

**EDITORIALS**

**Kingston Twp. makes right move with vendor rules**

Kingston Township has moved quickly to level the playing field for resident businesses that must compete with transients such as the flower tents. Supervisors passed two ordinances last week, which together should assure that these stores on wheels don't hold an unfair advantage.

The new rules lift the fee temporary merchants pay to the township from \$10 per year to \$300 per month, and limits them to 30 days per year. While that may sound like a stiff charge, it is surely less than established businesses pay in rent or mortgage each month, not to mention taxes, utilities and other costs of doing business. Farmers selling their own produce are exempted from paying the fee.

The township also now requires that transient merchants conform to all zoning regulations for setbacks and parking, obtain state highway occupancy permits if located along a state road, and hook in to the municipal sewer or provide portable lavatories.

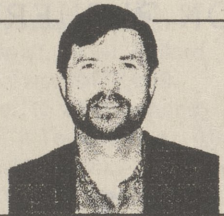
A few champions of unfettered free enterprise will object to these restrictions, claiming that temporary stands were the birthplace of many permanent businesses or that more competition is always good for the consumer and the marketplace. While both points are valid — though not always so — concerns for safety and the preservation of a stable permanent business structure outweigh them here. Transient businesses like the flower tent did far more harm than good in the Back Mountain, and if they were allowed to continue picking off customers during the best seasons, would eventually have gouged a hole in our retail community.

Appearances matter, too, and a town flooded with vendors in tents doesn't project a positive image either to its populace or those passing through. Of course, if temporary businesses siphon off enough profits, even permanent ones would look shabby, as funds for maintenance would dry up along with the morale of the business people.

Government surely should not coddle business, but neither should it allow private interests to overtake what is best for the vast majority of its citizens. In this case, making temporary merchants comply with the same rules permanent businesses must observe serves the wider community well.

**Publisher's notebook**

Ron Bartizek



Like many of our readers, Charlotte and I have enjoyed attending the library auction each year, browsing through the tents, munching on goodies and even offering a few bids. We are fortunate to live within walking distance, so it wasn't unusual for one or the other of us to be there for a couple of hours each night, most times with the kids in tow, or at least as close as we could convince them to stay. All that changed this year, when we agreed to lead the committee that solicits and collects new items to the sold over the block.

Now we have a different perspective on the auction. It's not just four days of fun and frolic; it's months of planning and hard work, capped by long nights spent on the block bringing out items for display and sale, moving sold merchandise to buyers' cars, worrying whether there's too much or too little to sell and wondering if the bids are really enough to meet the library's needs. And it's still fun, even if you end each night exhausted.

Hundreds of volunteers devote endless hours to the auction each year, and many of them have been doing it for many years — even a few decades — so our rookie year isn't particularly noteworthy. I even invited some new helpers this year, and they all showed up. But we haven't even scratched the surface of the potential in the Back Mountain, and not just for workers. Despite the crowds and the record sales, there still is a large group of people who don't attend the auction, and we won't quit until we figure out how to get them out to this unique event. That old saying was never more true: They don't know what they're missing.

**Letters, columns and editorials**

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.

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**LIBRARY AUCTION HISTORY**

Past chairpersons of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction gathered Friday night for a tribute. Pauline Kutz introduced them. From left, kneeling; Peggy Harvey, '95; Connie Scott, '90, '92; Joseph Killeen, '82. Standing; Bill Jones, '93; John Shaskas, '86, '88, '89; Bill Spurlin, '79; William Umphred, '73; Rena Rothschild, '78; Kerry Freeman, '77, '83. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

**LETTERS**

*I love you, people of the Back Mountain!*

Editor:

Last week my husband Joe and I worked together to produce a custom framed plain air painting to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. We borrowed reference photos from The Dallas Post newspaper files so that I could include several historical auction figures in the painting, and I want to thank all of you at The Post for your help and generosity in sharing your files with me.

To my incredulous surprise, a group of the Auction Committee

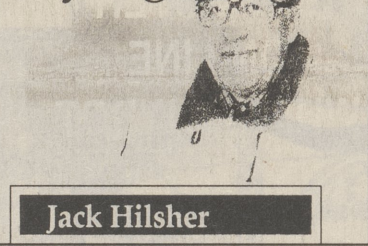
members, workers and attenders pledged the necessary funds for the purchase of that painting when it went across the auction block. They have donated the painting to the Back Mountain Memorial Library for permanent display. I want to publicly thank each and every one of you who gave money to that fund for your belief in, and appreciation of, my artwork!

