

Auction

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ready he and his partner, Bill Gabel, have collected more than 540 pieces, ranging from china closets to a beautiful Victorian velvet couch, not to mention the Tiffany and Waterford which will be up for bid.

"I started in August of last year and keep going until the barn is full," said Ashbridge, who thinks the nicest piece in this year's collection is a round marble-top table. "I just tried to get them as many things as possible," he said modestly. Last year the booth raised \$34,000 for the library.

During the hustle of pre-auction preparations, Daily happily took time out to talk about Ashbridge. "Ernie is the hardest worker going. He is a diehard," she said of the man she's worked with for 11 years. "He's really kept the auction going. He does everything and works year round. He helps the chairman and up at the block."

Daily couldn't say enough about Ashbridge. "I think that he and Bill are great, great people. They're very nice and appreciative of the work I do," said Daily, who often refinishes and paints some of the antiques.

Nancy Kozemchak, who has worked at the library for 30 years, said Ashbridge will be sorely missed. "He's going to be very very tough to replace. All year long he and Bill are on the prowl for suitable objects," she said. "He's been saying, 'This is my last year, this is my last year,' for a few years. There comes a time no matter how much you love something when you have to retire from it. Even though we'll miss him, we understand he needs time for other things. He's done so much for the library."

Ruth Tetschner, co-chair of auction, is sad to see Ashbridge leave. "I wish he would stay on. I know it's hard work. He does

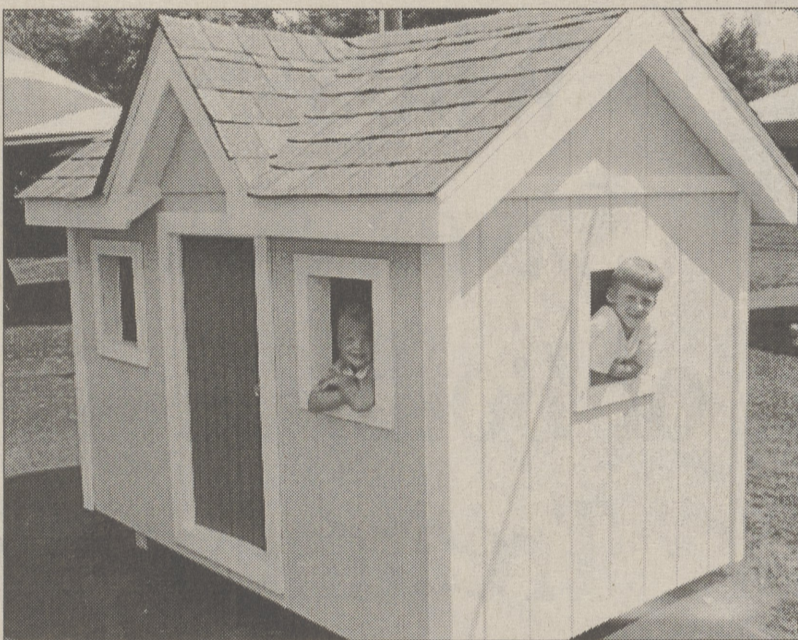


Ernest Ashbridge handed an old Stegmaier beer case to Jack Johnson Monday, as volunteers prepared for the 51st annual library auction.

POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

an extraordinary job and finds excellent items," said Tetschner, who believes a replacement willing to put as much time and effort into the auction as Ashbridge does will be hard to find.

Ashbridge said the library's value to the Back Mountain keeps him coming back every year. "I feel dedicated to the library. It does wonders for the community," he said. "For me the most fun is seeing the prices. Since I know what they cost, sometimes I'm pleasantly surprised and other times I'm not so pleasantly surprised." Ashbridge says he'll still be very involved with the auction, though not to the extent he has been for so many years.



A children's playhouse will be a featured item at this year's library auction. Scott and Sara Skammer demonstrated its capacity for fun Monday.

POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Fresh air

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list of guidelines for safety and some rules.

The Fords are expecting seven-year-old Andrew Sims in a couple weeks to return to their home for the second time.

For many host families the program is a way to learn about a different kind of life and a different culture. "I wanted it to be an intercultural experience for our children," said Dave Ford.

Jill Snyder of Dallas agrees. She believes it's important that her nine-year-old son, Jeremy, know people from other cultures and backgrounds. "My son has no knowledge of any other cultures. I explained to him what the word prejudice means. I want him to base his opinion on his own observations," said Snyder. This year, William, 7, of the Bronx has come to spend two weeks camping, fishing, biking and swimming with the Snyders.

Despite some small lessons in sharing, William, Jeremy and his four-year-old sister, Melissa, are having a great time. "It's good here. I like petting the dogs (two Greyhounds and a puppy)," said William. He said he has some trouble swimming, but is looking forward to fishing.

Snyder said most kids are scared of dogs because they are usually guard dogs in the city.

The Snyders hosted a Fresh Air Fund child about six years ago

and thought it was a rewarding experience. "I want to show them that there is something outside of New York City and give him a place to run, a safe place," she said. William said he hopes he can come back next year.

Beth Kerr of Harveys Lake and her eight-year-old son, Paul, are happy that Robert Livingston from Manhattan could come back for a second year. "It's the right thing to do. For my son, it's important to know what it's like not to be an only child," said Kerr. "He gets to learn about other places. He hears first hand about different noises, smells and people."

