

Crafty way to raise funds

The Dallas High School Soccer Club held its annual craft show fund raising event Sunday at the school. The gym was filled to capacity with vendors, volunteers and buyers.

In photos, clockwise from right: Matt Kertesz, left, Pam Castellani and Josh Katyl helped set up tables; Heather Adams doled out change to Joseph Homanko Jr.; Cindy Katyl arranged baskets; Rita Recchia, left, and Lynn Natress put out the goodies.



POST PHOTOS/ CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Anthracite Rubber keeps business all in the family

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. - Through adversity and a changing marketplace, the Donnelly family has proven to be a resilient force in the business world. For more than 30 years, they have owned and operated Anthracite Rubber, an industrial and hydraulic hose distributing company.

The family venture started in 1965 when Frank Donnelly Jr. came home from New Jersey, where he worked for National Hose. He took the skills he learned there and started his own distributing company on the family farm on Bunker Hill Rd. near Frances Slocum Park.

Al, his brother and current company president, did sales for Anthracite Rubber in the early years. The company proved successful.

Life took an unexpected turn for the family when Frank suddenly died. The company was left to his father and Al took on the job of manager. In 1982, Al bought Anthracite Rubber from his father. Loretta Kijek, Al's daughter, worked on and off through school and began full time as treasurer in 1986 after earning a degree in accounting from King's College.

The small operation also employs Colleen Campbell, Loretta's childhood friend; Campbell's brother Joe; John Kijak, Loretta's brother-in-law; and Bob Gober.

"It really feels like everyone is a part of the family," said Loretta, who enjoys working with her dad and close friends. "I think we are rare. I like working with my dad.

He's a good teacher. The only drawback is that there are no family vacations. Someone has to be here," she explained, with a smile.

Colleen likes the relaxed atmosphere. "I love working here. It's relaxed and I've known them my whole life," she said. Plus, everyone lives just a hop, skip and a jump from work.

"It works out just fine," said Al, from behind his desk. "It's been family since day one. We don't know anything else."

The company has had to become more specialized in recent years because more businesses are selling hose. "Now you can get hoses at Wal Mart. Everybody takes a little piece of the business," said Al.

Anthracite Rubber specializes in distributing industrial and hydraulic hoses to factories, contractors and stores. They cut and assemble hoses to meet customer specifications.

The stock of hoses is kept in the large family barn that once housed dairy cows. They have a large inventory of a variety of fittings that are affixed to hoses.

The demand dictates what is needed and Anthracite Rubber has been keen enough to pay attention to the changing market. "Thirty-three years of knowledge helps," said Al.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Donnelly Sr. live in a 200-year-old farmhouse next door to the business; Al has coffee every morning with his parents and eats lunch with them. Family is a way of life and work for the Donnellys.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Standing outside the family and business barn, from left, front, Al Donnelly and Loretta Kijek. Back, Joe Campbell, John Kijak and Colleen Campbell.

Frances Slocum needs volunteers

Volunteer opportunities are available at Frances Slocum State Park for the 1998 season. Volunteers are needed for trail maintenance, as campground hosts, teaching assistants, or to perform light office duties. If you are interested in serving as a conservation volunteer or would like more information, call Kathy Kelchner, at 696-9105.

Easter reading at library March 28

Children ages 4 to 8 are invited to enjoy Easter holiday readings at the Back Mountain Memorial Library in Dallas on March 28, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. "Holiday Storytime" is sponsored by Arts at Hayfield. For more information, please call Linda Major at (717) 450-3102.

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