The people of this community have always inspired me, and now I feel honored beyond my dreams. I have won over a dozen international art awards, but none of them have resulted in the plea-

sure and honor that came from hearing the applause of the citizens of my hometown community. In my opinion a few artists across the nation have been fortunate enough to find the friends, support and encouragement that I have found here in the Back Mountain. A simple "Thank you" seems so inadequate, but I want you all to know that my heart feels ready to burst as I write the words, "Thank you Back Mountain! I love you so much."

Sue Hand  
Dallas

**As I was saying**



Jack Hilsher

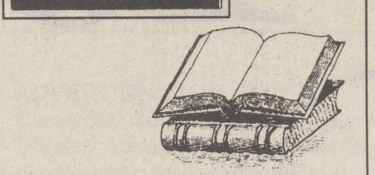
My dictionary defines the noun "pun" as "a humorous use of a word where it can have different meanings." Puns have also been classified as "the lowest form of humor."

Not so fast. I don't agree. Nor does James Kilpatrick, the noted wordsmith. In his language column he said "every lover of language admires a fine simile and an apt metaphor is a thing of beauty. But a truly clever pun is a work of art in a class by itself."

Never mind that my main man Fred Allen once said, "Hanging is too good for a man who makes puns; he should be drawn and quoted." (Some pun, eh kid?)

Seriously, if you must, all of us know someone who likes to pun whenever they can in ordinary conversation. I had a cousin in Canada who couldn't discuss any subject without punning. His were usually awful. (His folks had named him "Ewart," perhaps that was his problem. Where they got the name I'll never tell you but thankfully he got called "Bud" later on.)

**LIBRARY NEWS**



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club held their meeting on June 17. The secretary's report was given by Mary Lou Swingle, treasurer's report by Elin Northrup and the contingency report by Blanche Thompson. Mary Panaway reported on the new books. The next Book Club meeting will be on September 16.

New books at the library: "The Choice" by Bob Woodward is the behind-the-scenes story of President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole over the last two years. It is the personal and political story of how the nation's two top leaders prepared themselves to square off for the

**A collection of rather pun-gent plays on words**

Several years ago there was something called "The Pun Foundation" and they published a newsletter called "The Pundit" which contained most of the following gems. They certainly illustrate the Art of Punditry:

—One summer a prolonged drought played havoc with truck farms. Frozen food companies had a terrible year. Fresh peas were shriveled, eggplants were small, tomatoes and other vegetables died on the vine. As a result, many were culled but few were frozen. (Yes, I do hear the groans but I have no plans to stop.)

—The pastor of a Lutheran church in Philadelphia decided to go easy on low-income members of his congregation. Pastor Glenn Zorb recognized that not everyone is fit to be tithed.

—A farmer had a small stream running through his New Hampshire farm and his wife, an inveterate gardener, planted flowers along the stream and kept its borders clean and clear. This is because she loves to weed a good brook. (Stop complaining...they get worse.)

—Famed archer William Tell was also a championship bowler. His entire family excelled at the sport. As his fame grew, following the story of young Bill and the apple, every merchant in Switzer-

land recruited at least a cousin for his team. After a while it became hard to be sure for whom the Tells bowled.

—Stephen King tells about the smog in London getting so bad many of the city's famous rooks began to die off. London City Council, concerned because the birds were a good tourist attraction, found an American aviator who was willing to raise a flock of smog-resistant birds to replace the fallen fliers. But this supplier was so slow that the Council kept nagging him with insistent cables: "Bred Any Good Rooks Lately?" (Please stop that groaning.)

—You've heard about the king who stowed his throne in a grass house, so we can skip that one and conclude with the classic tale of the sultan's favorite dolphins. The ruler loved them so dearly that he kept a pride of lions to guard their lagoon. The dolphins could live forever on a diet of pigeon meat. One day, alas, the dolphins' keepers ran out of pigeon meat. In desperation, they tranquilized the lions and brought in gull meat instead. Police swiftly discovered their crime and brought appropriate charges. They arrested the keepers for transporting gulls across state lines for immortal porpoises.

Now...you'd think I should be sorry but I'm not.

**New book contains voters' info on Dole, Clinton**

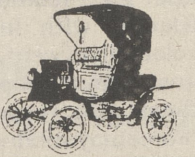
1996 presidential election. Never before has political reporting provided voters with so much authoritative, in-depth information on the candidates before a presidential election. The book sets the stage for the November 5, 1996 election with a study of the contenders in action - their discussions, conversations, assessments, disappointments, anger and triumphs.