Kerr said she saw a notice last year about the fund and thought it would be great, especially since Paul had been tugging on her sleeve for a brother or sister. "I thought it would be great to get him one for two weeks," she said.

After overcoming a slight case of the homesick blues, Robert and Paul are spending their two weeks together swimming and riding bikes. "It's fun. I like playing and going to the pool," said Robert. "It's different here. It's quiet. It's noisy where I live."

Paul likes having a buddy to hang around with. "I feel a lot more braver (with Robert here)," he said. "I'm not as lonely."

"Both kids will have great memories. It's a fun way to spend the summer," said Kerr.

Lehman

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Kathy Williams, Lake-Lehman business manager, the district is in debt \$8.2 million due to such projects.

Dallas has an outstanding debt of \$5.3 million, said business manager Charlotte Williams. Williams said the debt includes the construction of Dallas Elementary, the middle school and additions to the high school.

A new school to replace Westmoreland Elementary and other projects will cost the Dallas district about \$8 million, a good portion of which could be paid from the approximately \$5 million fund balance. Lehman is faced with replacing its dilapidated middle level building, which when combined with other work is esti-

mated to cost \$8 million to \$12 million. The district has no fund balance.

Lake-Lehman board member Karen Whipple said some of the district's financial situation is the result of a very small commercial tax base. "There are mostly land-owners in the district," she said. According to the 1990 census, the median family income in the district is \$33,458 compared to \$41,857 in Dallas. The median property value is \$57,483 while it is \$91,400 in Dallas.

The \$17 million budget for 1997-98 provides some breathing room for Lake-Lehman if teachers agree to a contract that does not increase salaries.

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Civil War Roundtable to meet July 16

The July meeting of the Wyoming Valley Civil War Roundtable will be held on Wed., July 16 at 7 p.m. at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, Rte. 415, Dallas, across from Picketts Charge restaurant. Scheduled program will be three short lectures by Matt Lippo, who will speak on James Longstreet, Reese Pelton, who will deliver a talk about a local Civil War diary and Mark Kahn, who will speak on the Battle of Sporting Hill.

The meeting is open to all who have an interest in the conflict. Also to be covered will be the Summer picnic, T-shirts, raffle. A possible concert by the 97th Regimental String Band and upcoming programs for the fall. As usual, there will be a 50/50 raffle and the book/movie exchange. For information write to Box 613, Dallas, or call 675-3803.

American Legion to sponsor flea market

Harveys Lake American Legion will sponsor a flea market, Sat., July 12, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the post home Rte. 415, Harveys Lake. Tables at \$10 may be reserved by calling 639-5500 or 675-0104.

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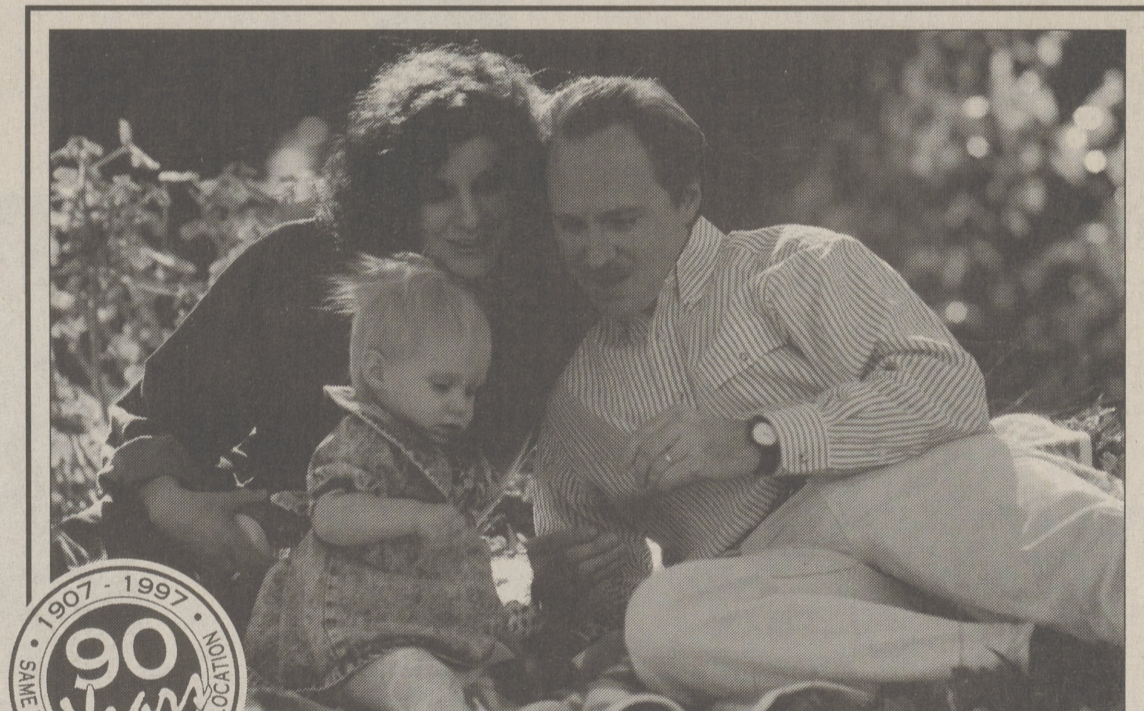
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