

Retirees

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entering a classroom for the first time as a teacher. "That first day you walk into the classroom, you're more nervous than any other time in your life," he said.

Over the years, Roberts has had a good view of the changes in education and how the school's role in the community has evolved. The school, he said, has become "the focal point of the whole community and has replaced the 'town hall' as the center of everything."

And that's something he is extremely proud of. "It seems like the kids are at the school from dawn to dusk now with all the different programs," he said. "Kids have become more worldly over the years, and our kids are on top of everything. The potential for these kids is limitless."

One aspect Roberts enjoyed most in his job was the feeling he got when he saw students grow through the years from kindergarten to graduation.

He is quick to point out, however, that this chosen field brings with it long, hard hours. The most difficult part is occasionally having to drive home the value of education to parents and students, or coping with the tragic losses of students or faculty.

But through all the ups and downs, he would do it all over again in a heartbeat, ready to share in the accomplishments and disappointments of his students.

"The highlights that I remember are the thank yous from the kids and parents," he said. "Be it a little card, a little picture taken with me at the prom or even a little note that said 'You made a difference.'"

Roberts has taught graduate courses for the past two years at Wilkes University. He hopes to stay busy in the education field and would like to do more graduate teaching.

Kunkle, the former Lehman-Jackson principal, also felt the desire to educate.

"When I started in education, I felt interested in developing the minds of young children. It was then I realized I was in the right field," he said. "I became an administrator to further education as much as I could."

Being in education for 35 years, both as an administrator and teacher, he too, has seen his share of change.

He remembers being the

"I just fell in love with the profession."

Bob Roberts
Retiring after 33 years

principal at the Noxen Elementary School when a fire burned it to the ground. But he also recalls the construction of the new school that replaced it.

One thing that sticks out in his memory is the beginning of the first full-time kindergarten in his school about 25 years ago. It's something he, to this day, is proud to say he had a hand in.

He has been part of the Lake-Lehman School District for a very long time, going back to when he attended the one-room school house of the Lehman Jackson Ross School District in the first grade.

Now, students have more opportunities, according to Kunkle, but sometimes, he says, "You have to say 'No' when it's the proper thing to do," he said. "Nobody really wants to but you have to be able to say no sometimes to do what's right for the kids."

Kunkle wants those who would go into education to know that their role is "one of the most important jobs they can have."

Although now he won't be spending time as a school administrator, he plans to be busy "doing things around the house that I've been putting off for years."

Anne Cornell, past president of the PTA, worked with Kunkle on many school activities. She praised him for his "hands-on" approach and his open door policies.

"I always had a good relationship with him," said Cornell. "He always did whatever it took to make the kids smile, whether it was helping to haul in a Christmas tree or a huge paper mache animal for decorating. He was a very classy man and was nothing but nice."

As students begin to trade in bathing suits for notebooks, and homework and schools gear up for the new year, this district will continue to be influenced by three educators who helped mold the minds of countless students, and made a real difference in the life of the community.

And that, in itself, is a great accomplishment.

Kid festival will join Dallas Days

The Back Mountain Business and Professional Association, in cooperation with the Dallas Days festival, will present the 2004 Children's Festival on September 18 at College Misericordia from 1 to 4 p.m.

Entertainment, music, games, and perhaps a few "surprises" will provide a wholesome day of activities for children up to 12 years old. Several hundred children and their parents are expected.

The association is requesting donations to help defray the cost of the event, either in the form of prizes or cash.

Any business or individual wishing to contribute may do so by August 20 to:

Back Mountain Business and Professional Association
1192 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
Call 675-9380 for more information.



Show and help

The Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors held its 21st annual Back Mountain Antique Car Show on and around the high school parking lot on August 15.

Event chairwoman Colette Mahoney guessed the show raised about \$3,000 this year, suspecting that forecasted rain decreased participation from the usual more than 300 vehicles to about 220.

The funds help pay for instructors and props for band competitions as well as indoor color guard percussion ensembles. The Band Sponsors have other fund-raisers throughout the year to supplement the band's approximately \$25,000 budget.

Wet grounds forced a change in venue from the grassy, shaded fields near Lehman-Jackson Elementary to a paved parking lot.

The show awards three trophies in 41 classes. In addition to antique cars, there were custom cars, trucks and motorcycles.

In photos, clockwise from top: Jimmy Powell, Dallas, and cousin Brandon Hampton, West Pittston, checked out this bright yellow beauty;

Michele and David Martin, Center Moreland, put finishing touches on their '69 Z-28 Camaro; Leah Kappler, Huntsville, exhibited her bike at the show; Frank Oatridge, Dallas, helped polish up friend Ron Boback's '92 Mitsubishi.

The Dallas Post

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