



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Marshall Rumbaugh, left, Paul Rodda and Marilyn Rudolph posed in front of the entrance to the children's wing, designed by Rodda and surrounded with a wood sculpture created by Rumbaugh.

Children's wing

(continued from page 1)

cation.

"The programs will be literature based and help the children learn to read," said Rudolph. Encyclopedias and non-fiction programs will also be available.

Melanie Evans practically grew up in the library. "I started coming to the library when I was 7 years old. Then I volunteered here in high school" said Evans, who is now on staff. "I love working someplace that I've known so well for so long."

Evans is happy to see the building improving and expanding for the children. "With the new wing, story hour can go on and other children can be in the room," she said. There is a built in retractable divider that can be used to make two rooms within the wing.

"We are now able to accommodate a lot more people and there is room for more books," said Evans. "It means a lot now that I'm here. I see children that I remember from when I was in high school and they were tiny. This generation of kids is really lucky to have this. They are lucky to have a whole, big room," she said.

Staffer Anna Korey also said the additional space is very beneficial. "We all wondered how she (Rudolph) fit all those books in the old room," she said, with a laugh.

Ruth Tetschner, who is acting volunteer librarian for Martha Butler, who is on maternity leave, said the children's wing is due to the strong support of the commu-



POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Celebrating the library's success

Formal dedication ceremonies were held Tuesday for the children's wing of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Pennsylvania First Lady Michele Ridge joined in the event.

In top photo, Mrs. Ridge greeted Jessica Rudolph, granddaughter of children's librarian Marilyn Rudolph. At right, she chatted with Dr. Wallace Stettler, who led the fundraising campaign.



Fundraising

(continued from page 1)

campaign won't end now that the wing is complete. The money that is left will be placed in an endowment fund to buy children's books. Debbie Kirkwood, library bookkeeper and executive assistant to Dr. Stettler, said a donation was also received specifically to buy computer equipment for the wing.

In order to raise funds, Stettler assembled four committees to handle different size donations. "We put together a team and we built a list of names," he explained. After that, the different committees worked to contact people on those lists by letter, by phone, and even by visiting in person. The four committees were headed by John Gager, Kathi Flack, Jack Meeks, and Beth Rosenthal.

John Gager, who serves on the library's board of directors, headed a committee of 12. He explained his involvement with the campaign. "I've always had an interest in the library and I grew up in the Back Mountain," he said. "The room was inadequate for doing story time and we ran out of shelf

"How can you argue against enhancing literacy?"

John Gager
Fund committee leader

space. How can you argue against enhancing literacy?"

The inadequacy of the children's wing was the driving force behind the fundraising effort. When Dr. Stettler was approached to head the campaign, he said, "I really don't need another thing." But he went on to say, "I went down and saw what they had to work with (at the library) and I thought, I have to try." Dr. Stettler moved to Dallas in 1990 after retiring as president of Wyoming Seminary.

The \$200,000 Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Grant that was received from the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gave the group a head start for

meeting the \$500,000 goal. But Kirkwood said, "\$300,000 seemed like an enormous task. I was dumbfounded. Wallace Stettler was not. He knew."

If the library's inadequate space was one driving force of the campaign, Dr. Stettler had to be another. "Dr. Stettler asked me and you can't turn him down," explained Kathi Flack. Flack headed another committee in their fundraising efforts. "He's a pro when it comes to fundraising. Once you become involved, you want to see it to fruition. He is a motivating force."

Ruth Tetschner, former principal of Dallas and Westmoreland elementary schools, led another area of fundraising—a brick campaign. Tetschner, along with Kathleen Savage, went to the seven elementary schools in the Back Mountain to pitch a Readathon. Elementary students who signed up found sponsors. If a student raised \$100, he or she could purchase a brick in which up to three lines could be carved. The bricks

will be put in a sidewalk near the new wing.

"The children could feel they did something to help," Tetschner said. "They really shared in creating (the new wing)." The student Readathon raised \$10,000. The committee also made bricks available to the community to buy and raised an additional \$20,000.

"I was pleasantly surprised that a community would get behind it in such a way," Gager said. "We had support from the state, local organizations, and individuals."

Other committee members were less surprised at the campaign's success. "We had a great response," Beth Rosenthal said. "I've been involved with the library for a long time and I know the community appreciates what it has. The Back Mountain is pretty good about that sort of thing."

Committee members agree the changes were well worth the effort. "It looks great," Rosenthal said. "There's such a difference between the old library and the new library."

Construction

(continued from page 1)

hit our target very well." This was a tight schedule, but the board wanted to minimize the impact of construction on the library, the auction, and the community.

Senate Construction, for example, says Stager, was very conscientious about not disrupting the flow of the library during construction. Down-time was minimized so the building could stay on schedule. Tony Bevilacqua was the project manager for Senate. "They were really good people," comments Paul Rodda, the architect of the addition.

The project encountered one huge surprise during the excavation.

The library always knew there was a "soft spot" in the corner where the new foundation was to be located. Every few years new soil was added to the spot, which would then settle down again.

During the first two weeks of digging, the contractors discovered a set of six septic tanks, which had originally served the building when it was an elementary school. According to Rodda, they then uncovered a cesspool, 25 feet deep. "We had to fill it with 220 tons of concrete," adds Rodda, "which is 110 cubic yards."

The surprise was costly. "It cost us some \$20,000 to fill that void,"

says Stager.

Community involvement was key to making the project a success. Volunteers from the Rotary Club put all of the books, shelving, filing cabinets, and desks into a storage trailer. More volunteers packed up books, and created a new office for the library staff. "Community support has been super," says Stager.

"It's symbiosis," says Rodda, speaking of his relationship with the library. "We raised six kids through the library. My wife works there. I've worked for the auction since 1962. I worked two years for them pro bono. It's in the blood."

The addition was planned with the present and future needs of the library in mind. It is designed to hold a second story, if the library chooses to add one. "We created a basement," says Stager, "which will be utilized as a bookstore for used books to add to library income."

The addition will mean few long-term changes for the library. "The layout of the auction may change," says Stager, a Jackson Township resident. The construction added blackout and leveled some of the grounds. And all the work has been worth it.

"It's a delight to walk in the front door," says a smiling Stager.

Guide

to the Back Mountain

PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 20
AD DEADLINE: WED., MAY 6
Call 675-5211 to reserve ad space

- 6th Annual Issue
- 5,000+ Distribution
- The Directory of What to Do and Where to Go in the Back Mountain

The Dallas Post

The Best News in the Back Mountain!

Distribution: Guide will be included in all copies of The Dallas Post, then distributed free to real estate and bank offices, restaurants and other high-traffic locations.