retirement incentives.

Retirement contributions will also cause pupil personnel services to increase 13 percent in cost, from \$462,055 to \$522,515.

The 9.9 percent increase in transportation is mainly due to increased retirement contributions and payments to contracted

carriers. Total costs will run \$851,525 this year.

Construction and improvements will cost the district \$70,000, an increase of 37 percent over last year's figure of \$51,000.

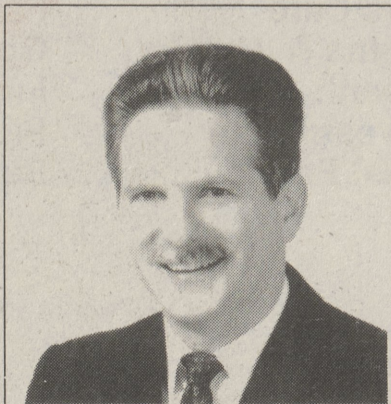
Finance committee chairman Ernie Ashbridge had the last word on the budget.

He added a sentence to the resolution, which increased the district's donation to the Back Mountain Memorial Library from

\$2,000 to \$5,200. Ashbridge is co-chairman and antiques committee chairman for the library's annual fundraising auction, and the library is beginning a campaign to convince the towns and school districts it serves to increase their contributions.

Before the board had considered the budget, elementary principal Ruth Tetschner, who is also a library board member, had asked the district to donate \$2 per student, which works out to \$5,200.

## Dr. Gary Verazin Joins Drs. Katlic And Blaum



Gary T. Verazin, M.D.

Dr. Gary Verazin has returned to our area to practice General Surgery, Surgical Oncology (Cancer Surgery), and Head and Neck Surgery.



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Dr. Verazin graduated from John S. Fine High School, Nanticoke, Elizabethtown College, and Temple University School of Medicine. He completed his General Surgery residency at the Allentown Affiliated Hospitals and a three-year Surgical Oncology fellowship at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. For the past three years, Dr. Verazin has been Chief of Surgical Oncology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on active duty with the United States Air Force.

Dr. Verazin will be on staff at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, and Mercy Hospital.

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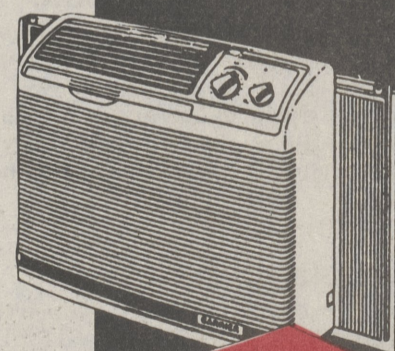
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