

*In Cook lived north of Mary
Access it was on the east side*

People You Know



by PHS Journalism Staff

Betty Isleb

Librarian

This week, People You Know departs from its usual practice of telling the story of one person and tells about a group of people whose hard work, determination, and cooperation accomplished a worthwhile goal.

About two years ago, Alice Baker, long-time resident of Eagle, began writing letters to see if there wasn't some way of starting a public library in Eagle. Mr. Lance Fanshaw, principal of the grade school, Mrs. Betty Isleb, and Mrs. Marvin Runquist all become interested. They held meetings and began organizing an effort to discover the how, where, who, and when of a public library.

The how was how to get the money to operate the library. In this department the kids lent a hand. Several of them got together and planned a Halloween dance, making more than \$70 in the process. They also collected donations during the Kettle Moraine Days parade in Eagle.

The library gets no money from local, county, or state governments. All comes from private donations. Many of the books and materials are donated. The Eagle Springs Yacht Club and American Legion gave book shelves towards the effort. The checkout desk was a gift from Kettle Moraine Antiques.

Where was another problem. Many sites were suggested. Finally a room in the back of the Methodist Church was transformed into a functioning library. In front, there is a sign informing people there is a library in that building. The sign was a gift of Mr. Jim Cook.

The when was this summer when the library opened its doors to the public. The library is open three days a week and there is hope of opening it more often so it is available to nearly everyone.

Mrs. Isleb and Mrs. Runquist take turns helping people find reading material and keeping things in order.

"This summer mostly kids were coming here," says Mrs. Isleb. "Now, since school has started more adults are using the library."

Mrs. Isleb and Mrs. Runquist are not the only ones in the library. Mrs. Loerke, the county historian, also helps. Mrs. Runquist's daughter, Wendy, is studying to be a library assistant and helps out. In addition, there are many student assistants.

Miss Alice Baker died earlier this year and the library is named in her honor. From Miss Baker's memorial the library has purchased a set of encyclopedias. Mrs. Isleb hopes to make the Alice Baker Memorial Library as successful as the public libraries in Mukwonago and Palmyra.