



Always among the first bargain hunters, Paul Zabolney and Lee Eckert, both from Dallas, carry out their finds.



Barbara Gelb, left, of Wyoming, and Judy Hudzik, of Hunlock Creek, enjoy their very first library auction.



John Bunney, Mary Baker and Barbara Roberts sing on opening night of the auction.

Great weather aids 64th auction



Ernie Ashbridge's watch says it's time for co-chairpersons Nadine Young, left, and Karen Shuster to ring the bell to start the 64th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.

Mother Nature cooperates; thousands cover on Back Mountain in support of annual event.

Working in the best weather conditions in a long time, volunteers at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction donated a whole lot of time and even more sweat to make the 64th annual event the success it was.

From the Dallas Rotary Food Booth to the Plant Booth to the Odds and Ends Booth to the Book Booth, volunteers were busy during the four-day event that provides 40 percent of the library's annual operating budget. This year's auction was especially necessary in light of the newly-signed state budget that calls for deep cuts into library funding.

Of the more than 1,000 items that crossed the auction block, perhaps the most unusual was a pair of stuffed jackelope heads.

Shelves were tightly stuffed with thousands of hardcovers and paperbacks in the "Slightly Read Book Shop" in the library's basement and, from 8 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, bookworms could stuff as many books from a selected assortment into a grocery bag for \$5.

The Odds and Ends Booth saw bargain hunters making out like bandits while paying just \$2 for everything they could fit into paper grocery bags on the last night of the auction.

Lucy Fleming Messersmith, of Machell Avenue, Dallas, is now the proud owner of artist Sue Hand's 20th auction painting, thanks to a successful bid of \$4,000.

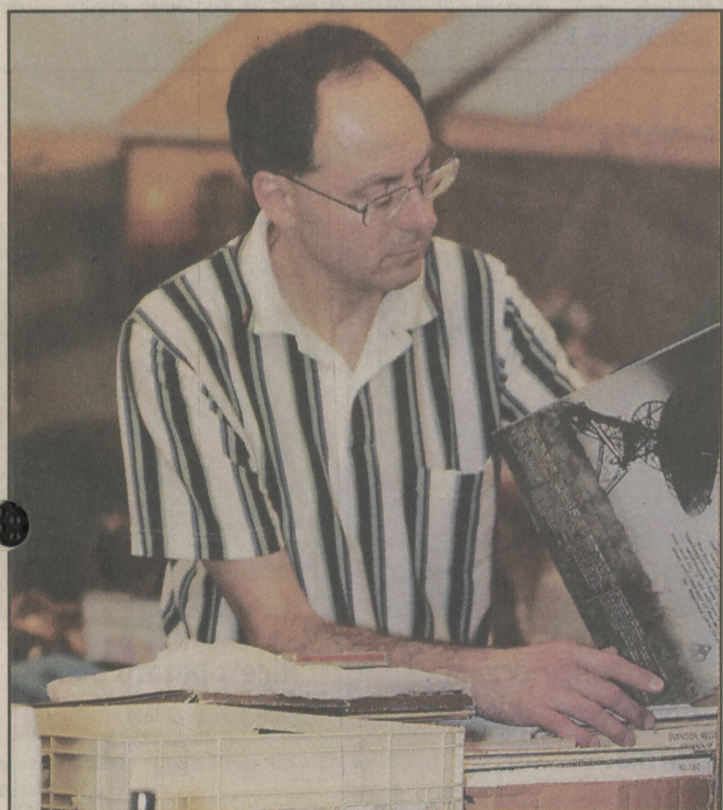
Hand has been painting the auction scene for 20 years. Her paintings are always the last item to go across the auction block on Sunday night.



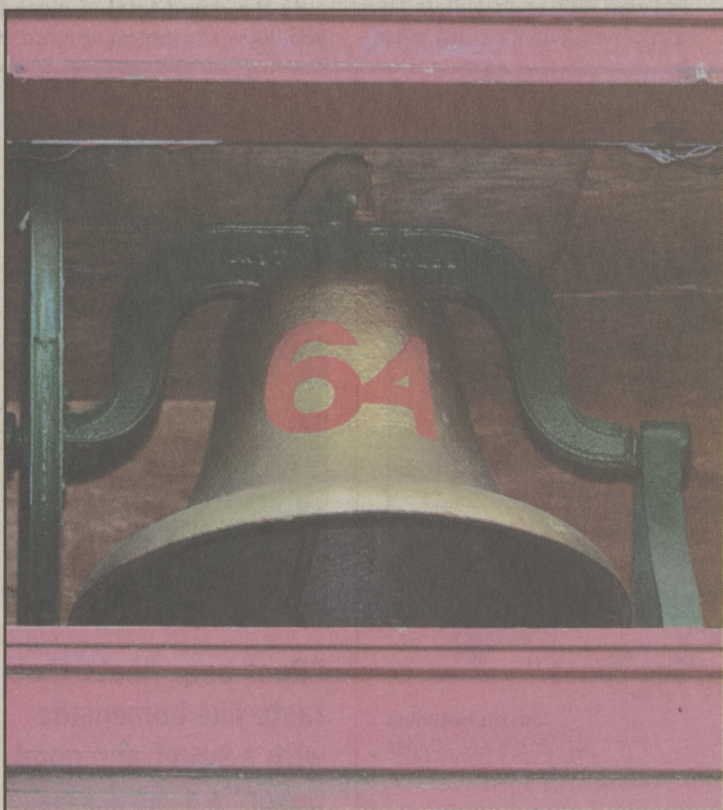
Lucy Fleming Messersmith, an ardent patron and volunteer of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, purchased Sue Hand's 20th annual painting of the auction for \$4,000. With Messersmith are Joe and Sue Hand.



Katie Cohen, Sue Hand and Tammy Hoyt paint the scene at the 64th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.



Mark Sokolski, of Ashley, checks out record albums in the Odds and Ends booth.



The bell signals the auction is in its 64th year.



Dallas Rotarian Joe Stager carefully works the food booth manned every year by the club.