

EDITORIALS

Children's library expansion deserves enthusiastic support

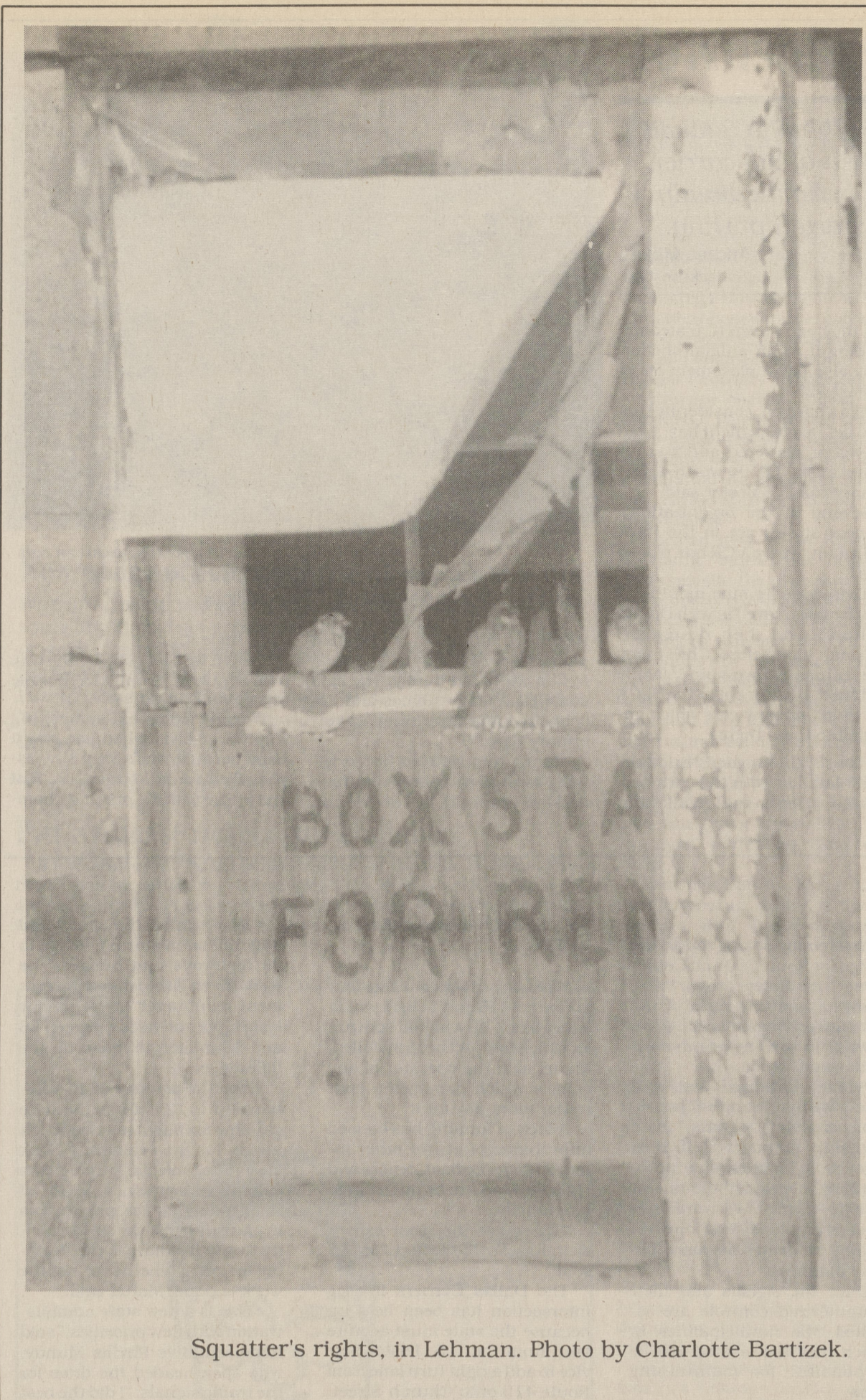
In its 50th year, the Back Mountain Memorial Library is about to embark on the most ambitious — and necessary — project since moving to the former Dallas Borough school building on Huntsville Road. The institution's board of directors has committed itself to enlarging and renovating the portion of the library dedicated to its youngest patrons, the Back Mountain's children. We cannot think of a more important task for the library, both in the physical facility and the dedication of personal and professional resources.

The present area, a single 24' by 30' room, is clearly inadequate to meet the needs of a growing community, and has been for years. Children's librarian Marilyn Rudolph has struggled gamely to offer programs for children along with a selection of materials accessible to young readers, but the cramped space forces those two goals to conflict. When 20 or more children, along with parents and siblings, are crammed into the room, there's no place or quiet for others. And, since the small space can accommodate a limited number at a time, programs must be divided into multiple sessions, further limiting the hours when the room is available to casual users, or students working on school projects.

