

EDITORIAL

# 10 reasons to go to the 55th library auction

In most parts of the U.S., the first week in July is time for lazing on the beach, cooking out in the backyard or perhaps riding a tall, fast roller coaster. Here in the Back Mountain, though, we have much better things to do with our time, because we can spend as much of it as possible at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.

This remarkable event, now in its 55th year, is a marvel of community commitment and volunteer energy. Begun just a year after the library opened, the auction generates nearly a fourth of annual operating revenue, in large part because it is conducted by an all-volunteer staff dedicated to helping this important institution. Many of the volunteers have been soliciting donations, setting up booths, serving food, taking bids and performing countless other tasks for decades; for others this will be their first year of involvement. If past history is any indication, they will be hooked, and will schedule early summer around the auction from now on.

If you're an auction regular, you know the attractions of this unique event. If you aren't, here's a "Top 10" list of reasons to join the festivities at the library July 5-8:

10. To find a copy of that special book you always wanted to read, but never seemed to come across.
  9. To bid more than retail price for a saw, pillow or doll because you know it's for the library.
  8. To sample the new menu items at the food booth, including shrimp. Yummy!
  7. To stroll through the antiques room, and spot about two dozen items for which you have "just the right spot."
  6. To see Kerry Freeman on the auction block, especially if he's selling an article of women's clothing or a bathroom fixture.
  5. To search the Odds 'n' Ends booth and come away with 10 items on a budget of \$6.
  4. To see "auction friends," and realize a year really isn't such a long time.
  3. To feast on fresh ice cream, lemonade, funnel cakes, toasted almonds and other healthy, nutritious food that contains 0 calories if consumed outdoors.
  2. To look over Sue Hand's shoulder as she turns an idea into a beautiful watercolor - one that you could own.
- And the number one reason to attend this year's library auction? Because it's the kind of fun you can't come by anywhere else, at any price.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Now that summer's here in full force, I can join in an American tradition, cooking on an outdoor grill. It's not as though I've never used a grill before - many an hour has been spent filling the latest \$7.99 drugstore special with briquets, soaking them in lighter fluid, setting them aflame and adjusting the surface to just the right height to avoid turning everything into cinders. I graduated to those grills from the classic hibachi, which may not have been less expensive but held up more than two years to the rigors of rust and ruin. But a hibachi's sparse surface just won't cut it when grilling for more than two.

One of the greatest challenges in grilling, at least for me, has been to flip burgers and other delicacies that are thin on one dimension without letting them slip through the grate and into the hot coals. I became quite proficient at that foible, although never acknowledging it to the extent that I'd add an extra patty or two to make up for the ones that were inevitably lost. When grilled vegetables such as peppers were added to my repertoire, I found those, too, were tricky little devils to keep under control.

Last year, I took a giant leap for grillmankind and purchased a gas-fired beauty covered in fire red steel, with ceramic-coated grates and capacity to spare. Unlike the bargain basement models of my past, this one came with a thick instruction book and recipes for everything one could imagine cooking in the open air. That's me in the open air, not the food. It seems these contraptions work best when the top is kept down, something about convection and heat inversion or some such rocket science. I can't disagree, though, given the heavenly result when a couple of steaks sent straight from Omaha by my oldest son turned out "buttery smooth," as they say in the ad biz.

Alas, even the most high-tech equipment can't make up for all of man's failings, at least not mine. I must confess to losing an occasional chunk of pepper through the grates, and to spilling most of the bernaise sauce made specially for the steaks when I unwittingly closed the grill's cover on the warming rack that is one of my new treasure's best features. But there's a lot of summer left for practice, and by September I expect to be delivering exquisitely finished cheeseburgers to the patio table, as long as I can keep them out on the right side of the grate.



The best week of summer is here! This scene from the 1952 library auction shows the event was the "social event of the year" even then.

