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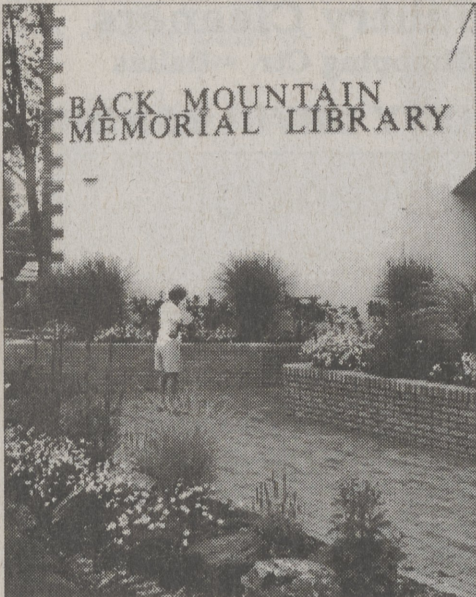
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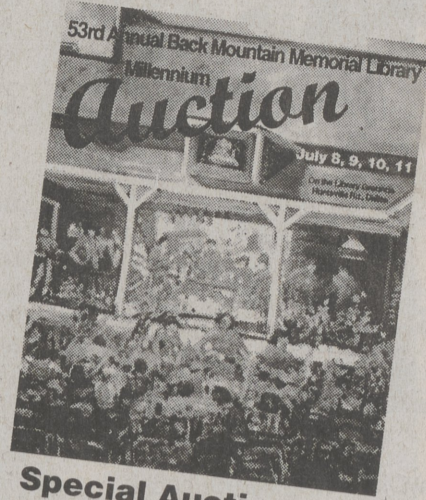
Dallas, Pennsylvania

July 7 thru July 13, 1999



Going to any height for the auction

Dallas artist Sue Hand says she'll do anything for the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, even overcome her fear of heights to find a new perspective for her annual auction painting. Last week, she took a trial run in a bucket donated by Conrad Electric for that purpose. She'll be hoisted up Thursday afternoon to make sketches and take photos she'll use to complete the painting, which will be done on solid ground. In photos, Sue first stopped to admire the new library sign and landscaping before climbing into the bucket and up and away.



Special Auction section inside

HS coaches keep salary inequities on the sidelines

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - High School coaches at Lehman and Dallas high schools find the joys of working with young athletes offers a balance to the frustration of salary inequities.

Area school districts, like those across the nation, pay football and basketball coaches a higher rate than mentors who lead other athletic teams. In some cases, those coaches make twice as much as their colleagues.

The discrepancy is baffling, even to some of those who receive the higher salaries. "Gee, I don't know why it's done," said Richard Gorgone, head football coach at Lake-Lehman High School. "I know that it's been that way for a long time."

The historic popularity of the sports may explain how the salary imbalance began. "Traditionally, I think more money goes to big time athletics. Think of the Penn State football program - it certainly offers more scholarships than say the baseball team," said Gorgone. "I think the salaries may reflect those attitudes but it's important to know that none of us is out there because of the money."

The Lake-Lehman field hockey coach echoes those sentiments. "I planned my pregnancies around the field hockey season," said Jean Lipski. "I just love the sport and I love the kids. But obviously it would be nice to make what the football coach makes."

Lipski explained that coaching salaries are a part of the collective bargaining agreement and there is little room for negotiating the pay of such a small group of district employees. "No one is going to vote against a contract just because some coaches are paid less than others," she said.

Most of the Lake-Lehman

"I just love the sport and I love the kids. But obviously it would be nice to make what the football coach makes."

Jean Lipski
Lake-Lehman field hockey coach

coaches receive a preset percentage of their teaching salary as compensation. "They (the percentages) are just numbers someone decided were appropriate years ago," said Lipski.

Because of the way the system is designed the gap between the highest and lowest paid coaches grows through the years, since the same percentage increase is applied, but means more money for a higher salary.

