

Wednesday, May 21, 1986

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KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

The PAPER

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114 West Market Street, Warsaw, Indiana 46580

Bell Memorial honors Mentone

By GLEN LONG
Staff Writer

Residents of the Mentone area in southwest Kosciusko County have benefitted from 70 years of service to the community from the Bell Memorial Library, which was begun in 1916 as the Mentone Library. The library was moved to its present quarters in the Bell Memorial Building which was built at 306 North Broadway and opened to the public on January 23, 1960.

The Bell Memorial Library was made possible by a grant of \$20,000 in the will of Lawrence Dale Bell for the establishment of a memorial to his parents, Isaac and Harriet (Sarber) Bell.

Having been born in Mentone in 1894, Bell moved to Santa Monica, Calif. with his parents when he was 12 years old. He quit school to take a position with The Glenn L. Martin Company. Later in his career he left the Consolidated Aircraft Corp. and started the Bell Aircraft Corp., which became known internationally for the military aircraft it built.

The services of the Bell Library have expanded greatly in the years since 1916 when it had a collection of 50 books secured from the Indiana State Library. The library now has a collection of over 28,000 books, 600



Its local newspaper microfilm library is complete from 1885 to the present.

Bell Library is a member of the Indiana Video Circuit, which sends 56 new video tapes twice each month and the library's permanent collection of videos is steadily being increased. A video tape reader has been donated, along with many other useful items, by the Friends of the Library for the use of library patrons.

Special library services include summer reading club, home book delivery, two sessions of children's weekly story hours, postal delivery of books and talking book service, which is available for those who cannot read for reasons of blindness or other physical impairment.

Madeleine Fisher, who has served as librarian since 1973, speaks with pride of the services the library offers. "We consider ourselves to be an agricultural library," she says. "We try to serve the agricultural community in the area."

She adds that the library has tractor repair manuals on all tractors manufactured as well as reference materials on many aspects of farming. She is hoping that as time goes by the interest in the library's agricultural resources will grow as the result of young farmers "growing up" with the library.

Until 1980 Bell Library was a "town library," funded by the Town of Mentone and holding contracts with Harrison, Franklin and Seward townships. At that time Harrison Township merged with the town to form a new "town-township library." The library presently serves, and is funded by, the Town of Mentone and Harrison Township only. However, non-residents may purchase yearly library cards.

Bell is a member of the Area Library Services Authority which gives its patrons access to materials from the collections of a wide assortment of special libraries as well as all the public libraries of the state. A special courier delivers these items in Mentone twice a week. The library is also able to offer its patrons reciprocal borrowing cards so they may personally visit and borrow items from other libraries. For example, a Mentone library user can borrow from the Warsaw Library without having a Warsaw card.

(Continued on page 4)

Early Deadline

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, all offices will be closed on Monday, May 26. Early deadlines will be in effect on Friday, May 23. Deadline for classified ads is at noon and news copy is at 4 p.m.

