

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Herewith a status report on items from previous columns:

#1 - ELECTRIC CARS are getting closer all the time. General Motors announced their "EV1" recently, first of the coming commercial cars designed strictly for battery power. They said, "There is an emerging market out there," and budgeted a healthy \$350 million clams to back their belief. The EV1 will be a neat little two-seater, will sell for \$30,000 and some change, and whiz 70 city miles between rechargings.

California's decree that 2% of cars sold there must be electric was recently revoked. Government pressure however is expected to continue, and to increase, and batteries are expected to improve if not experience a breakthrough.

So I was wrong about Colin Powell running. On this one I am right...trust me. The Age of Electric Cars is not only on the horizon its damn near here.

#2 - TOYS 'R AMAZING because the "Sky Dancer" sales for

Odds 'n' Ends update

the past season hit 75 million dollars, or 3X the estimate by its maker Galoob Toys. Dancer was, you'll remember, that "twirly" girl's toy which was shot in the air and spiraled down like maple seedlings. Actually Dancer did better than the figures show... for a two-month period last year it was the hottest selling toy in the country; never before had a girl's toy topped that list, except of course for Barbie.

In addition, other fallout has occurred - a Sky Dancer balloon showed up in Macy's parade and more than 50 products have paid to use Sky Dancer's logo. There is a new TV series in the works and the "Sky Dancer Ice Capade" begins a tour of 38 cities in the fall.

A final to-be-expected outcome and it probably happened in a planning conference. Someone, probably named Lizzy, said "Hey! I gotta great ideeyah! Let's come out wit a BOY flying toy! Whaddya tink."

You believe that I am making this up don't you? Wait... it comes out in April and they're calling it "Dragon Flyz!" (Just remember you read it here first.)

#3 - MORE ON MAJOR MILLER comes from the March issue of FLYING magazine. An eyewitness claims Miller's Norseman airplane was over the channel at the same time as a British Lancaster bomber re-

turned to its base after an aborted mission. The bomber was ordered to an area of the channel reserved for jettisoning bombs where it dropped its 10,000-pound load before landing.

After the bombs were released, crew members saw a Norseman below them that was caught in the blast and crashed. There were no other Norseman airplanes in the area at the time.

If true, this moans Miller and his crew were tragically killed by friendly fire.

#4 - EUBIE BLAKE, black songwriter, like Glenn Miller will be this year was featured on a U.S. stamp last year in the same "Musical Legends" series as Miller. Blake died 10 days after his 100th birthday and is notable for both songs and shows written during his long career. His "I'm Just Wild About Harry" became the campaign theme for Harry Truman's 1948 presidential bid, and probably helped it be successful. In 1978 the musical "Eubie" honored him on Broadway, and at age 98 he was awarded the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom.

He is included in this column, however, for that classical remark he made at age 97. When asked, "How old do you have to be before the sex drive goes?" Eubie's reply was, "You'll have to ask somebody older than me."



Members of the New Goods Committee for the 50th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction gathered recently to plan the campaign. From left, Ron Bartizek, modeling rain gear donated by Bassler Equipment; Peggy Harvey; Joe Dwinchik; Dave Duncan; standing, Lois Townsend, with a shovel also donated by Bassler Equipment. Solicitors are calling on businesses now, but you don't have to wait. Send in the coupon below, or call the library.

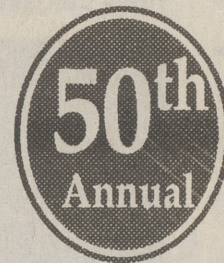
Library Auction Corner

For 50 summers, the people of the Back Mountain have come together to donate their goods, services and time to the auction block of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

The life of the library is a year-to-year proposition, and the auction is crucial to its operation. Twenty-five percent of the annual budget comes from the

auction. This year's 50th annual auction will be held July 10-13 at the library grounds on Huntsville Road in Dallas.

Any and all donations of cash or saleable items can help assure the continued fine service of the library to our communities. For more information, call the library at 675-1182.



July 10-11-12-13

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One-fourth of the library's annual budget comes from the auction. You can help. Your donation of an item or money will help your library survive and prosper.

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96 Huntsville Road, Dallas PA 18612

Call 675-1182 if you have any questions. Donations are tax-deductible.

This message donated as a public service by The Dallas Post

Mainstream



John William Johnson

"Parents should just turn off the television," Leigh says.

"And the video games," echoes Catherine.

"You guys are no fun," laments Candor.

It's a slow morning, Leigh walks from, one end of the salon to the other before answering.

"Look, the evidence is there," she says finally. "According to the Pennsylvania State School Boards Association, no matter how much homework the student did, how intelligent they were, or how much money their parents made, the relationship between how much TV they watched, and how well they did on test scores, was undeniable."

"How so?" asks Candor, fixing his hair in the long mirror which goes from one end of the Salon to the other.

Leigh is still pacing. "Well, they used test scores from other states, as well and Pennsylvania, and of more than 500,000 students in the sixth and 12th grades in California, for example, test scores declined steadily for each hour of television they watched."

"Really," Candor asks with his eyes, motioning a woman just it

Wanted, parents who want the job

needing a trim" into the chair.

"And what about those who use television as just a baby sifter?" Catherine wonders.

"I don't know," Leigh sighs. "What's going to happen to this country — I've just had a baby, and I'm seriously doubting whether we can develop future leaders if all of us are just sitting in front of the TV ... I read somewhere that there are now more than 170 million television sets in use. Leaders are going to be harder to find among people who are more used to being led than in leading."

"Put me in charge," Candor smiles. "I'll show you some leadership."

"We don't need the White House painted purple," Leigh smiles, "but we do need people who can figure out how to do things in a world which is getting more complicated by the minute."

Participatory government, essential to the maintenance of freedoms, has a good chance of succumbing to benign neglect, crushed under the cushions of all those watchers.

As well, studies have shown that by the time the average child graduates from elementary school, he or she will have seen more than 100,000 acts of violence on TV. And the average teenager will see nearly 14,000 sexual encounters on TV each year.

Parenthetically, and since

1960, illegitimate births are up 419 per cent, teenage suicides are up by 200 per cent, and violent crime by 560 per cent.

"Just listen to casual conversation on the street," Leigh nearly yells, "and you soon realize that very few young people today see a moral dimension to what they or their friends do ... and I'm not saying that kids should all go to church 5 days a week. I'm talking about simply knowing and understanding the difference between right and wrong." Her large, brown eyes are very wide now as she leaves for the tanning room.

More time, coupled with a belief that an automobile is now a "right" and not a privilege, along with expectations of excitement fueled by television, movies and advertising, mixed with the traditional rites of passage, and you now find young people with so much time of their hands that they spend much of it in front of the television where they are drenched in violence, or at the malls, where sexual imagery is used to sell virtually everything.

Leigh emerges again from the tanning room. "Parents have to be parents," she repeats. "Or at least regulate, if not turn off, the television. And buy your child a book. Or take her to the library."

Candor looks up from the hair he's cutting. "Or maybe just some plain, ordinary conversation — now wouldn't that be novel."

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