

EDITORIALS

Volunteers just do it for their communities

When the last limousine pulls away from the "Volunteer Summit" in Philadelphia, many of the participants will jet back to palatial homes, secure in the knowledge that they have done something to make a difference in the lives of the downtrodden, ill and poor. President Clinton, smug in the belief that he has focused the attention of American citizens on an oh-so-important aspect of our culture, will claim that we have made "a good start" at solving the problems of our society, thanks to prodding by the government. Even some in the volunteer community will praise the effort, if for nothing else because it drew attention to what they do in anonymity day in and day out. And they'll all be right, as far as they go.

Ours is perhaps the greatest volunteer society in the history of the world, but not because government officials have decreed that it be so. Americans put in more hours working for causes, organizations and their neighbors than do citizens of any other modern state, continuing a tradition of cooperation that began in the earliest colonial times, when there was no government to which to turn in hard times, the hardest of which meant certain death. In response early settlers, first on the Eastern coastline and later across the vast expanse of Western prairie and mountains, worked together towards common goals, one of which was to give everyone the opportunity to live proudly and independently. Most of the people who reached that goal have offered the same assistance to those younger or less fortunate, as long as they showed the kind of gumption it took to build a successful life.

Times have changed. The United States has become the most prosperous nation on the planet, perhaps the most prosperous ever, but there are still needs that aren't met by official institutions. Volunteers continue to perform vital services, from fighting fires to bringing a few moments of cheer to elderly people in nursing homes to staffing libraries. Most of us help in whatever way we can. To some people that means giving money, for others it's donating time or skills where they are needed. You sometimes hear a bit of reverse snobbery from the time-givers toward those who "only" donate money, but that's not appropriate because both are needed, and are critical to the effective delivery of volunteer services.

A "Volunteer Summit" wasn't necessary to create a spirit of neighborliness, at least not judging by what happens every day in the Back Mountain. Take a spin around town and you'll see candy strippers at the Meadows, fire fighters and ambulance crews responding to emergencies, aides in the schools, Little League coaches and countless other examples of volunteerism. If there's anything that needs reawakening in much of the nation, it's the spirit of community that is the impetus for much volunteer activity. Too many people have disengaged from the life of their towns, seeing little beyond their blocks or even their own home and land. This is in part a consequence of our mobile society, in which it becomes difficult — even painful — to develop close ties knowing they will be broken with the next job transfer. Perhaps it's time we saw all America as our community, and our contribution as valuable in one place as in any other.

A photo-op summit meeting with a bunch of bigwigs doesn't do much to create volunteers, and perhaps that's as it should be. When volunteering becomes something to do to gain recognition, when it becomes the province of politicians looking for approval, it will lose its appeal to those who are its backbone — the men, women and children who take some money from their pockets or some time from their busy days and give it to others simply because they have it and someone else needs it.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



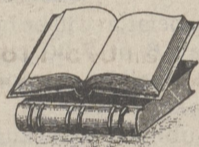
It's the time of year for the great-equalizer sport, golf. People who enjoy the game are slowly making their way out onto the fairways and greens, hoping for a sustained period of tolerable weather so that at least they can be miserable in comfort. Golf is a unique game; you alone are responsible for your performance, which doesn't prevent most golfers from finding someone or something to blame for a bad shot or a disappointing round. I've played off and on for many years, never enough to get very good. But, every time I play I hit at least one shot that makes me think I could be outstanding, and "it keeps me coming back," as the saying goes.

I agree with those who say Tiger Woods is the best thing to happen to the sport in years, but his appearance doesn't come without some cost. Courtesy and decorum have been hallmarks of golf, among duffers and pros alike. That hasn't changed among the players on the tour, Fuzzy Zoeller's unfortunate remarks notwithstanding, but I see a shift in the fans. Woods's ability to hit monstrous drives has accelerated a trend toward overemphasizing power that has been evident for years in the barrage of ads for ever-longer balls and clubs. A power game attracts power fans, and they tend to be more boisterous and less courteous than those who appreciate a good chip shot as much as a 350-yard drive. I even heard fans shouting "wimpy" after Frank Nobilo hit a layup shot out of the rough on the way to winning last weekend's tournament. I hope that was an aberration; a good part of golf's appeal is that it and its fans aren't like sports where power, strength and size matter more than skill, strategy and heart. As Woods attracts more young people to the sport, he and the powers that be had better make sure they are taught how to act on a golf course, and not just how to play.



