

She can't attend, but Mrs. Crump's spirit is there

With her 100th birthday approaching in six months, former children's librarian Mrs. Florence Crump sends the Back Mountain Memorial Library her best wishes for the upcoming auction from her home at The Meadows Nursing Center.

In a recent conversation with longtime friend Mrs. Nancy Kozemantrak, the library's business manager, Mrs. Crump said, "We're going to sell books again. That'll be nice. People who didn't know about the library will learn about it during the auction."

She was the children's librarian until her retirement at age 70 and chairman of Mrs. Crump's Book Booth" until health problems forced her to step aside two years ago.

She is now book booth chairman emeritus.

The originator of the book booth named in her honor, Mrs. Crump is unofficially known as "the first lady of the library" because of her love of children and books and her willingness to help out whenever needed. No job was beneath her dignity, for she thought of the library as her entire life. Many adults now working at

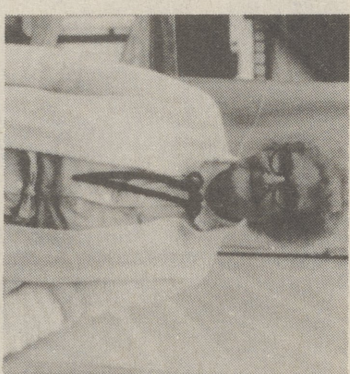


PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY KOZEMANTRAK
Chairman emeritus Mrs. Florence Crump ran the book booth until sidelined by health problems two years ago. Here she is seen leaving the permanent book booth set up at the former library grounds on Main Street.

The auction remember childhood visits to the children's library, where Mrs. Crump recommended books which she thought might interest them.

A resident of The Meadows for the past two years, Mrs. Crump has staked out her favorite place underneath the clock in the dining room, where she says no one will have trouble finding her.

"Dallas never had such a convenient place," she told Mrs. Kozemantrak.

"The jelly and pudding here are creamy and delicious."

Although Mrs. Crump is unable to attend the auction, her spirit will be in the neatly lettered wooden sign on the front of her book booth and the many memories shared by her friends at the library.

Mrs. CRUMP'S BOOK BOOTH

If it's not here, you don't need it

Crafters, gardeners and bookworms will want to head for Mrs. Crump's Book Booth, where they'll find bushels of books needing a good home.

Offering a great variety of books to suit just about any reading interest, the book booth, decorated with a neatly lettered wooden sign, is named for its chairman emeritus and originator, Mrs. Florence Crump, 99-1/2 years young.

Although sidelined two years ago by health problems, her spirit lives on in the booth's name and philosophy: something at a reasonable price to suit nearly every reader.

"This year we have lots of craft books and a special section of large coffee table books, all in excellent condition," said Bernie

Matchett, who is co-chairing the booth with Jeff Matius and Anne Aston.

"Jeff has been coming in from Penn State on weekends to work. He's one of our unsung heroes."

Also new this year is a selection of audio and video tapes.

Among the thousands of books in the big tent are a good variety of new novels, gardening, fishing and collectible books.

Nothing is wasted - the books which aren't sold at the auction will be donated to an organization which will send them to Third-World countries to be used in literacy programs.

Sand art booth returns

One of last year's most popular attractions was the Sand Art Booth, where artists of all ages created interesting pieces of art using colored sand and glass bottles of various sizes.

Coordinated by Senior Girl Scout Troop 622, the booth will be manned by Girl Scouts from many area troops as a community service project, with the proceeds donated to the library.

"Last year we had kids, teens and adults making some very creative pieces of art," said troop leader Jamie Kozemko. "They were beautiful - no two were alike."

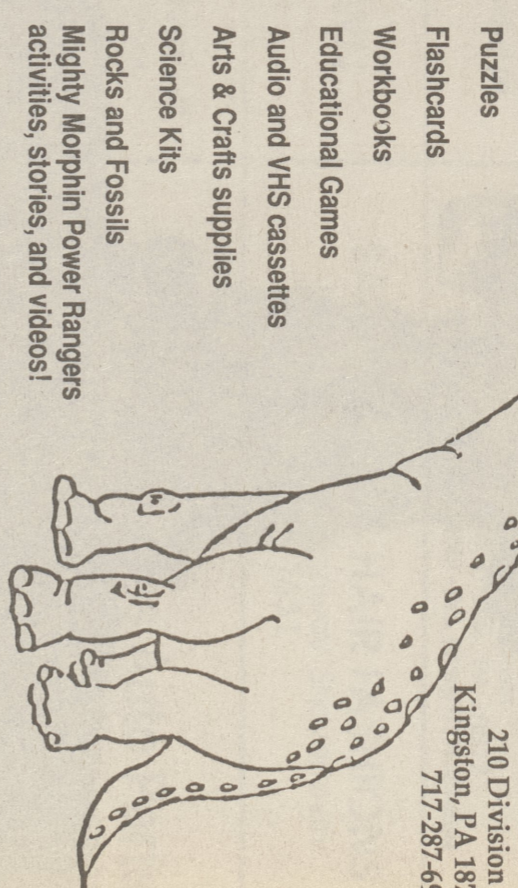
The Sand Art Booth will be a great place to create an individualized, one-of-a-kind piece of artwork for a gift or yourself.



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