## 'Reasons for Making a Career in the Wyoming Valley

*Editor's Note: The Back Mountain Business and Professional Association asked graduating high school seniors to submit essays, from which to select the winner of a \$500 scholarship. The winner was Jessica Fields, who graduated from Dallas High School in June. Her essay follows.*



JESSICA FIELDS

As a high school senior born and raised in the Wyoming Valley, I am often asked, "Will you be coming back to the area after college?" Without hesitation I respond with an enthusiastic "yes." Many of my peers are looking to make their careers — and the rest of their adult lives for that matter — in another latitude. It seems to them that what they want (or what they think they want) is not here, like the opportunity of a large metropolitan area, for example. I firmly believe that what I want and need is right here in the Wyoming Valley.

I am a fourth generation resi-

dent of this area and proud to attest to it. This area has so many alluring aspects. First, the low crime rate makes it an ideal area to raise children. The excellent school systems with qualified, concerned educators as well as state-of-the-art facilities and technology also make it an ideal area to raise a family. The Wyoming Valley and its surrounding mountains provide a

perfect balance of cosmopolitan attractions, picturesque neighborhoods, and the best Mother Nature has to offer. Perhaps the greatest aspect of this area, though, is the kindness and generosity of its people. There is a true sense of community here that can be seen at any activity from a school board meeting to a youth soccer game to an event at the First Union Arena.

The picturesque scenery, wholesomeness of the people, and the cosmopolitan attractions are all prime examples of what this community has to offer me. So the question is, what can I give back to this place that has seen me through the 18 years of my life? Simply, I can give of my time, talents, and treasures. I will be attending Penn State University (at University Park) this fall, where I will pursue a degree in secondary education. In addition to my studies at Penn State I will be involved in a study abroad program in Western Europe. I

consider Penn State to be a microcosm of our diverse and vibrant world. I will absorb much culture and knowledge during my college years. Therefore, I can bring an informed and educated mindset back to the Wyoming Valley. This is the way to germinate fresh ideas, which will undoubtedly advance and protect our unique area.

The Wyoming Valley produces some of our nation's brightest youngsters with its excellent education and nurturing atmosphere. By receiving a quality education and then returning home to the Wyoming Valley, I will bring back the knowledge to positively affect the next generation of youth. This is the least that I can do for the area and the people that I love.

Through this monetary support you, the scholarship committee of the Back Mountain and Professional Association, will partner with me in pursuit of this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.



70 Years Ago - July 3, 1931

### NEW BUS SERVICE AROUND THE LAKE

Street car service around the lake will be suspended it was announced by the Wilkes-Barre Railway Corporation. Under the new plan street cars will run from Public Square to Idetown where passengers will be transferred to buses which meet trolley schedules. Until arrangements are made to have permanent stops around the lake, the buses will stop at any point desired by passengers. Dallas Junior baseball team of the American Legion lost its chances to represent this district in the State finals by two runs. The local won all but two games played, and in the two games lost were nosed out by Forty Fort by the score of 2-1 and by Pringle by the score of 13-12. Jack Roberts and Dan Hontz managed the team. Willow Inn a new and modern restaurant was opened recently in West Trucksville. The proprietors are Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Keithline, of Shavertown. Willow Inn will specialize in home cooked food, special dinners, banquets and parties.

60 Years Ago - July 3, 1941

### SALARY INCREASE VOTED FOR DALLAS TEACHERS

A salary increase of \$50 annually to all Dallas school teachers

excepting supervising principal T.A. Williammee was unanimously approved. A total of \$5086.92 in salaries, bills and other obligations was ordered paid. A contract to furnish 200 tons of coal at \$4.42 per ton for the coming school year was directed. A crusade against hit and run drivers was begun by Harvey's Lake and State Motor Police as three automobiles were badly damaged by speedsters on lake roads. According to Chief Ira C. Stevenson of the Lake force, recent collisions brought to ten the number of cars damaged so far. A serious fire was brought under control by the D.C. Roberts Fire Company at Harveys Lake caused damage estimated at \$800 to an Alderson cottage owned by Roscoe White of Wilkes-Barre. So fiercely was the fire burning that the truck emptied its 200-gallon booster tank in the first attempt to extinguish the flames.

