

Library facility at Quarryville serves southern Lancaster Co



Melanie Moyer (left), project supervisor; Sherrie Snyder, consultant for the Lancaster County Library Extension Department; and Fran Entrekin, library center coordinator, discuss the Summer's reading project.

HOMESTEAD NOTES

By SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Feature Writer

"The community support is fantastic, it is really great; more than any of us could ever have expected," says Fran Entrekin, coordinator of the newly opened Southern Lancaster County Library Center. She summed up what has been a year-long successful attempt to open a reading center for the Southern Lancaster County residents.

At 304 St. Catherine Street, Quarryville, stands a brand new library filled with 3,000 new hard-bound books, many records, pamphlets, paperback books, films and cassettes, current magazines, reference materials, and even puppets. The modular building is fully equipped with air-conditioning, and is built to give easy access to handicapped individuals confined to wheelchairs. There are special lounge chairs for youngsters to use when browsing through books, as well as record players, a film projector, and many displays throughout the center.

The brightly colored oranges, reds, browns, and whites of the interior of the reading center make it an attractive place to browse, read, view a film, or learn a craft. The library is not simply a room full of books but a place for opportunities to explore with sights, sounds, and the printed word.

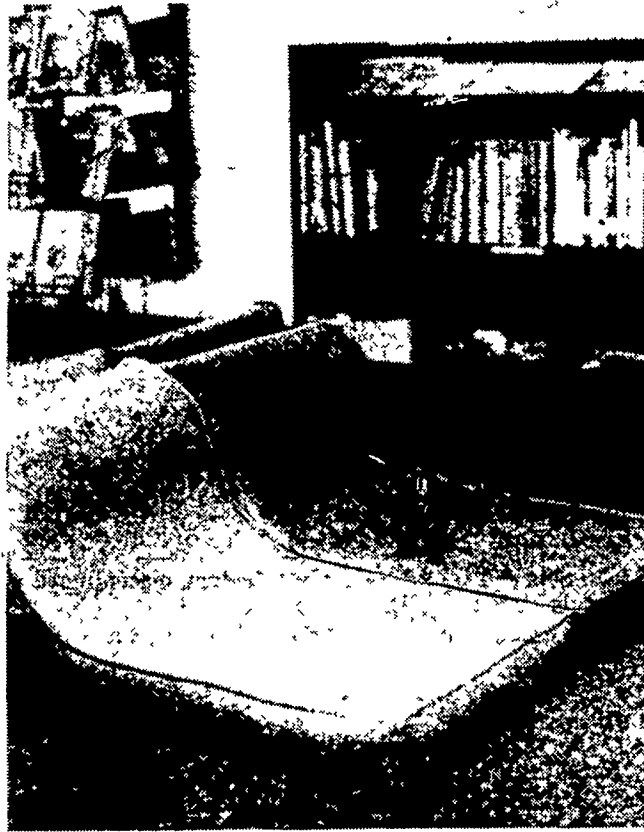
Recently Lancaster Farming spoke with Fran Entrekin, library coordinator at the Southern Lancaster County Reading Center; Melanie Moyer, project supervisor; and Sherri Snyder, consultant at the Lancaster County Library Extension Department to find out how this new building, its contents, and goals came to be.

As is the case with most federally funded programs, much paperwork, public speaking, and endless meetings preceded the reality of the finished product. But all three young women involved unanimously agreed that the fantastic community support is what really made the undertaking work.

In 1976, the Lancaster County Library system which includes the main library in Lancaster City and eight reading centers in Adamstown, Intercourse, Leola, Manheim, Manheim Township, Mountville, Rohrerstown, and Strasburg, received federal funds through a grant from the Library Construction Act to open a new reading center at some town with a population of under 2000 in the county. Five places were selected as possibilities, and the Extension Department of the Library went out to these municipalities to take their proposals to the borough or town councils.

