

Little League

(continued from page 1)

with a different manager, an older man who could not complete the season. Hemingway stepped in, and Fernbrook became a team to reckon with. Landmesser described a typical day of practice. "He (Hemingway) had this big four-door car, filled with bats and balls. He would come around and pick us up. That's how you got to practice and games."

Not that his young players obeyed his every command. "Frank always told us to rest before games," said Dickson. "But we went out and played all day. If he had known, he would've killed us."

Dickson remembers one game vividly. His team was down 11-0, and Hemingway told his players, "If you want to be in the playoffs, you'd better do something." And they did. The next at-bat, Fernbrook scored seven runs, and loaded the bases with two outs. Dickson then swatted a triple that brought Fernbrook within a run. A couple of pitches later, he noticed the catcher was lobbing the ball back to the mound, and the pitcher was turning away from third as soon as he caught the ball. After the next pitch, Dickson took off for home, sliding in safely when the pitcher's throw was off line and the catcher dropped it. Fernbrook went on to win 15-11.

Just as the Back Mountain Baseball field is today, the first field was a source of pride for the league and the community. This is how it was described in the August 17, 1951 issue of the Post: "This field is considered one of the finest in Little League circles. It is the only field in Pennsylvania equipped with an electric score board—the gift of Back Mountain Lumber and Coal Company."

"The team dug-outs, press box and loud speaker system are equal to those found in major league parks. Ample bleachers have been provided for the comfort of spectators and everything has been done to safeguard the safety and health of spectators."

Dickson said it wasn't unusual for 400 or more fans to come out

"There was a swamp next to the field, and if we hit a ball in there we could never find it."

Roger Bellas
1951 Fernbrook team player

to watch games. Landmesser recalled that a man who lived nearby came every day and "manicured that field."

Roger Bellas remembers something else. "There was a swamp next to the field, and if we hit a ball in there we could never find it."

While the best 3-out-of-5 championship series was front page news in 1951, equal space was given to a description of the league trip to a game between the Yankees and Philadelphia Athletics. Buses owned by Clarence Myers and Howard Woolbert took 72 players and 18 adults to Wilkes-Barre, where they boarded Martz buses for the trip to Philadelphia.

Roger Bellas was in that group. He was one of the youngest players on the Fernbrook team, but he took the bus to the game. "We went down and walked around the field," he recalled. Dickson said not only that, they saw the "Yankee Clipper," Joe DiMaggio, play.

As for the series, readers had to wait two weeks for the results, since the playoff went four games. Jackson prevailed three games to one, but three of the games were decided by one run. After Jackson took the first game 5-1, Fernbrook came back to win the second, 4-3. Jackson then won the next two, 12-11 and 4-3 to claim the first Back Mountain Little League championship.

A week earlier, the Post reported on the league picnic at Twin Lakes. Billy Steinhauer and John Sholtis won the peanut race. "Old Toll Gate Hill Lions club provided 400 popsicles, which lasted twenty minutes," the article read.



The 1951 Fernbrook Little League team (above). From left, kneeling; Roger Bellas, Jimmy Rogers, Chuck Lasher, Jerry Wilson, Billy Steinhauer, Melvin Trimble. Standing; Frank Hemingway, Barry Landmesser, Spencer Holmgren, Bob Phillips, Raymond Shultz, John Sholtis, Darryl Dickson. Tucker Hughes, not pictured, was the other coach.



The 1953 Back Mountain all-star team (right). From left, kneeling; David Davis, Harold Oakes, Teddy Hons, Donald Bellas, Ben Weaver, Roger Bellas, Victor Silanski. Standing; Paul Steinhauer, unknown, Billy Steinhauer, Barry Landmesser, unknown, Goodwin, Zimmerman, unknown.

Music Box Playhouse holding auditions

Auditions will be held for the musical *Man of La Mancha*, Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse.

Anyone planning to audition should be prepared to sing a song of his/her choice, and those interested in speaking roles will be asked to read from the script. An accompanist will be provided.

Production dates for *Man of La Mancha* are Oct. 8-10, 14-17, 21-24, and 28-30. Rehearsals will begin Sept. 13 and will be held evenings and on weekends.

For further information, call 283-2195, 1-800-698-PLAY, or visit the Music Box website at 222.musicbox.org

Jackson Twp. tax bills mailed, payments due

Jackson Township Tax Collector, Jacqueline Latosek, recently mailed the 1999 Lake-Lehman School District real estate and per capita tax bills. All residents 18 years old and older are responsible for per capita tax. Anyone not receiving a tax notice should contact Ms. Latosek at 696-3953.

The deadline for rebate value is Sept. 9 and face value is Nov. 8.

The tax office will be closed from Aug. 18 through Aug. 26 and Labor Day weekend. Tax office will be open the last three days of rebate, Sept. 7, 8, 9. Appointments are available.

SUMMER SALE
SAVINGS 50%-70% OFF
FRIEDMAN'S
220 E. Drinker St., Dunmore • 343-1759

COOK'S PHARMACY

- Computerized Prescription Service
- Russell Stover Candies
- Greeting Cards
- PA Lottery Tickets
- Newspapers
- Magazines

159 N. Memorial Hwy., Shavertown, PA
675-1191

TIME & Money

Is It Passing You By With Long hours, Countless Forms Delayed Payments and High Overhead?

TIME & Money

CAN BE YOURS!!

Call Today for Details on a six figure income.

1-800-882-5044 ID#255145 T.L.C.

No Sales, franchise or MLM

The Area's Leader In Granite, Marble & Tile

Featuring granite countertops for kitchen or bathrooms, sunken tubs, fireplaces, vanity tops, dining room tables.

- We design, fabricate and install
- Over 40 years of experience
- Well known in the industry for quality workmanship & excellent customer service
- Identified over the years as a leader in the industry
- Hundreds and hundreds of samples to choose from in our showroom

SHOWROOM HOURS

Granite, Marble & Tile by
Passeri
Mon. & Thurs. 9-9
Sun. 1-5
Tues., Wed., Fri., 9-5
Sat. 9-5

SHOWROOM • INSTALLATION • FABRICATION
Route 315, Pittston • 654-0500 • Fax 602-0659
2 miles North of Pocono Downs

24 MONTH CD SPECIAL

5.77%

Annual Percent Yield

\$10,000 minimum deposit required. Annual percentage yield is accurate as of date of publication. APY is based on quarterly compounding. Penalty for early withdrawal. Rate subject to change without notice.

VISIT A GRANGE NATIONAL BANK BRANCH NEAR YOU... AND FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

GRANGE NATIONAL BANK

- WILKES-BARRE: PINE MALL, 208-1500
- EDWARDSVILLE: 78 SOUTH WYOMING AVENUE, 283-4462
- BACK MOUNTAIN: 165 SOUTH MEMORIAL HWY., 696-6958
- TUNKHANNOCK: 198 EAST TIAGA ST., 836-2100

