

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

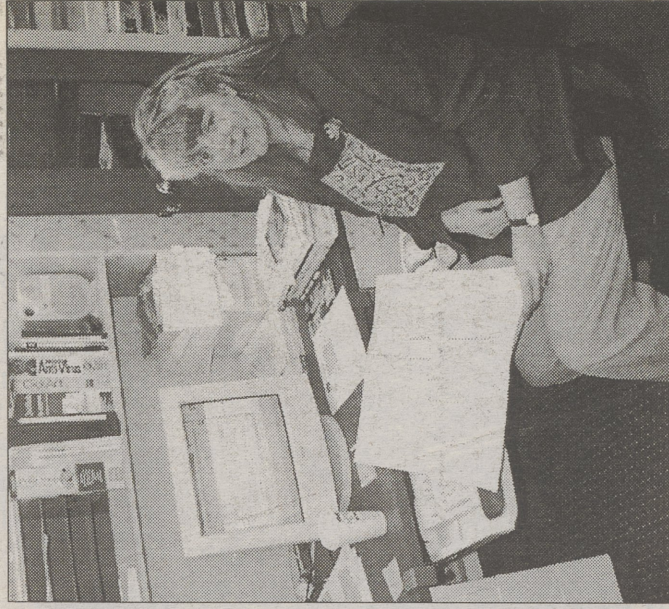
AAA Auto Club	26
Apple Tree Nursery School	20
Back Mt. Harvest Assembly	8
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	29
Bishop O'Reilly High School	21
Stella Bost Interiors	25
Bridal Trinkets	10
Chvoitzkin Cleaning	28
J.B. Clark restaurant	27
Commonwealth Telephone	9
The Cottage Gift Shop	18
Country Club Men's Shop	15
Dallas Area Municipal Authority	28
Dallas Little People	10
Dallas Parcel Service	29
Darling & Son	19
Disque Funeral Home	17
The Dough Company	13
Drs. Greenhalgh and Cippolina	25
Harveys Lake Beach Club	27
Rep. George Hasay	18
Hillside Farms Greenhouse	12
Huntsville Golf Club	31
Just Between Friends	24
LA Tech Services	17
Lutheran Brotherhood	10
Luzerne County Community College	16
Major Performing Arts Center	2
My Creative Heart	28
Parker Fuel	19
PA American Water Co.	29
Parker Fuel	24
PG Energy	7
Pioneer American Bank	19
Pizza Perfect	4
C.A. Reed Party Store	11
Dr. David Spring	17
TGI Friday's	15
Top Value Kitchens	4
Town & Country Cleaners	5
Travel Junction	24
Trucksville Nursery School	22
Tunkhannock Manor	27
UGI	14
Vacation Station	25
Voice Mail Services	32
Volunteers of America	30
Worship Services	22,23

THE BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS BOOK

Age of Innocence/Susan's Secrets	25
An Affair to Remember	12
Anthraxite Scenic Trails Ass'n	21
Back Mt. Auto Specialists	21
Back Mt. Memorial Library	11
Back Mt. Regional Land Trust	8
Back Mt. ServiStar	20
Back Mt. Tobacco	15
Back Mt. Veterinary Hospital	5
Big Apple Bagels	22
Business Administration Services	22
Campbell Business Machines	26
Caron Counseling Services	31
Century 21, Ruth K. Smith	32
College Misericordia	11
Design by Donnelly	19
Erwine's Home Health Care	18
Fino's Pharmacy	28
Four Star McCabe Real Estate	8
Grange National Bank	29
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber	23
Grotto Pizza	30
Hill the Florist	26
Hillside Farms Dairy	27
Humphrey's Bootery	30
Huntsville Nursery	12
Sen. Charles Lemmond	30
Lewith & Freeman Real Estate	6
Mailboxes Etc.	24
Northeastern Eye Institute	9
Tom Ochman Coins & Jewelry	3
Offset Paperback	28
Overbrook Inn/Bistro Bistro	13
Peking Chef	23
Penn State Wilkes-Barre	14
Pet Care Associates	18
Slocum Insurance	19
STAR Rehabilitation Services	2
Summit Bank	31
Susquehanna Asset Management	4
Dist. Justice James Tupper	31
Twin Stacks Development	10
Valentine's	4
Wendy's	7
Wyoming Valley Abstract	22
Wyoming Valley Physician Network	19
Lisa Zavada, State Farm Ins.	21

Back Mountain's charms may be overwhelming its appeal

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Dallas Post Correspondent



Linda Thoma, executive director of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, works out of the organization's office in the former Kingston Twp. municipal building in Trucksville.

BACK MOUNTAIN - Tell anyone in Luzerne County that you live in the Back Mountain and they picture a bucolic area, with little traffic, and plenty of open land. But as more and more people are attracted to those same features, they are gradually disappearing into a mixture of housing developments and shopping centers.

Geography is destiny, at least for the Back Mountain. With its rolling hills, plentiful streams, and dense woodlands, the Back Mountain was first developed as a timber and farming area. Towns grew, and small businesses emerged. Following the Agnes Flood of 1972, however, houses and employers began in earnest to replace forest and farmlands.

The fresh air and open spaces attracted families relocating from congested towns to the communities of Trucksville, Shavertown, and Dallas, among others.

Their pride in the more rustic nature of the county developed into an appreciation for the natural environment and their surroundings. This encouraged even more people to move, and more houses, and more businesses.

But this very development is a threat to the landscape that attracted people in the first place.

As the Back Mountain struggles to find its role in the greater Wyoming Valley, the issues of land management and regional planning advance further to the forefront.

Farms are gradually disappearing from the Back Mountain. Just look at the names of some of the housing developments: Bulford Farms, Orchard View Terrace, Applewood Manor.

Norm Darling, Jr., operator of Darling Farms, does not fear the developers. Buyers have approached many times in the past, but the Darlings are not interested in selling. The farm has been in

"Since 1972, our road has four times as many houses."

Norm Darling Jr.
Dallas

their family since the 1920s. "Nobody can afford it," says Darling. His family owns approximately 40 acres in Dallas, and runs a retail store and a greenhouse.

Darling comments that a lot of younger people don't want to farm. "It's hard work and long hours," he says. But Darling acknowledges the changes coming. "Since 1972, our road has four times as many houses," he says.

The statistics reveal the changing nature of farms in the region. In 1982, there were 553 farms in Luzerne County. In 1992, there were 376, a drop of 32 percent. Only 217 of those are full-time farms. Acreage in use decreased from 67,345 acres to 49,850 acres, a drop of 26 percent.

In Dallas, the Census of Agriculture counts 39 farms, yet 10 of them contain less than 50 acres. In Shavertown, the count is seven total, and Harveys Lake boasts 14.

Continued on page 5

Guide

to the BACK MOUNTAIN

is produced and published annually by
BARTSEN MEDIA, INC.
Publishers of *The Dallas Post* and *The Abington Journal*
Offices at 607 Main Road, Dallas, PA 18612 and
211 South State St., Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Phone (570) 675-5211 or 586-7822
for information about advertising in
Guide to the Abingtons
and *Guide to the Back Mountain*

Foster Care Services
Can you give the gift of love to a child?...Become a foster parent and change the future!

Vehicle Donation Services
Donate your car or truck... Proceeds are used to help provide care and services to those most in need.

Volunteers of America
For more information on volunteer opportunities or the services offered, please call 825-5261.