

## As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

This is a memory test. Scan through these names: Shirra, Borman, Lovell, Armstrong, Aldrin. Apollo astronauts, right? You can even recall their first names: Wally, Frank, Jim, Neil and Buzz, correct?

Now try these: Scott, Roosa, Mitchell, Worden, Irvin, Young, Duke, Evans, Schmitt. Not too sure are you? Well, they too are astronauts, but first names? Forget it. We all did.

Proves the truth in that adage about fleeting fame. Not just the names are gone, but the thrills too. Outer space ain't what it used to be.

For example, here are some current NASA names: TOMS (Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer) and HETE (High Energy Transient Experiment) and SWAS (Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite) and XTE (X-Ray Timing Explorer) and FAST (Fast Auroral Snapshot.)

Heck, they're all robots! How can anyone get worked up over a

## Next stop - Mars Base One

passel of robotic gadgets? Not a man (nor, I hasten to add, a woman) in sight. For the rest of this year and the next, and the next, robots will rule NASA's roost.

And their missions need a little PR fixing...who wants to know about the chemistry of the sun's corona? Or the gaseous content of interstellar clouds? Give me old Neil taking that first small step on the moon any day.

Now the project Galileo is somewhat better, not too much, but still better. On December 7 a probe released in July will parachute deep into the atmosphere of planet Jupiter, beaming up data to the mother ship (Damn! I wish Scotty were on board!) before being crushed by pressure from Jupiter's horribly dense air.

Then in 1997 Lunar Prospector will map the moon from a low altitude and measure its magnetic field. In spite of all our landings we still don't know too much about its origin and internal makeup...this project is expected to unlock many of the moon's closely guarded secrets.

Then a Mars Pathfinder will rove around the red planet's surface, gathering data and samples in preparation for what surely has to come as long as man survives as an exploring race: the landing of humans on the planet Mars.

Think about it. No robots this time. Six living, breathing mem-

bers of the human race. Probably a lady or two, probably a black and a Hispanic. The mechanics are already planned. The necessary thrust is available. Even the food has been carefully worked out. Our first Mission to Mars will carry, among many other goodies, 75 pounds of freeze-dried beef (Sorry but after 180 days of that stuff the crew is dreaming of Kentucky Fried.)

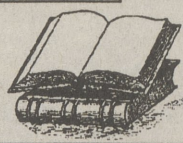
Nope, this is not my Sci-Fi upbringing. This is for real. I can quote a staff engineer, Bob Zubrin of Martin Marietta Astronautics Group: "We know what it would take to get a crew to Mars safely and back. And we have the basic technology to do it."

Unfortunately he does not say, "We have the money to do it." But the billions necessary could be available, especially if Russia and a few other countries chipped in. Zubrin wants to develop the Martian ship from off-the-shelf parts; then make rocket fuel on Mars itself for the return trip. Both steps cut costs tremendously. The ship he would name "Ares" after the Greek version of the god of war.

Just imagine, if you will, listening through the crackle of interstellar static, to a voice saying, "Houston, Mars Base One here. The Ares has landed!"

Don't know about you but I can't wait!

## LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring a poster of Ireland's Writers on the bulletin board in the lobby of the library. The poster features writers and poets of the 18th century 1779 to the 20th century 1989. The poster was published by Studio 23 Ltd., Fumbally Lane, Dublin, Ireland with illustrations by David Paton. Grateful thanks for the poster go to the National Library of Ireland, the Irish Writers Museum and Bord Faille.

The featured writers are pictured with information about them and their writings. There is Thomas Moore, 1779-1852; J.J. Synge, 1871-1909; Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745; James Joyce, 1882-1941; Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900; Patrick Kavanagh, 1904-1967; Sean O'Casey, 1880-1964; Brendan Behan, 1923-1964; G.E. Shaw, 1856-1950; W.B. Yeats, 1864-1939; Bram Stoker, 1847-1912 and Samuel Beckett, 1906-1989.

This poster has been loaned to the library by Mary Panaway, the chairman of our Book Club selection committee. A poster of this kind must be bought only in the country of the origin. Mary received the poster as a gift of Mrs. Rosemary Schiowitz, a friend and neighbor. Rosemary bought the poster when she was visiting there on an island. This poster brings an interesting insight into the history of the writers from this country and is a colorful addition to the bulletin board.

