

Book Club begins its new season

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library circulated 7,484 items during the month of February: 3,940 adult books and 3,533 juvenile; 177 book club books, 40 interlibrary loan transactions and 404 reference questions asked. CD's circulated 72, videos 330 and audios 421. Books added: adult 180, juvenile 22, books withdrawn, adult 108 and juvenile 46. New borrowers joining, adult 49, juvenile 60; re-registrations adult 170 and juvenile 99.

Book Club met for the new season on Monday, March 17. Membership total for 1997 has reached 140 with \$1,490 collected to purchase new books for the Book Club shelf. These books are picked by the book club selection committee and placed on the special shelf for book club members only for the first six months and then revert to the regular library shelves. Membership dues is \$10 for a single and \$15 for a double membership and entitles the member to take two book club books each time they come to the library. The April book club meeting will be held on Monday, April 21 at 1:30.

New children's books at the library: "Some Smug Slug" by



Pamela Duncan Edwards is an alliterative tale with a surprise ending. Smirking and self-important, the slug slithers up a highly suspect slope. Will the slug stop? Why is everyone screaming at the slug? He is a very smug slug.

"Fanny's Dream" by Carolyn Buehner is the story of Fanny Agnes, a sturdy farm girl with a big dream. She is going to marry a prince. When she hears of a grand ball, she thinks her dream is about to come true. If it could happen once upon a time, it could happen again. She is in for a surprise!

"I Love You the Purplest" by Barbara M. Joosse is a beautiful story of two brothers and their mother. As the family spends the day fishing, the two boys vie for attention. They ask Mama who rows the fastest, who is the best fisherman, who finds the best worms and "Who do you love best?"

"The Secret Shortcut" by Mark Teague is the story of Wendell and Floyd, who have a problem. Hard as they try, they can't seem to get to school on time. So one morning, Wendell comes up with a solution—a shortcut so secret that only he knows about it. It seemed simple, but soon became an adventure.



Organizers of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association Easter Egg Hunt gathered with some of the candy and prizes that will be on hand for the event. The hunt will take

place Saturday, beginning at 12:30 p.m., at the Penn State campus in Lehman. If weather doesn't permit an outdoor hunt, it will be held in the gymnasium.

Lots of prizes and loads of fun at Easter Egg Hunt

The second annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association, will have plenty of goodies for every child, as well as a great number of large prizes that will be won by drawing.

Last year, organizers underestimated the number of children who would turn out, and candy was rationed in order to assure that every child went home with

something. This year, BMBPA members have prepared hundreds of goodie bags in advance, with more in reserve.

All bags will contain coupons good for a Frostie at Wendy's, a kiddie cone at Mark II, a kid's meal at TGIFriday's, a Burger King hamburger and either a Disney figurine of back pack.

Large prizes include stuffed animal Plutos, courtesy of

Telemedia, a child's playhouse from Humphrey's, savings bonds from Franklin First Savings Bank and Core States Bank, and gift certificates, including three for a year of free cable television.

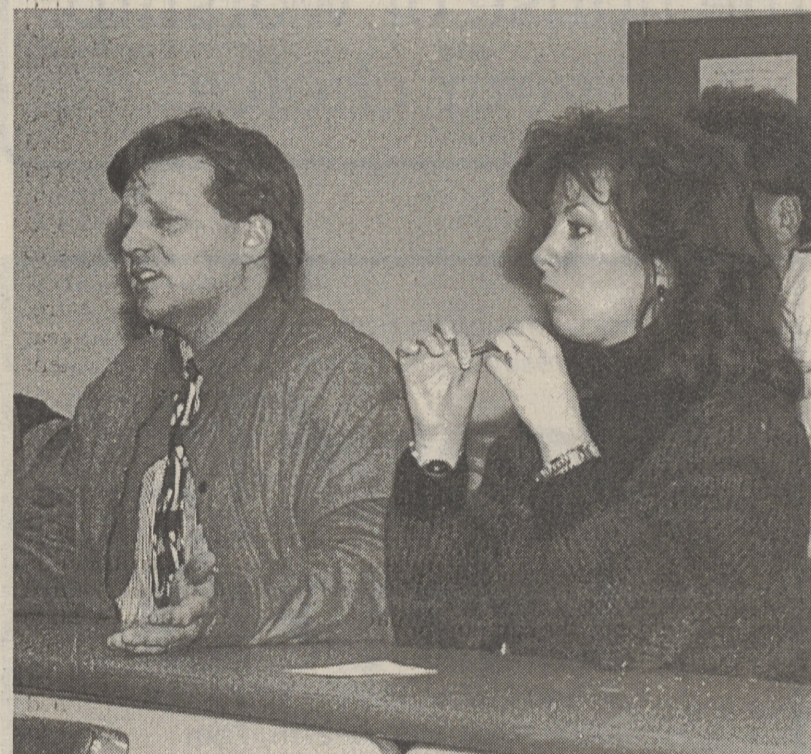
Festivities begin at 12:30 Saturday, at the Penn State campus in Lehman, with a magic show and drawings. The egg hunt will organize at 1 p.m. There will be free popcorn and balloons, and

pizza, soda and cotton candy will be on sale.

The Easter Bunny, a Honey Bear, a Purple Dinosaur and a blue cookie monster will be on hand to help children enjoy the afternoon.

Children will be divided into three age categories for the egg hunt: 1 to 3; 4 to 6, and 7 to 10.