Ready and waiting...for next year, we hope. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring an English Tudor Miniature Home in the display area at the library. The house is loaned to us by Lois Hughes of Dallas.

The house was made by Fred Hughes, husband of Lois in 1993. Fred did not use a pattern for the house, because it was expensive to buy; he built it free hand. The date appears on a calendar in the kitchen.

There are 10 rooms in the house, 3 bedrooms, a nursery, sewing room, library, living room, dining room, kitchen and attic. Authentic miniature furniture is featured in every room. There are two large trees in the front of the house, a bird bath on the lawn, newspaper and kitten on the front porch. The nursery includes a play pen, crib, high chair, rocker and toys. The attic has a Chinese checker game, old pumpkin and Mr. and Mrs. Rabbit.

The miniature home is to announce the Miniature Home Show sponsored by 'Dream Houses in Miniature Club' on Friday, May 9 from 1-7 and Saturday May 10 from 10-5, at the Eastern Star Building in Dallas.

The proceeds will benefit the Back Mountain Memorial Library Children's Wing campaign. Refreshments will be available by

Miniature house on display

the ladies of the Eastern Star. The cost is \$3 adults, and \$1 for children 6 to 11. A 50¢ discount coupon may be picked up at the library and taken off the cost of admission to the show.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library was represented at the Gregory A. Skrepenak Foundation, Inc. Kick-off Celebration on Friday, March 21 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Carriage Stop Inn in Wilkes-Barre, by Martha Wheeler, Librarian and Nancy Kozemchak, Business Manager. This foundation was formed in January of 1997 to assist children, students, and local charities to help the less fortunate. Greg's mission is to provide an opportunity of positive growth and enrichment to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Several fund-raising events have been planned including a golf classic on June 30th.

New books at the library: "The Law of Love" by Laura Esquivel is a story set in Mexico three centuries hence, when humanity has discovered that everyone goes through 14,000 reincarnations in order to achieve a perfect fusion with their twin soul. The heroine is an astroanalyst, who uses music's power.

"Pretend You Don't See Her" by Mary Higgins Clark is a brilliant and terrifying novel. Set in New York and St. Paul, it is the story of Lacey Farrell, a young rising star on Manhattan's high-powered and competitive real estate scene. Lacey becomes a witness to a murder and hears the victim's dying words.

"American Pastoral" by Philip Roth is written with deep understanding and great story-telling

energy, with enormous power and score as he focuses on the counterforces: the longing for an ordinary life. It is a vivid portrait of how the innocence is swept away by the times in an America berserk.

Hail the Chief" by Robert Dallek is an unprecedented and engaging examination of presidential excellence—and its less distinguished counterpart. Dallek addresses five themes that have been typically manifested in successful administrations—vision, pragmatism, consensus, charisma and trust—and traces how they have been played out by the 41 men who have attained the highest rank of public service.

"Faith and Treason" by Antonia Fraser is the story of the Gunpowder Plot, the 17th-century terrorist conspiracy. In England, November 5, is Guy Fawkes Day, when fireworks displays commemorate the shocking moment in 1605 when government authorities uncovered a secret plan to blow up the House of Parliament—and King James I along with it.

"American Tragedy" is the uncensored story of the Simpson defense, by Lawrence Schiller and James Willwerth. It is the untold story, from murder to acquittal, written from deep within the Simpson defense by a master reporter. Each turning point in the months-long investigation and trial is recounted in authentic, often startling detail in the words of Simpson's confidants, lawyers, special investigators and expert witnesses, woven into a brilliant narrative.

