

Library is bursting at seams

By Gordon Hickey

EAGLE — The Alice Baker Memorial Library has more than 10,000 books, two librarians, a few paid library workers and one room at the back of a church.

The library can be found in the United Methodist Church, 305 E. Main St. But if the Library Board has its way, it will be moved to roomy and, if not exactly plush, at least adequate quarters up the road.

The library opened in 1974 with a few donated books and a handful of volunteers. The book collection has grown so large that the place is bursting at the seams.

There is only one table with two chairs amid the stacks of books, and that table is covered with magazines. This is not a good place to do research if you're used to the quiet spaciousness of public libraries in places like Waukesha and Milwaukee.

But research is accomplished at the Baker library despite all the clutter.

That clutter, though, will be cleaned up someday, if only the Library Board can come up with about \$55,000.

The board was the recent recipient of a donation of a house on Main

Eagle library needs money

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Street. The house, donated by former Eagle resident Carl Zipprich of Highland Park, Ill., needs more than a little work. It needs plumbing, heating, electrical and insulation work. It needs ramps for the handicapped and elderly.

It also needs money.

Lance Fanshaw, Library Board president and superintendent of the Palmyra-Eagle School District, said Thursday the latest estimate on remodeling and renovating the building is \$55,000.

He said the board is trying a number of ways to come up with the money, but the most likely was to talk the Eagle town and village boards into donating the money.

He also said the small Library Building Fund has some money for the remodeling. But that, as of October, was only \$1,127.

"With what we have in here, we're stuffed," was how library worker Joanne Batzler described the library last week. She pointed around the room and said that in addition to what could be seen there, the librarian and assistant librarian both had many books stored in their houses.

She said the relationship between the church and library has been good over the years, but it has been a little inconvenient for both.

When she talks about moving, she says, a bit wistfully, that "maybe we can also have a children's room" and maybe the library could have its own telephone, and some

tables, and ... "just a little more room."

The room is packed now, from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. But it wasn't always that way. When the library first opened, there were just enough books to fill the shelves along one wall.

Books came through donations and grants. Some came through the county federated library system. "All libraries outgrow themselves," she said.

"A lot of organizations and people have volunteered their help (with the new building) once it gets on the road," said Mabel Thomas, Library Board member. But, she said, it is getting the money to get started that is holding things back.

"The fact that we have the beautiful location is just tremendous," she said.

While those who want to move and expand the library are waiting for the town and village to do something, they have set up the building fund and fund-raising events.

While money is being raised, Fanshaw said he will continue talking to village and town officials. He said the Town Board had recently set aside some money for the library, but he wasn't sure of the amount or whether it was for the library relocation.

A person can still go to the Alice Baker Memorial Library and check out a book. Hours are 2 to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

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W. AUKESHA FREEMAN Nov. 7 1983

Eagle library to move next year

By Gordon Hickey

EAGLE — The Alice Baker Memorial Library will move to space more becoming of its long name sometime next year.

The library will move its 10,000 volumes to a house that was donated to the library by former village resident Carl Zipprich of Highland

Park, Ill. The move was made possible when the Village Board voted to match a \$25,000 donation the Town Board had made earlier.

The new building, on Main Street just a few houses away from the existing library, needs about \$55,000 worth of repairs to make it usable. It needs plumbing, heating, electrical and insulation work and ramps for the elderly and handicapped.

The existing library is in 'one

room in the back of the United Methodist Church, 305 E. Main St.

Village Clerk Gerald J. VonRueden said today that the village donation will be in addition to the village's regular yearly contribution to the library. He said the village had budgeted about \$3,700 for its share of the library's operating costs.

