

## Mrs. Crump

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storing the books for the booth was a year-round operation. Mrs. Kozemchak recalled taking Mrs. Crump to several used book sales at Wyoming Seminary to stock up on interesting items for her beloved booth.

Mrs. Crump moved to The Meadows Nursing Center in 1992, after health problems prevented her from living at home with her cats and working at the auction. She liked The Meadows and had her favorite place staked out under the clock in the dining room, Mrs. Kozemchak said.

"When she was well enough, she always asked me how things were going at the library and how the children who use it were," Mrs. Kozemchak said. "She was one devoted library lady."

Mrs. Crump had suffered a stroke September 19, 1994, but was able to celebrate her 100th birthday quietly with friends December 2.

Friend and neighbor Bennie Matchett was her successor at the book booth. "I still use her system, which I believe has made the book booth a continuing success," she said. For the past four years, Mrs. Matchett considered Mrs. Crump to be the book booth's chairman emeritus.

Describing Mrs. Crump as "a valiant woman," Mrs. Matchett said she always gave 1,000 percent of herself to everything she did. "You don't find women like this - refined, genteel and very knowledgeable - any more," she said.

Mrs. Crump never thought about how old she was, Mrs. Matchett said. She always had something to look forward to, whether it was buying a new pair of shoes or working at her beloved library.

"I always learned something from her," she said. "Mrs. Crump never seemed like an elderly person. She had a wonderful attitude towards life and was a pleasure to be with."

"Mrs. Crump had a dry sense of humor," said fellow board member Charlotte Bartizek. "She always had a quick comeback. Once at a board meeting, when someone remarked that she had come, she fired back, 'I don't know how I got here. I get picked up and dumped here once a month.'"

She was also very humble, Mrs. Bartizek said. When her friends gathered for a surprise 96th birthday party, Mrs. Crump smiled and said, "I never had it in my head this would be a birthday party for me."

Mrs. Crump often identified people by where they lived, for example calling Joanne Runner "That girl from Druid Hills."

Blessed with an uncanny ability to charm the little ones, Mrs. Crump really loved children. Generations of Back Mountain kids learned to love reading because Mrs. Crump always seemed to know of books which would pique their curiosity.

"She lived for the library," said Barbara Lemmond. "Mrs.



Mrs. Florence Crump is shown, center, in a photo taken around 1972. Standing, from left Patricia Boida, librarian, Doris Pierce. Seated, Mrs. Ralph Lewis, Mrs. Crump, Oce Austin.

*"She lived for the library and looked forward every year to the auction."*

Barbara Lemmond  
Library board member

Crump was very faithful and never missed a board meeting. She lived for the library and looked forward every year to the auction."

Several auction committee members remembered Mrs. Crump stopping by the various booths every year at the auction, carefully selecting a small purchase from each one as her contribution to the success of the booths.

Ernie Ashbridge recalled Mrs. Crump's love of cookbooks. "She forever collected them," he said. "She must have loved to cook. We found more than 300 of them when we held the estate sale after she moved to The Meadows."

He recalled seeing her garden, a bit overgrown but still showing signs of the many hours of love and attention she gave it, at the sale.

Dedicated, ageless, refined and determined were all words which her friends used to describe her. They all agreed Mrs. Crump was a real friend and a very special lady.

## Geese

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self."

The geese have also stopped traffic on Lake Street and Center Hill Road, when they cross the roadway one by one.

"We're not allowed to feed them, but people who don't live at the complex are coming in and feeding them," added Helen Hardisky. "The geese will come right up to anyone who offers them food."

Maintenance men wash down the walkways, but the geese mess them up before they're dry, the women said.

"The poor people next door (at The Meadows Nursing Center) can't go out in their wheelchairs," said Doris Margellina. "The stuff gets all over the wheels - they could get it on their hands."

With its stream, two ponds and large lawn, the complex is home to various wild animals - muskrats, beaver, woodchucks, deer and a few rabbits, which at least one resident has photographed. The flock of mallard ducks which once commuted between the creek at Pickett's Charge and the pond have been chased away. They don't get along with the geese.

"The ducks weren't that bad," Mrs. Gabel said. "We enjoyed them. They didn't make so many messes on the walks."

The complex's maintenance men have been washing the drop-

pings from the walkways several times a day, according to Meadows Nursing Center administrator Carl Noto.

