



# Back Mountain Library facts and figures

## Did you know that the Back Mountain Memorial Library:

- Opened in an old home on Main Street in Dallas in October 1945 with 5,000 books, 2,000 of which were lent by the state.
- Ended its first year of operation with 886 cardholders and more than 10,000 books.
- Once served five Back Mountain high schools, two consolidated elementary schools, and 18 one-room schoolhouses.
- Lends materials for literary programs to student teachers from nearby colleges.
- Presently carries a total inventory of 62,303 items including books, magazines (many title-form Teen to Time), records, compact discs (popular, country, classical and new age), audio cassettes, eight newspapers (including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Philadelphia Inquirer), and videotapes.
- Has a large collection of current best sellers and recreational fiction.
- Can access books, magazines, and other materials from any Lazerne county library through its low computers.
- Has Internet/World Wide Web access available for patron use.
- Can obtain books, magazines and other materials from libraries throughout Pennsylvania through the inter-library loan service.
- Circulates nearly 89,000 items every year and answers over 5,000 reference questions every year.
- Has 11,489 active borrowers.

is Lazerne County's fourth largest library. Serves nine municipalities comprising the Dallas and Lake Lehman school districts: a population of more than 34,000 people.

is assisted in its programs by an army of 47 active volunteers who donated 3,934 hours of service last year.

Will receive state funding of \$31,945 only 14.7 percent of its total operating budget of approximately \$234,788.

Has received pledges of \$20,500 this year from the nine municipalities it serves.

Received 25% of its budget last year from the auction (which is celebrating its 51st anniversary this year), one of the oldest events of its kind in the Northeast.

According to Library Director Martha Butler, revenues from the 4-day auction help the library operate throughout the entire year. The balance is made up from other fundraising activities, rent from the day-care center housed on the second floor, and private donations.

Expects more than 10,000 people to attend the auction, which will offer more than 1,000 items for sale.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library offers a wide range of services to all age groups, including:

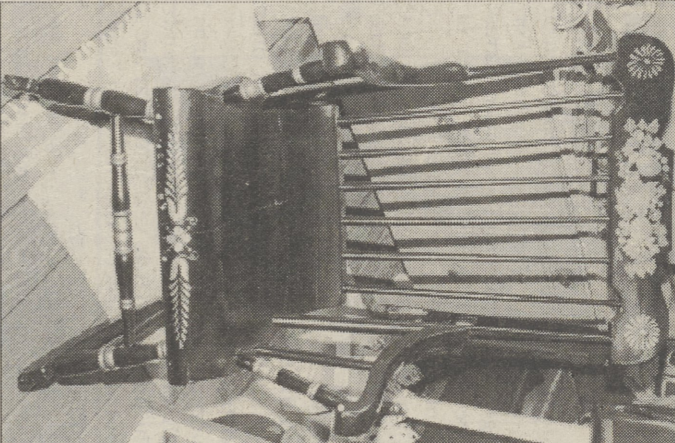
- **Children:** Year-round children's programs, story hours, special observances for Children's Book Week in November, a preschool program, a summer

reading program for elementary school students, nature videos, school class visits, children's stories on video and books on cassette (which can be read and listened to). The summer reading game has enrolled 240 children this year.

Adults: Music compact discs, books on tape, large print books, eight newspapers, educational videotapes, Internet/World Wide Web access, and inter-library loan services.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library also provides the following services:

- **Community Outreach Program:** In conjunction with the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, the library operates a loaner service that provides wheelchairs, crutches, canes and other items for sick or disabled persons. This service is free of charge.
- **The Community Room** is open for use by civic and non-profit organizations for a fee of \$25.



Antique items such as this chair make up about half the items that will be sold.

## Nearly Old

Once again Maryann Daily is using her magic paint brush to transform older collectibles into pieces of art. Daily, who has been working with the auction for 15 years, describes Nearly Old merchandise as, "not quite antique," but definitely unique and charming.

Traditionally the booth sells a lot of odd pieces, such as lamps, furniture, silver and China place settings, linens, wood items and older canning jars. Beautiful embroidered handkerchiefs and old fashioned aprons can be found, along with old wooden ironing boards

complete with a painted scene by Daily. Daily does double-duty for the auction by helping in the antique department too. "Ernie (Ashbridge, antique



chairman) gives me lots of small pieces to sand, refinish and paint," she said. She decorates up to 30 pieces for the auction. Daily still loves doing her part for the library. "I love the library, the people and the camaraderie. It's great that it all goes to benefit the library. I'll do as much as I can for the library. It's a very important part of life," she said.

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