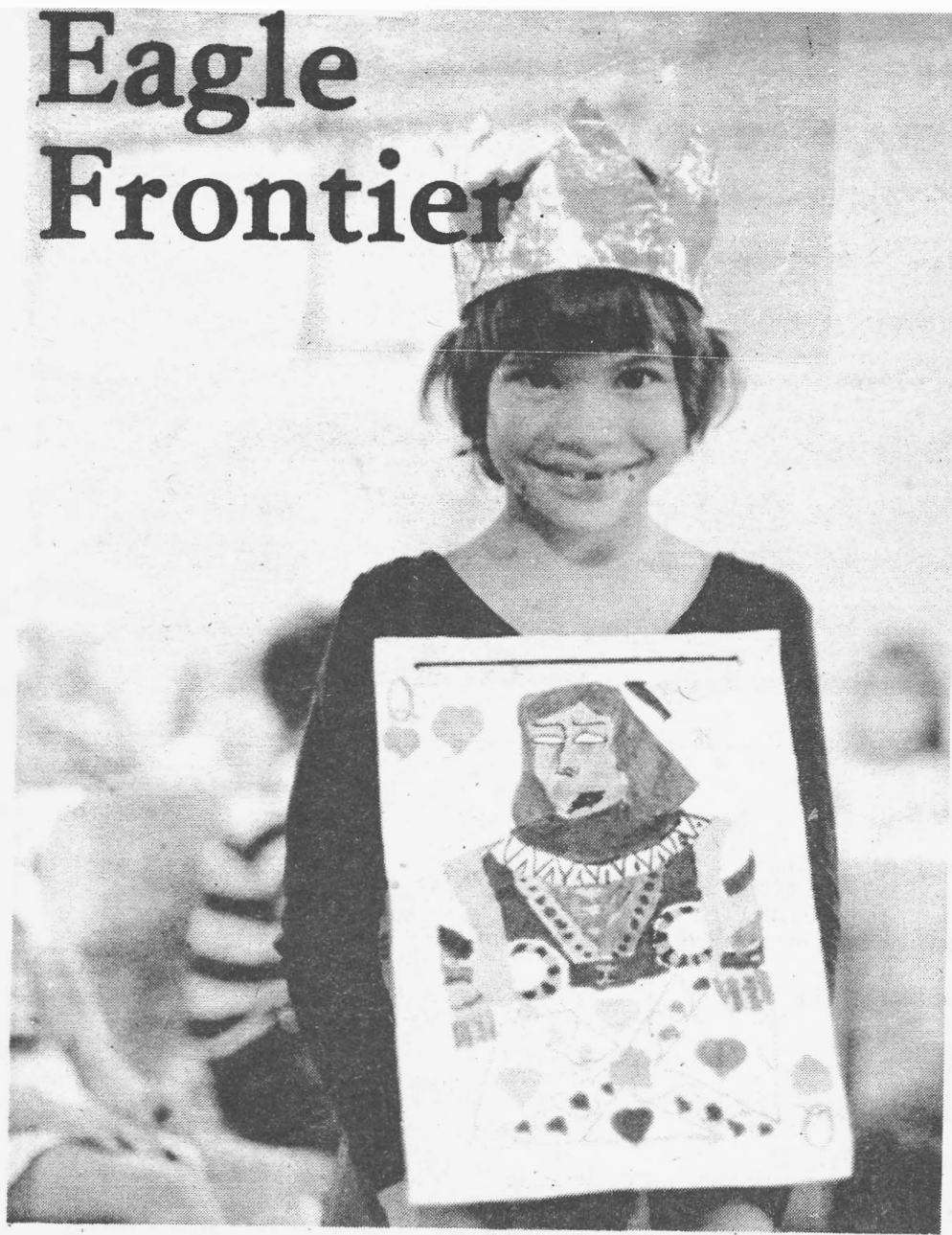
VonRueden said the town had made its \$25,000 contribution sev-

eral weeks ago "under the condition the village was to match it."

"I don't know where the money is going to come from, but we'll have no problem getting it," he said. The Library Board already has plans drawn up for remodeling the new building.

The existing library is in 300 square feet of space. The new library will have 925 square feet.

Eagle Frontier



Kerry Walters came to the tea party, the final day of the Eagle library program, dressed as the Queen of Hearts. Kerry led the children to the table filled with goodies symbolizing Alice's trip "Through the Looking Glass." Staff photo by Diane Flaherty.

Greene - 1/10/83

Library expanding in Eagle

EAGLE — The Alice Baker Memorial Library is planning to expand, thanks to the generous donation of a former Eagle resident.

Carl Zipprich, of Highland Park, Ill., has donated a house in the 200 block of Main Street for the expansion. The house is near the present library in a rented room at the United Methodist Church, 305 E. Main St.

The house will add approximately 1,800 to 2,000 square feet of space to the library, Library Board member John Daggett said today. The library now has over 12,000 books shelved in about 700 square feet of space.

However, the house will need extensive remodeling to become a library, Daggett added. He said the Library Board is not sure where it will get the money for such remodeling but hopes work can begin soon.

The board is using information from the state Department of Public Instruction to help with planning and will discuss financing the project with the village board.

If plans go well, Daggett said the house could also be used as a village social center.