



Library Auction Committee

Committee members who organized the 1997 Back Mountain Memorial library Auction include, from left, seated: Ernest Ashbridge, Pauline Kutz, Barbara Lemmond, Joseph Stager, Peggy Harvey, Ruth Tetschner. Standing: Sybil Pelton, Cleda Shelby, Charlotte Barizek, Lauren Allen, Jeff Matus, Diane Adams, Barbara Kohler, Debbie Kinney.

For chairman, lots of hard work for a good cause

Joe Stager is the man. The chairman of the 51st Library Auction that is. For Stager, being this year's chairman seems to be the next step in a long career of volunteering with the auction.

"I've been going to the auction since I was a little kid," said Stager, a Rotary Club member. "It's been a tradition in my family." He has been actively involved with the auction for more than 10 years.

The job of chairman is vast and time consuming, but Stager says the committee chairpersons make his job much easier with all the time and effort they expend. "The many who help year after year are a very valuable asset to the chairman," said Stager.

Stager, who is a past president of the library board of directors, starts to gear up for the big weekend in January. "It's quite a job taking items and putting them in the proper area," he said.

As the bidding, buying and eating begins, the memory of hard work seems to block itself out. Stager describes the time-honored tradition as a truly special community event. "It's such a fun time. It's special because it has been going on for many years," said Stager. "You get to see old friends and make new ones."

Stager never has to be reminded why all the work is worth it. "The library is where it all starts for our children. For the



Joe Stager is chairman of the 1997 Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, ably assisted by Ruth Tetschner and other volunteers.

library to have such community support and involvement is tremendous," said Stager. "Our library is probably one of the few that has year round support."

Stager hopes the auction raises at least \$60,000 this year. Last year was the auction's 50th anniversary and the library made a cool \$65,000.

But, Stager has a partner in all this. Ruth Tetschner, library board president, has been named the co-chair for this year and she is loving it. Tetschner, a self-described "teacher for life," just retired after serving the Dallas School District for 27 years, and hasn't slowed down a second as she jumps into her new role as co-chair and devout library volunteer.

"As a youngster I loved to go to the library. I was a voracious reader," said Tetschner, who understands the important relationship between the library and school.

She is also impressed by the abundance of community support that surrounds the library. "What a wonderful community from the pledges for the Children's Wing

to the annual support of the auction," said Tetschner. For her, the commitment and enjoyment people experience while raising money at the auction is what makes it worthwhile. "It's great to be involved with the auction," she said.

Tetschner says she is taking notes from Stager to prepare her for the chairmanship, which she is entitled to next year. "I have a tradition to uphold," she

also has helped raise \$10,000 with student Read-A-Thons and selling bricks for the Children's Wing.

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