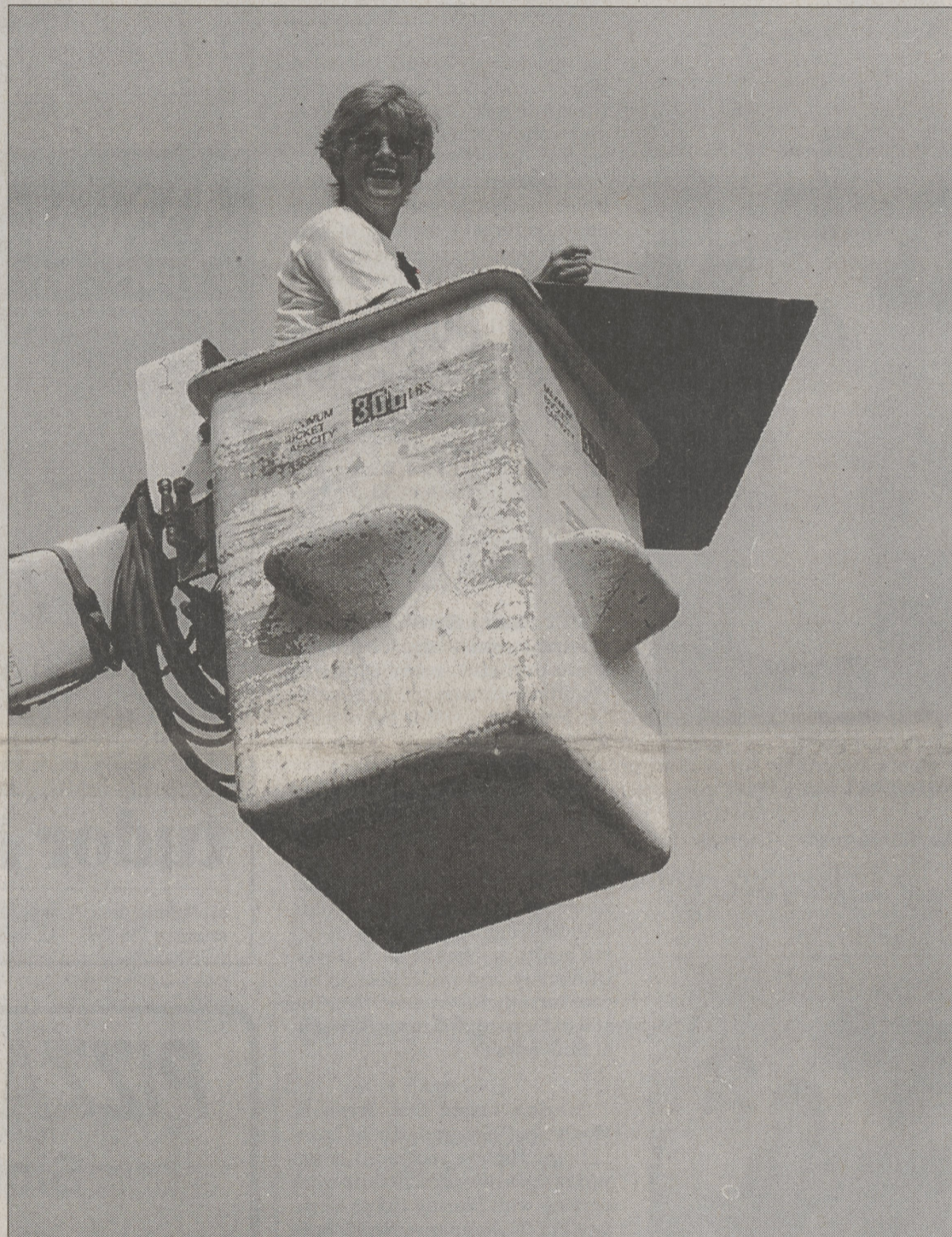
The Dallas football coach is in a different situation. "I don't teach in the district so I can't really compare my salary to that of any other coach," said Ted Jackson. "But I don't know if anyone puts more time in than the football coaches do week in and week out. One of our guys figured that we make about 8 cents per hour when you consider all the conditioning and preparation that goes into making the football program a success."

After 17 years as head coach, Jackson said he still finds it rewarding. "You have to get some sense of enjoyment from coaching or you shouldn't be doing it," he said. "Every once in a while you come across a goofy parent, but for the most part the players and their families are very supportive."

The coaches and advisors in See COACHES, pg 12



POST PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



In 1972, auction weathered Agnes, and found a permanent home

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - In the more than half-century history of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, the year 1972 stands out, for two reasons. Because of the flood in June that followed Hurricane Agnes, that year's auction was the only one to be held in the fall. More significant from the auction's standpoint, 1972 marked the debut of the first permanent auction barn and refreshment stand.

The auction started in 1948, and was held for the next 24 years at a barn on Lehman Ave. in Dallas, owned by Howard Risley, publisher of The Dallas Post. As the event grew, crowds spilled across the street onto what was then a

"I'm certainly glad it's still useful to the community."

John Gregorski
Designer of 1972 auction barn

vacant lot, and booths and an auction stage had to be constructed each year, then taken down and put away.

Lee Eckert remembers those years too well. "Every year was like a new experience," he said. The booths, made from wood and pipe bolted together, would be stored in pieces in the barn after each auction, but the parts were not clearly marked, so the next July volunteers would sort through the pieces and figure a

way to put them together again, though perhaps not the same way. "Somehow they ended up to be stands," Eckert said.