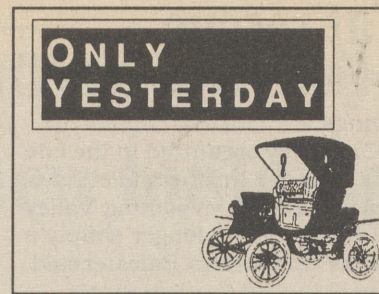
The solution will be an addition of approximately 1,200 square feet, split by flexible dividers into three spaces. That will allow organized programs to take place in one section, while other activities go on undisturbed. There will also be some technological additions, offering the opportunity for any child in the Back Mountain to keep pace with his or her peers.

This project will allow the Back Mountain Memorial Library to fulfill the most basic of its missions; to offer stimulation to young minds in an atmosphere that fosters learning and the love of knowledge. But it won't happen on automatic pilot. In fact, it won't happen at all without substantial financial support from the community, and an ambitious fund raising campaign is about to begin. When that is completed, a state grant will round out the finances, and construction can begin.

When fund raisers come calling, pledge your support to this most worthwhile project, no matter how much or little you can afford. It's important that as many individuals, families and businesses as possible rally behind the library — especially this part of it — where the seeds of future community leaders may well be sown.



Squatter's rights, in Lehman. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.



60 Years Ago - Feb. 28, 1936 AREA'S LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN DIES

Although she will be 84 tomorrow, Mrs. Emma Heitsman DeWitt of Centermoreland will be celebrating her 21st birthday. She was born Feb. 29, 1852, a Leap Year, Mrs. DeWitt born in Phillipsburg, NJ has lived at Centermoreland since she was three years old. She is the only child left of a family of four.

Peter Culp was still in his teens when he enlisted as a private in Co. F, 53rd PA Volunteers. He was in his early 20's and a corporal when he stood at Appomattox and saw General Robert E. Lee present his sword in surrender to General U.S. Grant. He was the last surviving member of John S. Whitney Post, G.A.R. of Dallas. His passing severs this section's final living link with the Civil War.

You could get - Bread, 18-oz. loaf 8¢; Gold Medal flour, 24 1/2 lb. bag, \$1.05; 8 O'Clock Coffee, 2 lbs., 29¢; iceberg lettuce, 2 lg. hds, 15¢.

50 Years Ago - Mar. 1, 1946 BORO COPS CRACK DOWN ON SPEEDERS

Dallas police are conducting a campaign against motorists who drive recklessly on Main Street and fail to stop before proceeding past stop signs. Officer James Gansel, who has charge of regulating traffic during the absence of Chief Walter Covert, has warned several drivers and also has two cases pending which will be heard before Burgess George Williams.

Pictured in last week's issue of Life magazine is Miss Ada Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Jackson of Centermoreland. She is flanked by two huge stacks of testimony of the Pearl Harbor hearings which will fill 61 volumes totaling 12 times the length of "Gone With the Wind". A graduate of Dallas Township High School, she is employed as a teletype operator in the Senate Office Building.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 24, 1956 LAKE TWP. STARTS UNUSUAL YEAR IN BLACK

For the first time in a number of years Lake Township is starting the year with a balance in its treasury. In addition, the Supervisors have purchased considerable road working equipment and have also purchased land for a dumping ground.

Salaries of the Librarian and Assistant Librarian were increased at a meeting of Back Mountain Memorial Library Executive Board held at the Library Annex. Miss Lathrop will receive \$22.50 per month and Mrs. Jones \$10, retroactive to Jan. 1.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 24, 1966 NO MORE SURPLUS FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

A large tract of prime commercial property on Memorial Highway located above Davis' Market in Dallas Borough has been sold recently. Landowners are searching for commercial occupants and one of them told *The Dallas Post* this week, that interest has been shown by "three major operations." It is not possible to elaborate on the statement at this time said the owners, "Lakeway Properties" which is the partnership name of Francis J. Dixon and Albert Ciccarelli.

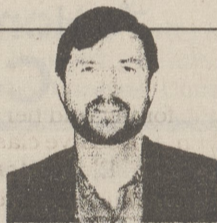
Federal subsidies for the milk program are safe until July 1, the start of the fiscal year for schools. To date surplus foods are still available for school lunch programs, though much food which was obtainable last year is not on the list this year. But with the milk program seriously curtailed, salaries of cafeteria workers increased and food stuffs bought on the open market skyrocketing in price, school administrators see a problem in the making.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 26, 1976 PSU STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR M.S.

