

Waukegan Chief 15 August 1984

Eagle Library settles into new home

A number of dedicated volunteers began moving over 10 years of acquired books and materials into the new Alice Baker Memorial Public Library recently. The library is now making its home in the renovated Partridge house at 117 East Main Street in the Village of Eagle. These volunteers painted, stained, and worked to help make the new library possible.

Head Librarian Betty Isleb, with assistant librarian Barb Jatezak, library clerks Joanne Batzler and Kathy Wendorf, and library secretary Barb Warriner, welcome readers of all ages into their new quarters.

The Partridge House, which was constructed in 1864, had been vacant for some time. The building was donated by Carl Zipprich, who now lives in Illinois. Zipprich owned some property within the area, and still visits quite often. "He really cared about Eagle," says Isleb, and wanted the buildings in the village to be renovated so the village could retain part of the flavor of the past.

Renovations began in early spring, and the library celebrated July 30 as the first day in the new location. The library board is also planning an open house in the fall.

The library in Eagle has been an important factor in the community for over the past ten years. It initially made its home in an area of the Eagle United Methodist Church, where it began in June of 1974.

About 12 years ago, Alice Baker, a resident of the area, tried to get people together to start a library. She approached Lance Fanshaw, who is now Superintendent of the Palmyra/Eagle Schools, and suggested setting up a meeting to determine interest in a library. About 40 people attended this first meeting.

But as meetings were held, fewer and fewer people attended. Fanshaw, Isleb, and Lillian Rundquist and her daughter Wendy saw that the plans of the library promoters were put into action. Fanshaw spoke with Dexter Badinger at the church, and they agreed to the rental of a portion of the Sunday school room for a library. Immediately the library began growing, and soon was beyond its capacity within the church.

Alice Baker passed away just shortly before the library opened in the church. She had lived her entire life in Eagle. She was interested in the community and wrote about it. She also wrote poems and had them published.

The library was named the Alice Baker Memorial Public Library. Fanshaw was the first Library Board President and



The Partridge House, the new home of the Alice Baker Memorial Public Library, is located at 117 East Main Street.

continues to serve on the board. John Daggett, until he passed away last fall, was a member of the library board. "He was tireless in his efforts to get the new building," says Isleb.

The first Library Board was made of Fanshaw, Isleb, Lillian Rundquist, Dorothy Sherman, and Mabel Finney. The current board is made of Finney, Fanshaw, Mabel Thomas, Lois Zipp, and Newell Meyer. The Eagle Village Board representative is Ralph Raduechel. The Eagle Town representative is Louise Hedrick. These people meet monthly.

The new library offers about four times as much room as the previous location. Many books are still in storage, and continue to be brought over slowly. The second floor of the building will hold office space, a reference area, and storage.

The computer on the second floor is used in conjunction with the Waukesha County Federated Library System. It is used in interlibrary loans. Items can now be obtained quickly through other libraries in the system, says Isleb. Libraries are now establishing special collections. In this way, small libraries do not have to offer all items as they can

quickly obtain them through other libraries in the system.

The Alice Baker Memorial Public Library is also planning a book sale, to eliminate duplicates of books. The Eagle Lions Club has donated a new sign, which will soon be erected in front of the library.

Alice Baker Library

*Alice Baker
Public Library*