Things had changed as the 1972 auction approached. The Risleys had died, and their property was up for sale, so a new site had to be found. Clarke Bittner

was chairman that year, and the question, he said, was, "Where will we hold this historic event, that is, in my opinion, America at its best?"

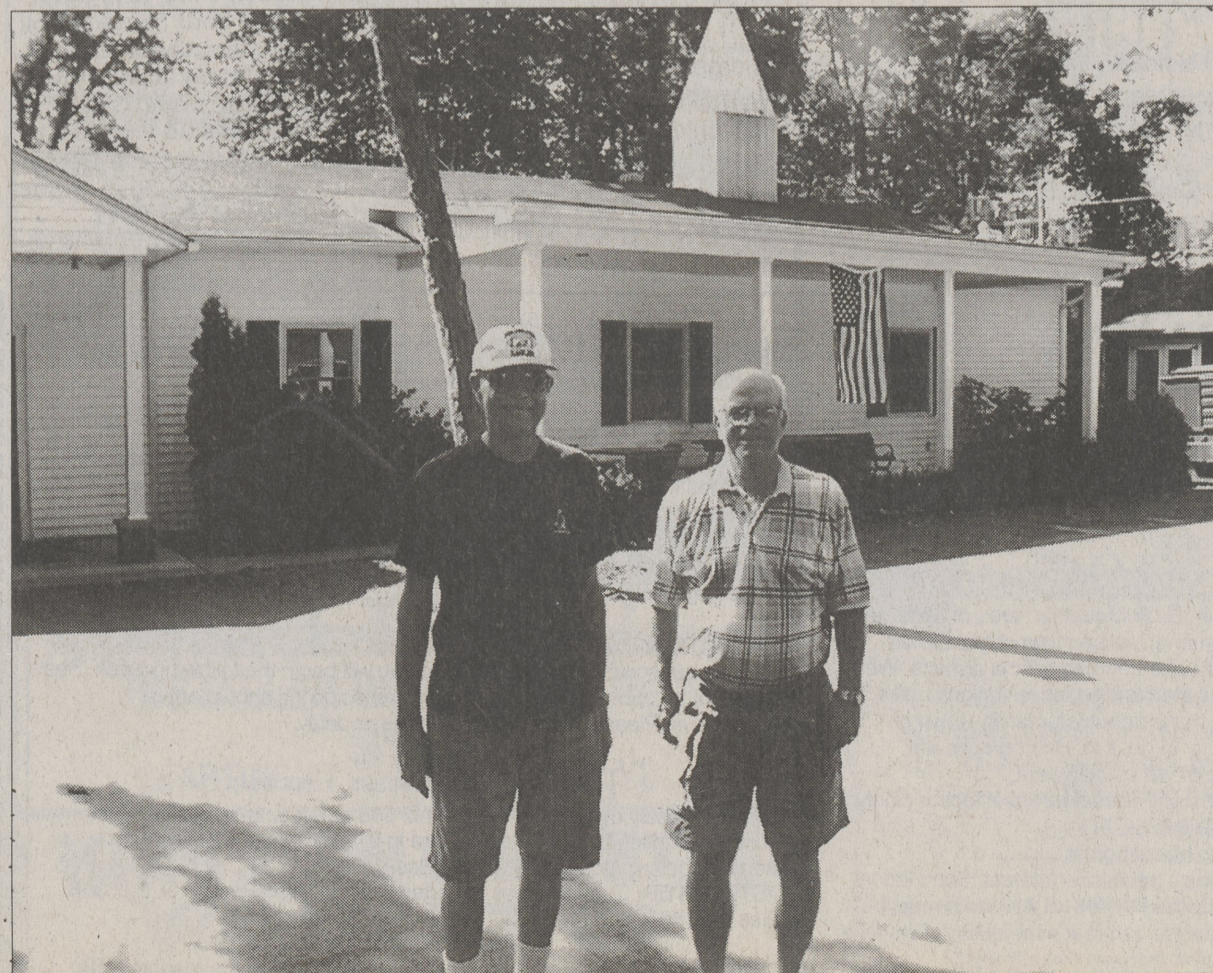
The answer was closer than anyone thought. Bittner and others scoured the Back Mountain looking for a suitable site, but

none seemed right. Then Mrs. Alice Howell, one of the library's founders, had an idea. The library property, then on Main St., had some space behind it, and an adjacent lot was for sale. At first Bittner resisted, because the land

See AUCTION BARN, pg 5



The 1972 auction was held at the then-new auction barn behind the library. Bob Bachman was auctioneer in this photo.



John Gregorski, left, and Lee Eckert paid a visit to the building they helped build in 1972. The basic building was converted into the senior citizens center several years later.

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