50 Years Ago - July 6, 1951

### FIFTH AUCTION STARTS TODAY

Some of the list of new merchandise for the auction are as follows: Anthra-Flo Heating Unit, Coal-O-Matic Stoker Co.; Baby Ducks, Paul Warriner; Bond (\$200 value) Daddow-Isaacs Post Amer. Legion; Crushed Stone (4 tons), M.J. Brown & Son; Serving Set, silver, \$4.00, Finkelstein Jeweler; Electric Shaver, \$24.95, L.L. Richardson; Bone China Cup Saucer, \$3.25, Treasure Gift Shop. Ten boys from Dallas attended Camp Pochanna, Y.M.C.A. camp in the Poconos, under the direction of David Evans. They are: Bobby Richardson, Tommy Richardson, Lee Ohlman, Danny Robinhold, Richie Bodycomb, Lee Mintzer, Jim Thomas, Bert Berrettini, Bil-

ly DeRemer, and Chuck Alabaugh. Eighty-five ribbons were awarded at the Alderson Methodist Church Flower Festival. Of these, Mrs. Frank Jackson won 14; Mrs. Loren Keller 7; Mrs. Walter Boehme 7; and Mrs. C.F. Goeringer 6. Mrs. Gilbert Carpenter and Mrs. William Deater were co-chairman of the festival.

40 Years Ago - July 6, 1961

### DRILL TEAM WINS HONORS MARCHING AT MANSFIELD

Westmoreland Key Club Drill Team again took top honors, marching in the Mansfield Fourth of July parade. Junior High drill team, captained by Marsha Sowden, and Westmoreland Colorettes bearing the big flag, also took honors. A four-year old red male dachshund given by Ed Eber will go over the block at the Library Auction. All-star is a stud dog of AKC registry, brother to the dog that Jack Stanley bought at the Auction. Among those serving with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana, Calif., is Marine Pvt. Richard C. Higgs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Higgs, Dallas.

30 Years Ago - July 8, 1971

### CEREMONIES HERALD 2 ACTION PACKED LEHMAN SHOW DAYS

The 27th annual Lehman Horse Show completed two action-packed days of competition. Opening ceremonies were heralded by a parade along Route 118 which featured Lake-Lehman's top-notch band under the direction of John Miliauskas. Parade trophies were awarded to the Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co., boast-

ed the most equipment in the line of march; and to the 19 marching members of Cub Pack 241 for the largest unit of marching men. A Dallas girl, Kim Davis, brought recognition to the Wyoming Seminary Swim Club by placing first in the Middle Atlantic Junior Olympic girls 14 and under 100-meter breast stroke event. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Davis, Dallas. Jerry Riaubia of Noxen, slammed his way through some 125 cars to take first place and a \$400 purse in Pocono Drag Lodge's sixth annual automobile destruction derby. Mr. Riaubia's 1962 Ford station wagon and the 1950 Chevrolet of Tom Frantz, Dallas, were locked in battle after knocking all other cars out to the grand finale of the six-heat derby.

20 Years Ago - June 24, 1981

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMING TO BACK MT.

American Field Service (AFS) summer "bus stop" will bring twenty nine exchange students to the Back Mountain. Visiting students from France, Belgium, Sweden, England, Japan, etc, have spent one year in this country staying with host families and attending high school. Rev. Alfred Unterreiner announces the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Lehman United Methodist Church to be held Sept. 12 and 13. A Hymn sing will be held, featuring special vocal and instrumental selections, and introduction of former pastors. The Back Mountain Jaycees recently presented book scholarships to two outstanding seniors from the area. The recipients were Brenda Beckerman of Shavertown and Karen Williams of Sweet Valley.

## The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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