Support was immediate at Quarryville. The borough offered the land for the building site, named individuals who might be willing to help organize the center in the form of an advisory committee, and promised financial assistance after the 12-month long grant expires. Although the building is within the borough limits of Quarryville, the new library actually serves the greater Solanco area including nine townships and the borough, or a population of nearly 18,000 people.

The real need for and interest in this type of project has been demonstrated by statistics from the first six months of operation. The average circulation of the other staffed reading



The newly opened Southern Lancaster County Library is a modular building decorated with brightly colored modernistic furniture. These comfortable lounge chairs offer a tempting seat for browsing through books and displays.

centers in the Lancaster County system is 500 books per month. Immediately upon opening, the library at Quarryville tallied 2000 to 2500 books per month in circulation.

To Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Snyder, the two women in the Lancaster County Library Extension Depart-

Reading, in itself, creates fantasy lands of new ideas and make believe worlds, but this Summer, children from the ages of seven through 14 will actually be able to read their ways into the tangible Fantasyland located near Gettysburg.

The program involved is the Southern Lancaster County Library Center's Summer reading program which will be held from July 5 through August 13.

The participants must read six books - three fiction and three non-fiction, all on the child's reading level - and a short review of each

work must be written. The forms for this review are available at the library center.

Everyone participating will also receive mobiles at the beginning of the Summer program. As each book is read, a new section will be added to the hanging artwork.

Certificates and free Fantasyland passes will be awarded on August 13th at the library center.

Anyone interested in the program can take part in registration on July 5 at the library center, 304 St. Catherine Street, Quarryville.

ment who worked with this project, the before-mentioned statistics proved that opening an attractive library which contains a quality collection and is operated by a competent, paid staff member is a formula for success.

Mrs. Entrekin, local coordinator of the library at Quarryville, lives at Pequea, R1. She received a degree in library science from Millersville State College, and for a time worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology developing a scientific library there. Presently her job as library co-ordinator at the new reading center involves a 25-hour work week in which she schedules the volunteers to cover the hours the library is open, sets up special programs to be used at the library or from the library facilities and taken to public schools and nursery schools, writes press releases for promotion of programs, and handles the requests for special materials by patrons.

Presently, there are 30 volunteers who staff the library during the 31 hours each week the library is open. Mrs. Entrekin explains that she always tries to have two volunteers, adult as well as school students, on duty at the same time to help the patrons. She says, "I really could use more volunteers now. We are very busy."

Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Moyer were quick to acknowledge the enthusiasm they received from the public school librarians in the Solanco School District. Mrs. Moyer said they were very supportive of the project and were very pleased to see such a center open in the district. Many of the school librarians volunteer their time and interest during the open

hours and at advisory committee meetings.

"The school administration has been much in favor of our efforts," Mrs. Snyder says. "The superintendent sent special greetings and the center was publicized in school district newsletters."

In addition to scheduled volunteer help, Mrs. Entrekin also organizes special programs such as demonstrations. Since November 1976 opening the center has held demonstrations ranging from macrame and crocheting to making cone wreaths. Several instructors were women who had never the opportunity to teach class before.

"They were very teachers!" Mrs. Entrekin commented about tutoring.

In addition to offering a chance to learn a new skill at the center during closed hours, the library also offers an opportunity to view films scheduled evenings. Examples of the movie fare at the July 1 program on cartoons, the July 8 cartoons, and the July 15 oldies starring "Our Girl Shirley Temple, and Costello."

Many elementary school classes came to the library this Spring for orientation and they especially delight in the puppet show put on by Mrs. Entrekin. She there will be a permanent puppet collection established at the center to be used in nursery schools in the area as well.

Not neglecting a family member from the youngest to the oldest, the center also provides consumer awareness information displays.

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For the readers' enjoyment, 3000 new hard-bound books stock the shelves of the library center in Quarryville. The facility also offers

records, pamphlets, paperback books, films and cassettes, current magazines, reference materials, puppets.