

BEST OF THE BACK MOUNTAIN

BEST

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ware

Jim and Carol Eason started Dallas Centre Hardware on Main Street 27 years ago and today, the store still serves all the hardware needs of Back Mountain residents. "We help the average customer who wants to try but doesn't know what to do," says Gerard Geise, the Easons' son-in-law. "We're on a first-name basis with our customers and we can guide them through any project they attempt."

ANTIQUUE SHOP

Winner: Ye Olde Clock Shoppe
Tom Quinn Jr. says he and his parents, Tom Sr. and Melissa, who own Ye Olde Clock Shoppe, are always searching for antiques. Although most of the antiques the shop offers are clocks, it does sometimes offer furniture and curio cabinets.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

Winner: Dallas Centre Hard-

ware

With full electrical, plumbing, paint, hardware, tools, lawn and garden departments, Dallas Centre Hardware can fulfill its customers' needs 90 percent of the time. "Unlike big box stores, we offer personalized service to our customers," says Gerard Geise, whose in-laws, Jim and Carol Eason, own the store.

FIREPLACE/STOVE COMPANY

Winner: deLeur's Back to Basics Inc.

"Tis the season to start thinking about keeping warm and deLeur's Back to Basics Inc. has everything to make that happen. From fireplaces to wood coal stoves to wood pellets and corn, gas stoves, central heat and fireplace tools, the 30-year-old business can help you make your home warm and comfortable.

Runner-up: Fireplace Gallery

BANK

Winner: M&T Bank

M&T Bank serves all the banking needs of Back Mountain residents through two locations - one on the Tunkhan-

nock Highway in Dallas and one on North Memorial Highway in Shavertown - offering its customers as much convenience as possible.

Runners-up: PNC, Wachovia, Luzerne National

FLORIST

Winner (tie) Kimberly's Floral

Bob Kleiner has owned Kimberly's Floral on Memorial Highway in Dallas for five years.

Mary's Flower Garden

Mary's Flower Garden has been serving residents of the Back Mountain for 24 years, offering fresh floral arrangements, dish gardens with cut flowers, dried and silk arrangements as well as delivery.

JEWELER

Winner: Ochman's Coins & Jewelry

Ochman's Coins & Jewelry was established in 1979 by the late Tom Ochman who, prior to opening the business, spent 20 years in the local banking industry, earning the trust of people in the Wyoming Valley. Over the years, Ochman's has evolved in-

to a local full-service coin and jewelry store. It is operated today by Tom's wife, Fran, and his daughter, Maryann.

Runners-up: Roth Jewelers, Valentine's

PHARMACY

Winner: Fino's Pharmacy

The staff at Fino's Pharmacy cares about you and your well-being and your health care needs are its main concern. From offering diabetic supplies to vitamins, Fino's helps its customers maintain their health. And, for convenience, Fino's also offers greeting cards, Webkinz and gift ideas.

Runners-up: Cook's Pharmacy, CVS, Medicine Shoppe

HAIR SALON

Winner: Snips & Tips

Deana Manzoni and Donna May say they "listen to their clients and strive for customer satisfaction" at the beauty salon they've operated for 14 years. The co-owners also offer a friendly atmosphere and enjoy a personal relationship with all of their customers.

Runners-up: Salon Nouveau, The Styling Studio, Classic Hair

by Melissa

NAIL SALON

Winner: The Styling Studio

It's customer service that keeps clients coming back to The Styling Studio, says owner Libby Davis. "My girls have had the same clients for 10 or more years and they always re-book."

Runners-up: Snips & Tips, Salon Nouveau, Just Nails

TANNING SALON

Winner: Premiere Tanning

All employees of Premiere Tanning must be certified to industry standards, something owner Dave Evans feels makes his tanning salon different from any others. Premiere Tanning offers the newest beds in the area, the most convenient hours and a well-trained staff, Evans says.

HAIR STYLIST

Winner: Missy Kmetz

Missy Kmetz truly believes she was voted Best Hair Stylist because she has the best clients. "I love my job and I love my customers," she said. "My clients make me the best."

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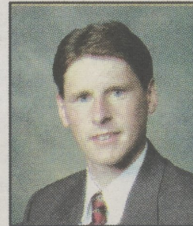
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