"Dust and Ashes" by Anatoli Rybakov brings to life the seminal event of the modern era-World War II-from the Russian perspective. As Stalin and Hitler clash, Red Army tanks advance, and the struggle that changed the course of the 20th century plays out on the battlefields, the story brings the Soviet experience to its spectacular conclusion. The epic spans the most dramatic years,

1937-1943, as Stalin's egomania undermines the red Army-just when the Russian people face the Nazi onslaught.

"Grand Jury" by Philip Friedman reveals the dramatic form of the inner workings of the American criminal justice system as experienced by both prosecutors and defense lawyers. The reader is taken beyond the public face of the courtroom, behind the scenes of the only secret proceedings in American jurisprudence—the Grand Jury. It is a towering novel of corruption, conspiracy and courage that reaches all the way to the highest levels of U.S. and Chinese officialdom. It is a work of many parts and many levels, challenging the reader to take a trip into a new and threatening world where even angels might fear to tread.

**ONLY YESTERDAY**



60 Years Ago - July 24, 1936

**DROUGHT WORSENS**

Moving to forestall a possible water shortage if the drought continues, Dallas-Shavertown Water Co. this week leased W.C. Shepherd's large well in the rear of his home on Machell Avenue and has connected it to the main line so it can be used to supply homes in that section.

Population of the Sandy Beach Camp Sites broke the all-time record last week with 48 tents and trailers located there. There are more than 200 people living at the sites, with more on the way. Trailers are becoming more popular every year. Last year there were only two trailers stopping at the lake, there are seven here this summer.

50 Years Ago - July 26, 1946

**LEHMAN AVE. LOTS GET A FACELIFT, TRIM**

In line with its policy of raising the educational standards and at the same time improving the physical property of the district, Kingston Township School Board will embark on a program that will see all buildings improved and refreshed and several new faces on the faculty when school opens this fall. A call for bids has been issued for improvement to the grounds at Shavertown and Trucksville grade school buildings. Windows, doors and woodwork will be painted at the high school building.

Lehman Avenue had its facade lifted this week when all weeds in the vacant lots were cut down. Similar operations on other roads of the borough would be a help to chronic hay fever sufferers.

40 Years Ago - July 20, 1956

**CIVIL DEFENSE HOLDS NUCLEAR EXERCISE**

The Policy Committee for Dallas Area Schools will recommend continuance of Westmoreland and Dallas-Franklin-Monroe football teams of the new jointure at the Aug. 14 board meeting. Discussions to go along with the status quo on athletics was made at the Tuesday evening meeting at the administrative offices in Dallas.

More than 2,000,000 Pennsylvanians will lose have their lives in theoretical air attacks which form the basis of today's nationwide civil defense test, Chief Russell Honeywell, Dallas Borough Director of Civil Defense disclosed yesterday. According to Honeywell, today's "paper attacks" will explode 15 nuclear weapons on or over 11 Pennsylvania cities. The smallest of these will be single Hiroshima type atomic bombs dropped on Johnstown and Wilkes-Barre.

30 Years Ago - July 21, 1966

**VANDALS HIT AUCTION**

Jerry Gardner, chairman of the 20th Library Auction, has reported that this year's gross will be in the neighborhood of \$19,500 running close to last year's total of \$19,687. Expenditures are approximately \$4,000. Gardner said all revenue has not been turned in.

Vandalism followed the Back Mountain Library Auction this year, much to the dismay of those who are most interested in its success. William Bertl had cleaned up the grounds following three nights of action over the block. Tent flaps were secured and leftover items in the various stand were deemed safe for the time being. Mrs. Risley had her attention called to boys fooling around the stands. When she checked, she was shocked to find books scattered, some with pages torn, tents slashed, odds and ends items broken and tossed to the ground and the Forty Fort Ice Cream truck used on show grounds broken into with its windshield and window glass smashed.

20 Years Ago - July 22, 1976

**CABLE COMPANY FIXES TV PROBLEMS**

Back Mountain Telecable Co. reported this week that it had resolved the transmission problems on S. Pioneer Avenue and other sections of Trucksville prior to the Kingston Township supervisors meeting last week, at which time a letter from David Phillips was presented. The letter requested supervisors reconsider the company's contract with the township because of poor transmission and service.