Special Section On Memorial Day

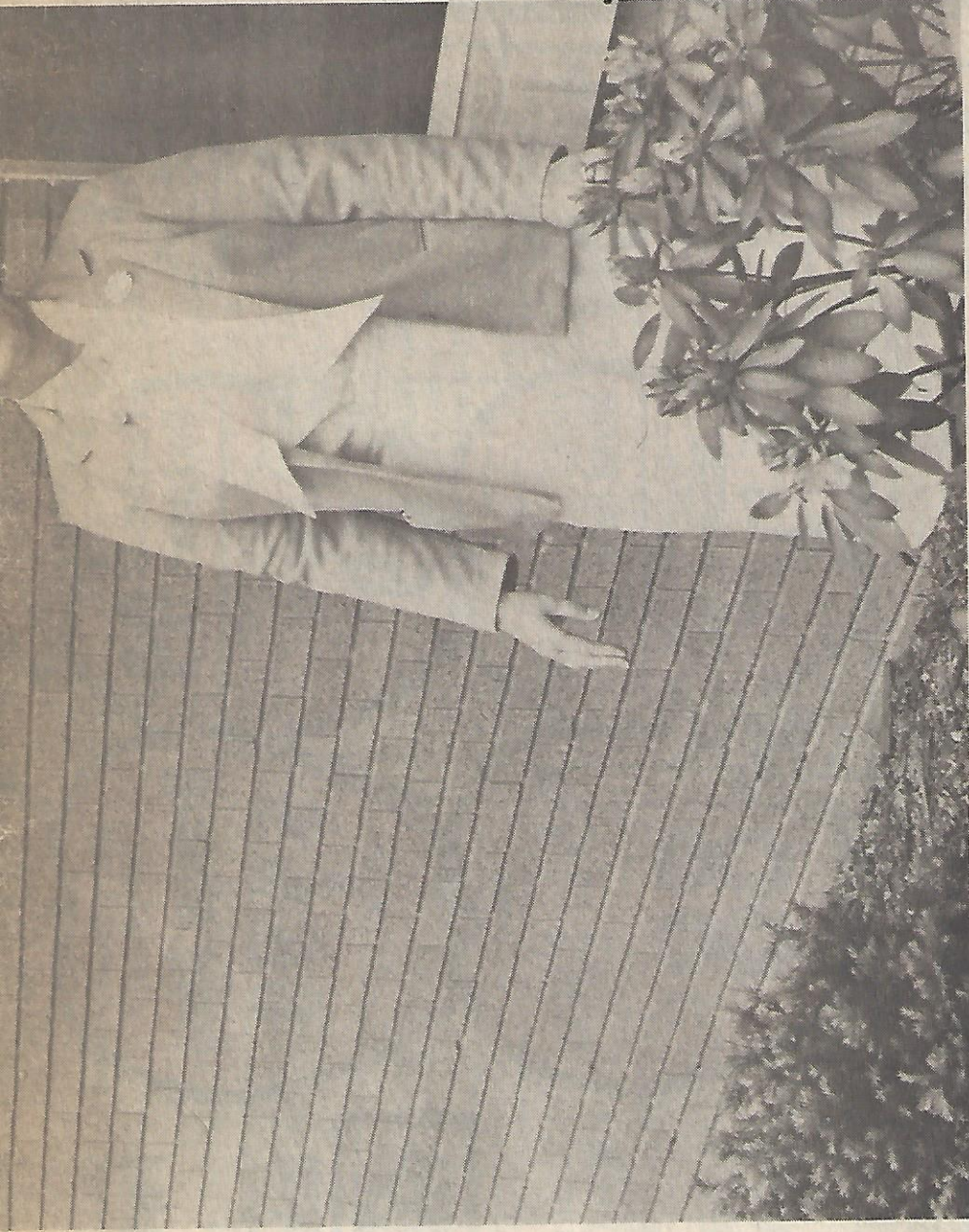
In This Week's Issue

Dan Makes A Quick Escape

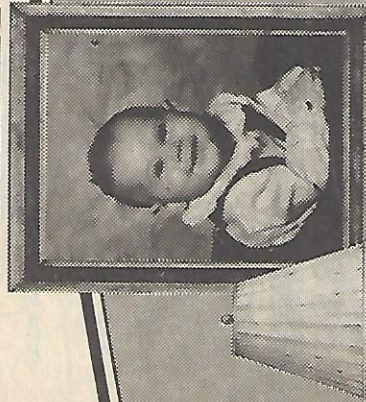
In 'Storm Testament IV'

MENTONE BOOK PLACE — Madeleine Fisher takes pride in being librarian at Bell Memorial Library in Mentone, a position she has held since 1973. She is always eager to help patrons use the many features the

library offers. Improvements continue to be made in the library through the efforts of the librarian, library board members and the local Friends of the Library group.



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(\$15 Value)

**NOW ONLY
\$12.95**

2—8x10s 3—5x7s 15 wallets

Children of all ages, adults and groups

COUPON

Free 10x13 Wall Portrait Present this coupon to our photographer when you make your 95¢ deposit and you'll receive a FREE 10x13 Wall Portrait when you purchase a 20 portrait package at the regular price. Your Wall Portrait will feature one of our popular traditional poses (sorry, no special effects or special poses).

95¢ deposit per advertised package. \$1 sitting fee for each additional subject in same portrait. Not valid with any other offer. One free 10x13 per family. Advertised package poses our selection. One advertised package per subject, or group posed together. Satisfaction always or your money refunded.

THURSDAY, MAY 22 THRU

SATURDAY, MAY 24

DAILY: 10 A.M.-7 P.M.

