

AROUND

with Justine Weatherford

Last week Friday, June 30, my work with the Heppner Public Library officially ended. I was appointed librarian in the fall of 1973 following the retirement of Blanche Frye Brown who had discharged the responsibility for the previous seventeen years.

As I reflect on my experiences with books and readers and library matters, I feel that I have learned quite a bit about my community from the work. It was pleasing for me to meet many new people and to handle old and new books. I've had a little different look into the functioning of some aspects of my city's and county's government because of my involvement with the library.

I have also enjoyed attending a few regional meetings and workshops and getting to know some librarians from neighboring areas.

The occasions when our small library has been really able to help some persons locate some facts he or she sought or to bring joy to others through the goodly amount of recreational reading it offers, were most satisfying.

Many generous and thoughtful patrons and club groups have done so much to improve the facility. The careless or thoughtless or forgetful folk who just can't seem to return the books they borrow, are such a worry. Trying to change their ways is one of the headaches of the librarian's job.

Especially pleasing has been the community help from individuals and organizations who created the Children's Room. The children's story-times that have been organized by AAUW each summer and the series this spring arranged by a group of young mothers have been delightful—and practical, too, as the best time to interest children in libraries and books is during their early years which are the basis for their lifetime habits.

Thirty-three youngsters attended the June 26 storyhour and puppet show. More are expected at 10:30 on July 10, 17, 31 and August 7 and 14.

So great was the tremendous financial support which philanthropist Amanda Duvall volunteered in June 1977, making it possible for the library to stay open the last year of my tenure when neither the city nor the county could manage to come up with any library-operating funds.

This year hours of service were pared and the library has been open to the public 12 instead of 15 hours, with the librarian supposedly working only 10 hours each week—however, the necessary work, the cataloging, ordering, record-keeping, filing, weeding, shelf arranging and book mending continued at about the same pace as before the cut.

Now since July 1, new hours are being scheduled allowing five more hours of public service, and the new librarian, I understand, will officially work twice as long, 20 hours—with her 15 hours of public service and 5 hours of solo work time—thanks to the passage of the city budget. It is still hoped that volunteers will come in to assist her.

During the past five years, as in the years before them, many women of the community have given regular hours of assistance to the library. This year about a dozen have come in on regular shifts and have been most helpful to the continuing operation.

Several years back when fewer responded to the call for help, there were two who were most outstanding: June Way Field helped day after day for several years; Phyllis Wallace was another outstanding aide.

I feel pride in having been associated with this historic library. It began making this a better community in 1893 and has survived several floods and several gigantic fires. It has been relocated and reorganized many times. Many very fine women and men have guided its progress through the years.

When I was appointed librarian, Bill Seward was board chairman. He was succeeded by Randall Peterson who in turn gave way to Ed Struthers who was succeeded by the present chairperson, Myrna Johnson. Although the board's

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fourth-Wednesday monthly meetings are open to the public very rarely do citizens attend them.

Naturally, I have not been in complete agreement with some of the board's ideas. However, I am sure the five members are trying diligently to guide the library's development; their authority must be respected.

Getting well acquainted with Rachel Harnett and observing the sensational work she has done with the County Museum and with the family records she keeps has been one of the highlights of my recent years. It has been a privilege to work in the same building with her and to have her constant help. Rachel's cheerful devotion to her curatorship week after week and year after year is most remarkable.

Because books have always been an important part of my life and because I enjoy being with others who read, I intend to continue trying to help regularly as a library volunteer.

I so hope that somehow more citizens will come to appreciate the offerings of their growing library and the help and joy that its books can bring to them. I also hope that the community will come to use the Library-Museum Building more beneficially as time passes.

Of course, TV has altered family and individual living habits. It has probably kept many from reading as regularly as folks did before its advent. I enjoy TV, too, but still I shall never waiver in my love of and need for books—books which I may refer to over and over, books that transport me to exciting places, books that reveal the past and open the future, books that introduce me to characters who become my good friends. Some books inspire me, some books amuse me, and some books help me to better understand myself and my fellow men and our relationships. Books and TV are both great antidotes for loneliness.

Were you lucky as I was, in seeing several vignettes from Morrow County on the tube last week? I really enjoyed watching Kenneth Turner, and then the next night seeing Eric Anderson on the Northwest Tonight evening news. Each man was on his own land and was being interviewed by the Portland TV crew about his crop.

I wonder if either of these gentlemen will receive fan mail about their good appearances?

One recent night on KGW's "Evening" show there was an interesting segment featuring skateboarders. That very afternoon a Heppner friend told me about the skateboard demonstration she happened to see on our Main Street near the City Park the previous night. So, I guess our area is keeping up with some modern activities.

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Members of the Ione Rainbow Assembly fared well at the state convention recently. Margaret Kincaid, (left), was selected for the Grand Choir; Kristi Edmundson, (center), was named Grand Charity and was the top recipient of the state Rainbow Scholarship of \$300; and Barbara Divine was appointed to the Grand State Executive Committee. The Ione Assembly was sixth in the state for candy sales and received a scroll for maintaining membership.

Eastern Star members

return from state

Grand Chapter meeting

Mrs. Dick T. Wilkinson, past grand matron of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, Order of Eastern Star has recently returned from the annual meeting of Grand Chapter in Oregon at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland. She served as chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee completing a five year term of office on that committee.

Also attending were Mrs. Mary Bryant, recently appointed Grand Representative to California in Oregon, Mrs. Howard Bryant, and Mrs. Roy W. Lindstrom.

Representatives from 146 Chapters in Oregon were in attendance. Among philanthropic gifts presented was a check to the University of Oregon Cancer Research Center for about \$50,000. Eastern Star in Oregon has given to the Center over \$225,000 since their campaign to help conquer cancer through research first began in 1970-71. About \$19,000 was presented to ESTARL scholarship recipients. These will be used for religious training in any denomination.

Eastern Star chapter sets installation rite

Ruth-Locust Chapter No. 32, Order of Eastern Star, will hold installation Monday, July 10, at 8 p.m., at the Masonic Hall, Heppner.

and Worthy Matron will be Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Halvo sen, Ione. Virginia Wilkinsor Past Grand Matron, will be the installing officer.

Baumans host relatives

Recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J.D. Bauman were his sister, Edna Lyons,

Portland, and two nieces, Carol Martin, Beaver Creek and Norma Vawter, Weston.



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Shannon Kelly on Linfield Dean's List

Shannon Kelly of Heppner made the spring term dean's list at Linfield College in McMinnville.

Miss Kelly, a junior at the school, earned a 4.0 grade point average.

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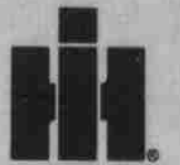
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