"Some of our residents like to look at the geese, but we hope they'll move on soon," Noto said. That may not happen. Pennsylvania Game Commis-

*"Watch where you step and don't look up while they're flying overhead."*

sion wildlife education supervisor Tim Conway believes the geese are a resident flock which left another home nearby because they ran out of food or their water supply dried up. Resident geese stay in an area all year round instead of migrating south in September and October.

"We're seeing an increase in the resident goose population because we have many golf courses and new housing developments with ponds," he said. "They may move out on their own - or they may not."

The women advise aspiring goose-watchers to "Watch where you step and don't look up while they're flying overhead."

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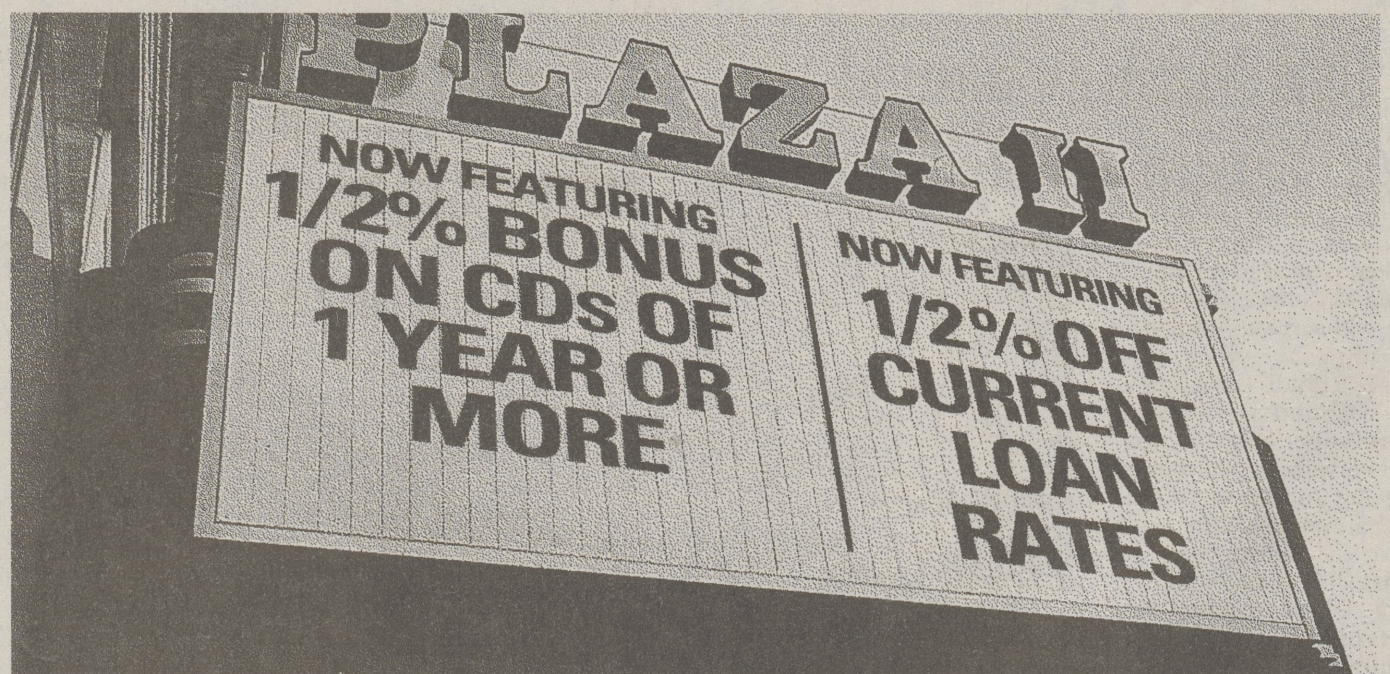
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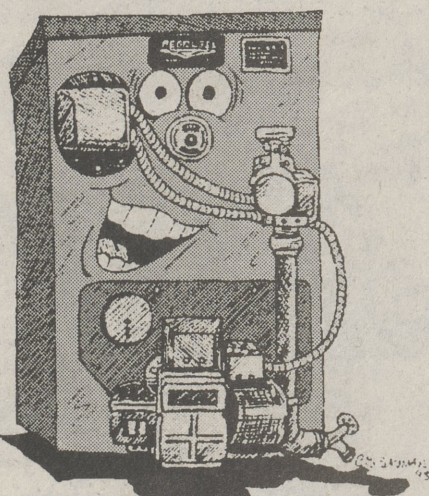
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