The Book Club of the library will meet in the community room at the library on Monday, November 20 at 1:30. The membership totals 213 to date for 1995; a total of \$1,945 to be spent for Book Club books. Final plans will be made for the Christmas Tea to be held on Monday, December 18, with the decision made on the choice of the special program for the tea. Friends, guests and members are always welcome at Book Club meetings.

## Irish writers featured

New books at the library: "A Southern Exposure" by Alice Adams takes place in a small Southern town called Pinehill, in the years of the Depression. The Bairds, Harry and Cynthia and their daughter, fugitives from the burdens of their life in Connecticut come to town. He has fled his job and she, a flirtation gone too far. They hope they can regain their innocence.

"Love Me Forever" by Johanna Lindsey is a novel brimming with legendary passion and intrigue in which we are transported back in

time to the clans and grand estates of nineteenth century England and Scotland. A young heiress is in mourning for her mother's death.

"A Gift of Love" by Jude Deveraux, Judith McNaught, Kimberly Cates, Andrea Kane and Judith O'Brien is a new collection of wonderful original love stories to warm our hearts on a cold winter's day. The stories capture holiday magic as it transports us to New York City, Victorian England, a starry London night, hills of Virginia and a Vermont estate.

## DREAM WEAVER'S GRAND OPENING

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On the corner of Rt. 29, and Tulip Road in Lake Twp. upstairs in the big barn.

Tuesday - Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of October 27 - November 7:

Joan C. Hiller to Joseph Rondinella, et ux, Machell Ave., \$229,000, Dallas Borough.

John Mayermick, et ux, to Joseph S. Krzysik, et al, Maplewood Ave., 28-32, Dallas Borough, \$95,000.

John E. Halbing, III, et ux, to Charles A. Wilson, et ux, 1.80 ac. Northwoods Sub. Dallas Twp., \$297,000.

Gale Rank, et ux, to John G. Shower, et al, 42nd St., Dallas Twp., \$129,000.

Anne G. Robinson to Charles R. McClellan, et ux, 31 College

Manor, Dallas Twp., \$143,000.

David Lloyd to Jamet M. West, 36, 38, 40 Bellevue, Dallas Twp., \$116,000.

Anita B. Houwath to Louis Pugh Jr., 22 Glenview Terrace, Dallas Twp., \$2,500.

Louis Pugh, Jr. to Jane Hagan Guziro, et vir, 22 Glenview Terrace, Dallas Twp., \$22,500.

Bernard J. Sherin, et ux, to James C. Dundon, et ux, Dallas Twp., \$63,500.

Gertrude E. Roman to Patrick E. Roman, et ux, 17.5 ac. Fairmount Twp., \$40,000.

Raymond L. Kern, Jr. to Michael Laumeyer, et ux, Lots 4, 5, Harveys Lake Bor., \$65,900.

James Elliott to Keith P. Wren,

3 parcels, Harveys Lake Bor., \$79,500.

Ruth D. Merrigan to Todd Middleton, et ux, 111 High St., Harveys Lake Bor. \$18,500.

Janet Smith to Luz. Co. Housing Auth., 2 parcels, Hunlock Twp., \$81,500.

Flamar Realty Inc. to Geoffrey G. Miller, MD, 6 Staub Rd., Kingston Twp., \$15,000.

Theresa Kasaba to Paul R. Smith, et ux, Lots 25, 26, Kingston Twp., \$105,000.

Carol Cavalari to Edward C. Cavalari, et ux, 203 Holly St., Kingston Twp., \$8,271.

Jewish Community Cntr. Trustee to Joseph A. Makarewicz, 6.40 ac., Lehman Twp., \$64,400.

**Joan, why haven't you written?** Let the Back Mountain know what you think by writing a letter to the editor. Always include your name, address and a daytime phone number; we don't publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612

## The Back Mountain's hometown paper ...from people who live here



"It's nice to win awards, but the votes we really care about are cast by several thousand readers each week."

Over the past few years, The Dallas Post has won more state and national awards than any other weekly paper in northeastern Pennsylvania. That reflects one aspect of being a good community newspaper, but there are many others.

At one time The Post's front page carried the line, "Oldest business institution in the Back Mountain," so helping to found the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association came naturally. So does taking an interest in issues and events

that can affect how we live.

Ron enjoys writing editorials and a column, which hasn't won anything lately but some compliments from readers.

"With several thousand people reading The Post each week, our opinions can't please everyone, but we think it's important to provide a point of view, even if it only serves to get healthy discussion started."

Ron is another local person who helps put out the Back Mountain's hometown paper, The Dallas Post.

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