Each child will receive a ticket for the drawings on arrival.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

Joe and Chris Rowski of Hemlock St. in Oak Hill share their feelings of disdain for National Utilities, Inc. water company.

Water co.

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are not why we are here. We know what NUI is, we're trying to look where we're going to go in the future," said Newcomer.

Throughout the meeting many people called for PUC to force NUI out of business. Katherine Sophy, PUC attorney, explained it was not that simple.

PUC cannot keep pressing for the \$5.1 million because NUI simply does not have it. "At first we were just going forward to get the \$5 million. If we did they could file bankruptcy and in that case no lien or lawsuits could be paid and they could still operate as a water company," explained Sophy. "So, we're trying to find some other way to go about a settlement."

Lou Mazza, a PUC auditor, said NUI did not make a profit last year and has "negative" assets.

One option is to put the company under receivership, in which an outside person is hired to run the company. Sophy said this would greatly increase monthly rates because the company would have to spend a lot of money just to get the system up to standard and thus is not the best option.

Anthony Lomma, NUI attorney, said NUI does not see itself being in the water business for much longer. Lomma said Pennsylvania-American Water Company and United Water Company have shown interest in NUI's Oak Hill system.

Joseph Pagoda, whose 1995 formal complaint against NUI resulted in a \$2,000 fine for the company, thinks NUI does not deserve to make a profit if they sell. "If they sell the water system, every penny should go right back into Oak Hill," he said.

NUI has promised PUC that it will replace the water main on Hemlock St. in Oak Hill by August 1 at an estimated cost of \$20,000. According to Newcomer, the Hemlock St. water main has been given priority status due to its deplorable condition. A drive down Hemlock St. shows evidence of past

"I feel like I'm in a third world country. I have no water pressure."

Tom Pavlico
Oak Hill

repairs. The Hoyson family on Hemlock St. still has a large mound of dirt on their front yard after a Nov. 12 visit from NUI to fix a water leak. Barbara Hoyson told the Post in November they have had approximately 35 main breaks in 12 years.

According to Douglas Ide, Lehman Twp. supervisor, the water system was put in 45 years ago by his father. "I don't call that a sound water system," he said referring to the aged and inferior pipes.

"We know what NUI is, we're trying to look where we're going to go in the future."

Dave Newcomer
Public Utilities Commission

Dave Sutton, Lehman Twp. supervisor, was skeptical if NUI would actually keep their end of the deal. "I don't think they'll do anything to fix (Hemlock St.). The only way we can get them to do anything is threaten them with a lawsuit," he said.

Al Babetski, Oak Hill resident, captured the general sentiment by saying, "NUI should not be in the water business. They are profit motivated. They do nothing unless compelled by PUC or residents."

Newcomer said, "We will continue until there is no NUI."

Medical center holds open house March 26

Back Mountain Medical Center, 100 Upper Demunds Road, Dallas, will hold an open house of its newly established Community Room on Wed., May 26, from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Wyoming Valley Health Care System has made the Community Room available in an effort to encourage and support educational, civic, and cultural activities in the Back Mountain and surrounding communities. The room may accommodate up to 150 individuals and is fully equipped with a speaker's podium, slide projector, overhead projector and laser pointer. The facilities are also handicapped accessible.

For reservations or for additional information, please call 675-4330, extension 247 or 249.

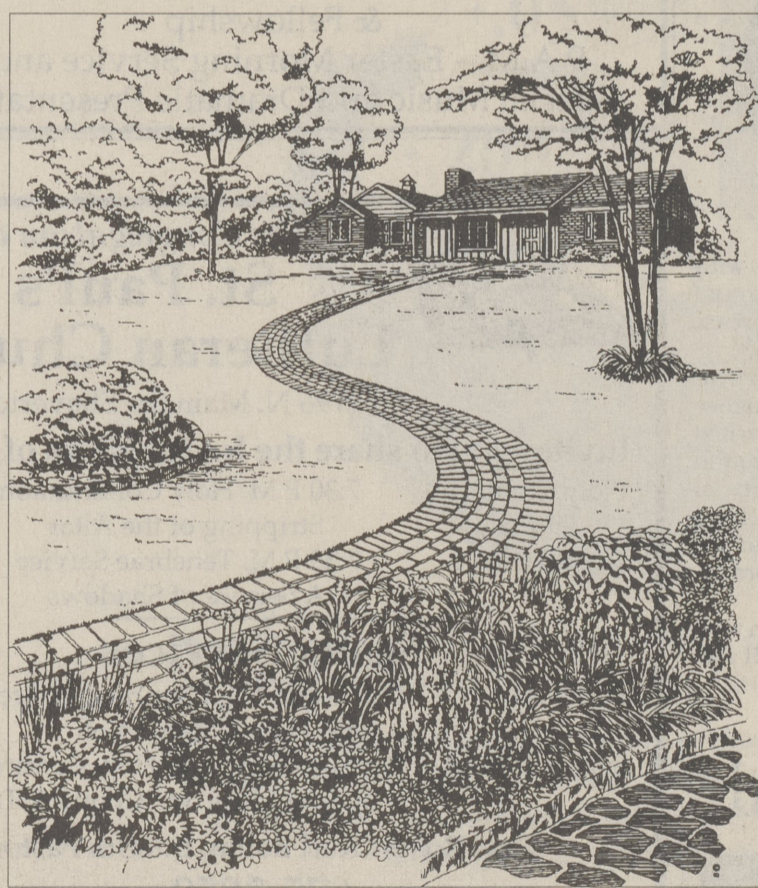
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