Students at Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus raised close to \$1,000 for the Multi-Sclerosis Society in their 24-hour dance marathon last weekend. The local campus Circle C Club sponsored the marathon and music provided by Watlock Interprizes was without cost.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Rubbing It In Dept. Thanks, I think, to Hanford and Phyllis Eckman for sending along a page from the January 24 *Miami Herald*, with an article and photo of Betty Williams of Dallas, ready to move to "Sunny Florida" after a recent snow storm. Herald reporters took obvious delight as they put together a roundup of winter weather woes throughout the Northeast. As anyone who has traveled to South Florida during the winter months knows, they are joined in that enterprise by local television weathermen, who take great pains to point out the cold, snow and general miserableness of our winters. But they got a taste of their own medicine this year. Our neighbors, Miles and Betty Price, took off for the Sunshine State a couple of weeks ago, and reported that nighttime temperatures reached 28°. Of course, it was probably about 0° here the same night.

When Texas Senator Phil Gramm announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination, I predicted he had at least as much chance of success as I do. I was right. Gramm has never impressed me, and he may be lucky to never have become a serious candidate, since he has more skeletons in his closet than an osteopath. No one's quite sure what went wrong with his campaign, but I suspect arrogance had a lot to do with it. When he boasted that he had the best possible friend in American politics, "ready money," things began to fall apart.

It's turning out to be a bad year for big spenders, with Gramm's failure and Steve Forbes's poor showing in Iowa demonstrating again that voters are smarter than some candidates think. Mostly, I hope these events portend the end of negative campaigning, which Forbes now thinks may have cost him votes. Of course, he's likely to have a revelation a week as the season wears on. Lamar Alexander is another story. His low-key approach gives the impression of someone who has well-developed positions and is willing to present them patiently until he is understood. That task was difficult until his strong showing in Iowa, because he didn't attract much news coverage or interest.

Skillful politicians, of course, can fool enough of us to win elections and then retreat from many of the positions that won our votes. The jury may still be out on Bill Clinton, but there have been many times when I felt that he conveniently forgot the promises he made in 1992. And, I believe if he had stuck to them, he and the country would be better off today.

As I was saying

Jack Hilsher

The first United States airmail stamps were issued in 1918 and featured a Curtiss monoplane nicknamed the "Flying Jenny." Today those three stamps in mint condition sell for far above their face value: the 6¢ orange goes for \$80; the 16¢ green is \$125 and the carmine 24¢ \$150.

But hold onto your hats! A printer's goof on some sheets of the 24¢ denomination inverted the airplane and a valuable rarity was born immediately. Today's Scott catalog lists this freak error at \$13,000. Of course, you can always dicker.

Interested? If so, I know exactly where you can get one. Or two. And not too far away. Hit the bypass to downtown Wilkes-Barre and visit the Miner Stamp Company, operated by Irwin Weinberg of Alderson and Kingston. Mr. Weinberg runs his business from the Mellon Bank Center, where he has been doing so since it was called the Miners' National.

Weinberg also trades under another name, "Irwin Weinberg Rareties," which explains why he owns Flying Jenny stamps and other rare oddities. It is doubtful you could buy any Elvis Presley

Close to home source of a world-class stamp rarity

stamps from this establishment. Weinberg depends mostly on mail marketing to a select list of long-time clients, who receive a list of specials at regular intervals. He also promotes this list with ads in leading stamp journals; he wrote the ad himself years ago and it pulled so well he has never changed a word.

Genuine U.S. Rarity



1918 "Flying Jenny" 24c airmail with inverted center

For safe-keeping, the bulk of Weinberg's stock is kept below ground level in a bank vault, where it resided when Hurricane Agnes did her thing in '72. He had time then to save everything by moving it to higher ground, although his most valuable item, the rare British Guiana 1¢ magenta, which he bought for \$270,000 in 1970, was stored in a New York bank vault. (After this auspicious purchase, he took it with him to philatelic exhibitions around the globe, a publicity ploy which probably enhanced its value tremendously.) In January, when the

Susquehanna River again threatened the Weinberg vault stock, he decided on that Friday afternoon he had better be safe than otherwise. The banks, however, had other ideas, and had closed a short time before he arrived. Weinberg thought, "I won't worry. I'm probably overreacting."

But by eight o'clock he changed his mind and called bank officials who agreed to open the next morning. Then midnight came and with the situation worsening they agreed to move everything up, met him at 2 a.m. and, once again, he moved everything out to higher ground.

That 1¢ British Guiana had been sold in 1980 for \$935,000 to an anonymous bidder at a New York City auction. It is said the new owner was so pleased with his purchase that he had it flown around the Statue of Liberty's torch before taking it home, where he slept with it under his pillow. Guess who?

John E. Dupont, that's who, the Dupont heir who allegedly murdered a wrestler at his Main Line estate in January. Long known as a world-class whacko, Dupont is also, I am embarrassed to relate, an avid stamp collector and philatelic exhibitor of some renown. But you can be certain Johnny won't be exhibiting again for some time to come.

Wonder where the 1¢ magenta will end up? Back in the vault?

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