

LETTERS

Is the recycling system working for us?

Editor:
Once we have felt rather righteous.

Before recycling started in Dallas, our children lugged every bit of used writing paper to Hi-School, where it was collected. Then recycling emerged. All of us were happy. Our youngest son has been into environmental studies at U. of Maine for several years.

The first garbage and recycling company to serve the area was quite impressive. They had compartments on their truck, where the different recyclables were sorted into on the spot. After a lot of noise about costs, the company was replaced. Then the usual garbage trucks emerged, where everything is dumped in together and compressed. It is questionable how this mess is sorted out eventually, but then who are we to question things.

The other day I observed that our container full of newsprint went into the regular garbage truck.

In the beginning there was an article in the paper (can't remember if it was the Dallas Post) how newsprint was piling up in warehouses, with no place to go. Finally we read that some of it went to Korea, since the Koreans had de-inking facilities. So we use un-renewable resource like wood, which still does not regenerate fast enough and should be preserved.

I still have to find recycled paper in stores, but perhaps I am looking in the wrong places.

Then there is plastic. Before general recycling some groceries collected discarded plastic bags. They don't any longer. Since these bags have a quality number on them, we put them out for recycling. Sometimes they are taken and sometimes not. Perhaps these numbers should be larger and more prominent. They are awfully small and in a fold. Also, it is not very funny that the majority of plastic items sport numbers that are not included in the pick-up.

So I shop by checking numbers on the bottom of containers and switch to glass or cans if possible, but these increase the weight of transport etc., etc...

There must be a glut in plastic since the ads for it have increased. Maybe again there are not enough recycling facilities or the industry just wants to go on as usual and use up more mineral oil than warranted.

Packaging has become outrageous: Huge trays and boxes packed in yards of wrap. Most annoying is the practice of weighing produce at the check-out with all this wrapping on.

We still recycle diligently but feel rather deflated.

Recycling does not seem to save resources but rather increases usage and ultimately garbage.

Perhaps your paper could look into some of this.

Thank you.

Helga Dannert
Dallas

Cupinski elected chairperson of county fair

Donna Cupinski, Dallas, was recently elected to chair the 1997 Luzerne County Fair. The annual event is held the first Wednesday after Labor Day and is celebrating its 35th anniversary.



DONNA CUPINSKI

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as General Chairman of the 1997 Luzerne County Fair and am especially excited to do so in our 35th year," said Cupinski. "The fair has held some very special memories for me ever since I won my first ribbon there many years ago," continued Cupinski.

Some of the events held in 1963 at the first Dallas Rotary Fall Fair are still part of the Luzerne County Fair, 35 years later. The tradition of the crowning a fair queen is very much part of the Luzerne

County Fair. The contest has expanded to include cities and towns throughout Luzerne County, each invited to send a representative to compete for the Luzerne County Fair Queen title. The winner then goes on to compete in the fair state finals.

The Family Day events include a Luzerne County Fair Queen, Junior Star and Little Fair Prince and Princess Contest. "The 1997 contests promises to have some new and interesting changes," noted Cupinski.

Hobby tents and arts and crafts exhibits, merchants' displays and group exhibits are larger now, and very much part of the tradition. Fireworks lit up the sky in 1963 and will again in 1997.

Cupinski is a member of the Back Mountain Jaycees and has dedicated much of her time and talents to the community.

She joined the Jaycees in 1985 and by 1994 was elected as the 58th president of the Pennsylva-

nia Jaycees. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Dallas Area Fall Fair Board in 1986, and has served as secretary and vice president.

She was general fair co-chairman in 1991, served as Print Advertising & Premium Guide chairman since 1988, and has worked on numerous other committees over the years. Cupinski is the owner of DMC Graphics in Hanover Township.

"The 35th annual Luzerne County Fair will be held in honor of the thousands of past and present volunteers who have given their time and talents to make the fair the tremendous success it is today," commented Cupinski.

"This year's fair promises to be very special and exciting and I invite you to be part of it as we celebrate 35 years of memories," said Cupinski.

The fair is held at the fairgrounds located on Rte. 118 in Dallas/Lehman.

Library Auction Corner



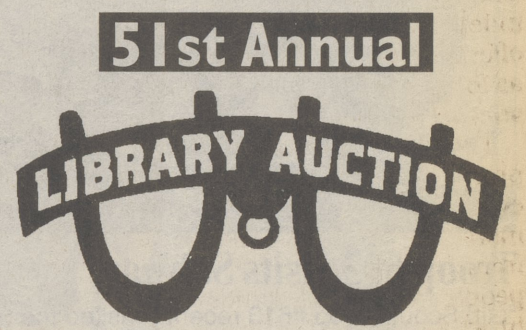
Two of the many antique items that will be sold over the block at the 51st Annual Library Auction. Donations of new and good used items are welcome now.

For 51 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 51st 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.

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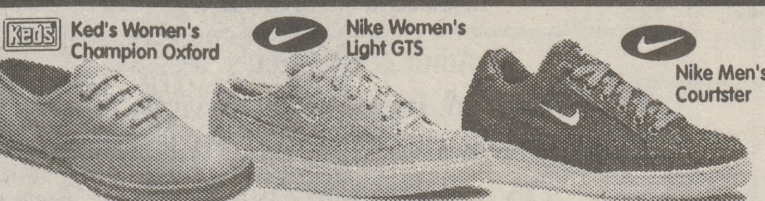
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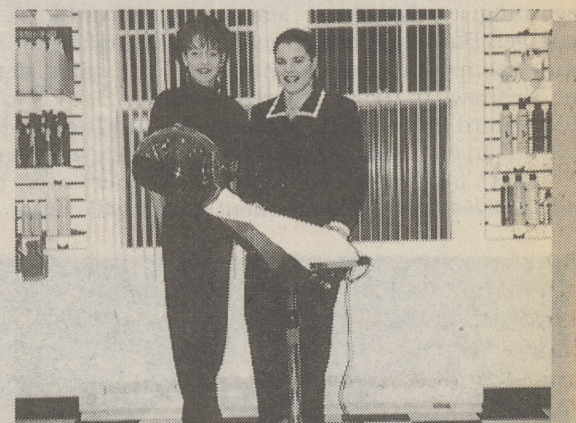
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