LEGISLATORS' DIRECTORY

Federal Officials

Congress

Representative Paul E. Kanjorski (Democrat)
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200
Washington: (202) 225-6511
10 East South Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701-2397 or 2429 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
116 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

Senator Rick Santorum (Republican)
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Fax: (202) 228-4991

State Officials

State Senator Charles D. Lemmond (Republican)
(717) 675-3931
22 Dallas Shopping Ctr., Memorial Hwy., Dallas PA 18612-1231

State Representative George Hasay (Republican)
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752
144 North Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Representative Phyllis Mundy (Democrat)
283-9622 or 655-3375
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - May 7, 1937

MOVIE DEMONSTRATES COOKING TECHNIQUES

"The Bride Wakes Up" a talking motion cooking school, presented by The Dallas Post at the Himmeler Theatre Wed., Thurs., and Fri. See the demonstrations of many new and fascinating recipes in close-up technicolor. Free admission.

Unless the directors of Kingston Township School Board reconsider their defiance of the new Pennsylvania Teachers' Tenure Act their failure to renew the contract of Supervising Principal J.A. Martin may develop into a court test of the strength of the new law. Directors who reappointed all teachers except Mr. Martin on Wednesday p.m. have failed to file any charges against him. They had until midnight last night to give him his contract. If no recognition of his claim is made mandamus proceedings will be instituted against them within a few days.

50 Years Ago - May 9, 1947

KIWANIS PROVIDE MOMS A RIDE ON MOTHER'S DAY

Dallas Township School Board at its meeting Tuesday evening, discussed and tentatively adopted its budget for 1947/48 term. A resolution to invite school directors of Back Mountain districts to discuss common problems was tabled after opposition of Directors Elston and Hughey.

Any aged or infirm mothers in the Back Mountain area who wishes to attend church services on Mother's Day and has no means of transportation, will be taken to church and returned home by members of the Dallas Kiwanis Club. Fred Anderson, president of the club said all pastors have been informed so that they can notify the Kiwanis of any semi-invalid or infirm person who might want to take advantage of the offer.

You could get - Rib roast, 49¢ lb.; hamburger, 37¢ lb.; new Texas carrots, 2 bchs. 15¢; U.S. #1 potatoes, 5 lbs., 25¢; Supreme Bread, lg. loaf 11¢.

40 Years Ago - May 3, 1957

MISERICORDIA DEDICATES BUILDING TO BISHOP

Bishop Hafey Memorial Science Building will be dedicated on College Misericordia campus Tuesday at 4 with His Excellency Jerome D. Hannan D.D. Bishop of Scranton presiding. The modern brick and glass structure of panel wall construction will house the physics, chemistry, biology and home economics departments.

Beretta Construction Co. has started excavation for the construction of a new addition that will house eight or more alleys at Crown Imperial Bowling Alleys.

30 Years Ago - May 4, 1967

BMT LIBRARY KICKS OFF ANNUAL AUCTION

Back Mountain Memorial Library will initiate its annual summer event with a Library Auction Kick-off Dinner May 24 at Irem Country Club. Harry Lefko, auction chairman announces that Robert J. Reed will be dinner chairman. Mr. Lefko says there will be no speeches, the most painless dinner on record.

If all goes according to plans, Evergreen Cemetery Lot Owners Association will become a reality this afternoon and the cemetery will become their property as of this date. A meeting with Mayor Frank Slattery, Loren Steinhauer, son of the present owner and representatives of lot owners committee has been arranged for 2 p.m. at the office of Atty. Mitchell Jenkins at which time negotiations are to be completed and deed transferred. Sale price was set at \$1,200 by Slattery at an earlier meeting with the group.

20 Years Ago - May 5, 1977

LAKE-LEHMAN STUDENTS GO TO NIAGARA FALLS

Five buses including 140 members of prize winning Lake-Lehman High School Band, parents and chaperones will leave from lake-Lehman High School May 6 for Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada where they will compete in the National Blossom Festival. They will also appear in the New York Bicentennial and Miss Niagara Association Parade on the American side of the Falls. The trip is financed by the Band Sponsors Association with help of the band and the community.

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