

Library in Boring promotes reading during 'off-season'

School program pushes reading

by SUSAN ROMANITIS
Staff writer

BORING — Faye Watkins has the formidable task of convincing youngsters to keep picking up books during what some students might consider the off-season for reading.

"I think (children) could enjoy reading more, especially boys,"

'I think if a child can learn a love and appreciation of reading early, he can do anything. It will see them through their lives if they can read.'

— Faye Watkins



Erik Watkins, left, Marisa Frasier, center, and Mindy Frasier enjoy summer reading program at Boring Grade School.

said Watkins, coordinator of the summer library program at Boring Grade School. "I would like them to know that reading can be fun."

Providing students with an opportunity to read is one of the reasons Watkins volunteered to coordinate the summer library program. This is the second consecutive year the program has been offered at the grade school. Opening the library to youngsters during the summer was Superintendent Mike McDonough's idea, Watkins said.

"It just seems like a crime to me to have all of those books sitting there when they could be used," McDonough said.

The library in the Naas Building is open from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program, which began June 23, will continue through July 30.

"I thought (the summer library program) was a good idea because

our closest library is either Gresham or Damascus," Watkins said, explaining why she accepted the volunteer job. "I think it's very good for the kids to have this available."

Youngsters may read books at the library or check out books using a special library card. Story time — a new feature this year — begins at 11 a.m.

Probably one of the most important things parents can do is read to their children or read with them, Watkins said.

"I think if a child can learn a love and appreciation of reading early, he can do anything," she said. "It will see them through their lives if they can read."

"If they can read, then the rest of school is more easily understood," Watkins added. "If reading is a stumbling block, everything else is."

This year, four computers have been set up in the library with help from Boring Upper School teacher Gary Smith. They are available for free public use from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Watkins' 12-year-old son Erik, who has used computers at Boring Upper School, helps Watkins and other summer library volunteers with the computer aspect of the program, Watkins said.

"They have a variety of (computer) programs the kids can try out," she said. "They're learning programs, but they're fun programs."

Volunteers are staffing the summer library program again this year. In addition to Watkins, the volunteer workers are Wendy Vondrak, Marcie Christiansen, Sandie Stewart, Susan Melvin, and school

board members Colleen Gustafson and Ida Cannon.

Although youngsters have been slow to use the library this year, Watkins is optimistic about future attendance. McDonough admits that he was late in getting information out about the program and Watkins thinks people just may not be aware that the program is being offered again.

"I think people will use it more as summer goes on," she said.

Youngsters who spend time reading this summer again will be eligible to win prizes, McDonough said. Last year, the three students who read the most books received gift certificates.

The youngsters were recognized at a brief ceremony when the program came to a close last year, McDonough said.

McDonough said he would like to start a summer library program in the upper school next year.

Small post office marks first, maybe last, 100 years

by SHARON NESBIT
of The Outlook staff

BRIDAL VEIL — It was just like any other birthday, with kids and balloons, crepe paper and cake, except that this party was for a post office.

Dylan Woodsworth, whose father, David, says he is 2½ going on 1, helped the Bridal Veil post office celebrate its 100th birthday Tuesday.

The decorator added the words 'Happy Cancellation' to the birthday cake.

Dylan, small, blond and fast, sat on the tiny front porch of the rustic building and hugged a bright, blue balloon. As former postmaster Evelyn Bird was waiting for her first piece of cake, the toddler from Larch Mountain darted in from left field and managed to drag a finger through the red, white and blue frosting and jam it in his mouth before his dad could intercept him.

Dylan finally got his cake. Then he did what must be done at any birthday party. He christened the old post office with crumbs.

Around the corner, Duke, a big German shepherd dog, had his cake and ate it, too. It was only logical that Duke would be a guest at the party. He is a daily visitor to the post office, walking four miles round trip every day to get the mail with his owner, John Backstrand of Bridal Veil.

Just about everybody and his dog turned up Tuesday to celebrate the century mark of the post office. In a way it was a wistful goodbye, because many Bridal Veil residents fear the post office won't be open much longer.

Dorothy Collins, officer in charge who comes each week day from Carson, Wash., to run the post office from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., said that all the material and documents regarding the closure of Bridal Veil have been

sent to Washington, D.C. Officials there will decide "as to if and when" the post office will be closed. If the decision is to close, notice must be posted 60 days before the closure takes place.

And an ominous message appeared unbidden on the birthday cake. Judy Lehl, who organized the party with her husband, Steve, ordered a sheet cake to serve 97 decorated with the words "Happy Birthday" and the Bridal Veil post mark.

But when Lehl picked up the cake, the decorator had added the words "Happy Cancellation."

They ate the cake anyway. The first piece went to Evelyn Bird, who was postmaster at Bridal Veil for 15 years before her retirement in 1977. Young Conrad Kaiser was there with his family. He mows the post office lawn.

And so were Ted and Jean Hepburn, who have picked their mail up at Bridal Veil for 50 years.

Hepburn pointed out an image of himself at 26 posing with the rest of the employees in an old photo of the Bridal Veil Lumber and Box Co.

"I had more hair then," he observed, "and we all wore it slicked back like Rudolph Valentino. Used all the grease we could find in the kitchen."

Steve Lehl drove his 1937 Chrysler Airflow up to the front of the tiny post office and camera shutters went off like popcorn.

Happiest of all were the post card collectors, Lehl and Springdale resident Steve Kenney. They displayed historic post cards and photos of the area and grabbed up new post cards of the post office, rushed inside and had them canceled with the Bridal Veil postmark.

Dorothy Collins lost track of the number of cards she canceled. In addition, savvy collectors asked her to autograph the cards.

"I never dreamed that anyone would ask for my autograph ever," she said.

Linda Kaiser, a Bridal Veil resident, stood back and watched the hullabaloo and admired the post office all trimmed in red, white, blue crepe paper and balloons.

"I'll feel so bad when it's gone," she said. "It's always fun to drop in and say hi to the lady and pick up the bills."

Mount Hood jazz tickets sold out

Tickets for the sixth annual Mount Hood Festival of Jazz are gone. The supply of 20,000 tickets for the two-day event, to be held Aug. 1 and 2

at Mt. Hood Community College, sold out for the second year in a row, according to festival director Terri Calamoneri.

This includes reserved seats, which were sold out by mail order, and the 15,000 general admission tickets, which went on sale May 15.

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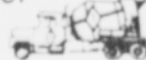


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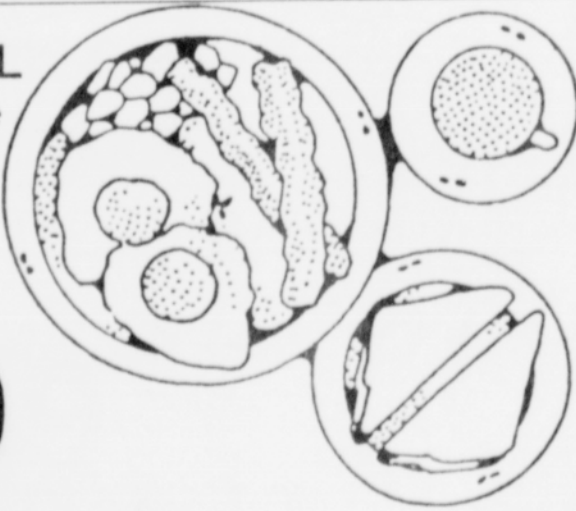
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