**OLD ROUTE 30 WEST
WARSAW, IN**



Use 'the PAPER' to advertise

Bell Memorial honors Mentone

(Continued from page 1)

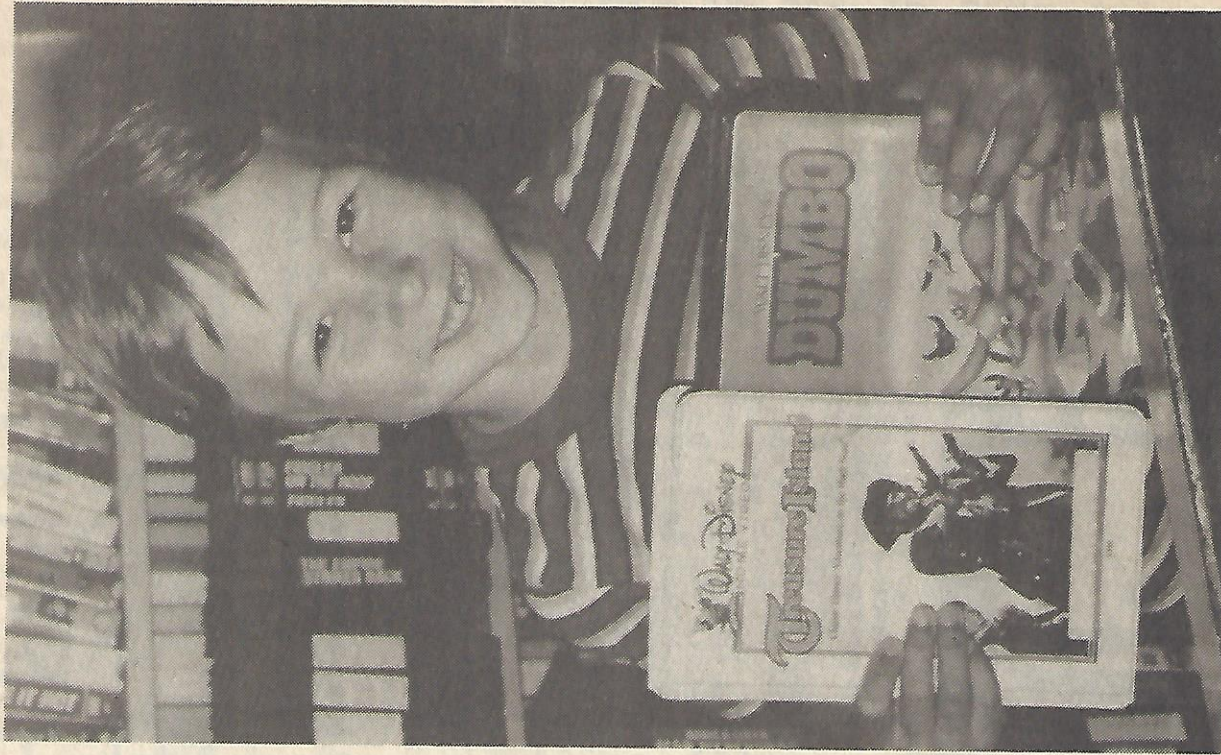
The librarian says that ALSA is very cost-effective for the library, which can purchase much used items but still have access to "sometimes" needed materials.

Features of the library include a very extensive genealogy section and a growing section of reference dated obituary information which is being cataloged by a volunteer, Linda Oden.

Facilities of the library have continued to grow since the initial building was completed. In 1971 a one room addition which, as the reference room, is a beehive of activity when school term papers and reports are due. In 1980 a handicapped entrance was added at ground level at the back near the parking area. This feature includes a door-bell which can be used to summon needed assistance in entering the building.

In the late summer of 1985 a new workroom was added in conjunction with a needed project to have a continuing problem with a leaky roof finally repaired. The flat roof of the building was replaced with a hip roof and insulation and cedar siding were added to the sides and back of the library.

The librarian is pleased to point out that these recent improvements have been made with funds from the Library Improvement Reserve Fund, a \$20,000 dollar federal grant and a \$15,000 loan which will be paid off during 1986 and 1987 from the regular library budget with no increased tax levy. Fisher says that this takes some high-powered budgeting, but she and the library board believe this approach best serves the public.



HAPPY LIBRARIAN PATRON — Garrett Shelton, six, visited the Bell Memorial Library last week with his father, Jerry Shelton, Mentone. He was pleased to select two new video tapes for his weekend viewing. The library has an ever-growing collection of videos for its patrons to borrow.