

## Along The Way

By Emily Killeter

The Duplin County-Dorothy Wightman Friends of the Library presented a plaque in memory of Mrs. Louise Boney to the Duplin County-Dorothy Wightman Board of Trustees last week.

The plaque will hang in the county library on Seminary Street in Kenansville. Each year the Friends of the Library will select a person actively involved with the Duplin Library as an outstanding volunteer and his or her name will be engraved on the Louise Boney Memorial plaque, Duplin Friends of the Library president Tom Fife explained. According to Fife and members of the Duplin County Library Board of Trustees, Mrs. Boney has served both organizations and was instrumental in acquiring the first bookmobile in the 1950s.

This week Along the Way is featuring a history of the Duplin County Library written by Paul Barwick and published in the April 26, 1956 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES. The Duplin Library is one of many tributes that can be credited in part to the efforts of Mrs. Boney.

**Duplin County Library**  
Since 1947, the Duplin County Library Service has shown continued increase in the number of books available for circulation and the actual circulation.

"We are proud of the growth of our county library," County Librarian Dorothy Wightman said. "I don't think television has hurt us. It did at first," she said, "but now the novelty has worn off."

Duplin County's library has 14,792 volumes on its shelves. This shows an increase of 1,000 volumes since last July when the fiscal year ended and inventory was taken.

The main library is located near the courthouse in Kenansville and is staffed by Miss Wightman. Most of the work around the county is done on a voluntary basis. In addition to the central library, there are four local libraries. One is at Faison, Rose Hill, Wallace and Warsaw.

In each of these local libraries, the librarian is appointed and paid by the town with the exception of Rose Hill, where the librarian is a volunteer.

Each town has provided and furnished a room for the library. Some are in the community and others are in the city hall, which is the case in Warsaw.

In 1948, a bookmobile was purchased by the county library through state aid funds. Each year this truck makes several trips around the county to deliver books to community libraries and to volunteers in various rural communities. In such communities, these volunteer workers circulate books among farm families.

The bookmobile has a capacity of 800 books. Miss Wightman is the driver of the bookmobile and finds that the turn-over is very good during the year throughout the county.

Through the bookmobile last year, 7,749 volumes were circulated. Actually, this is a small decrease over the previous year. But on the other hand, an increase was shown in circulation from the central and local libraries.

Because of the bookmobile, which made 130 trips during 1955, more reading is done by farm families than

would be done otherwise. The 130 trips last year represents 359 stops and 4,444 miles traveled.

When weather conditions are favorable most of the year, more trips are made and more miles traveled during a year. For the past two years, hurricanes, extreme cold,

extreme hot days and rainy days have decreased the number of trips over a year's schedule.

Duplin County has continued to show progress each year with its library. In 1947 there were 3,700 books on the shelves. Today there are 14,792 volumes.

An indication of the usage of books is revealed through the circulation growth since 1946.

In 1946, the circulation was 14,884; 1947, 21,623; 1948, 17,046; 1949, 27,862; 1950, 30,980; 1951, 34,138; 1952, 32,841. Bad weather conditions kept the bookmobile from

making its regular rounds in 1953. 32,164; the year in which television invaded eastern North Carolina as a novelty and new media of entertainment; 1954, 35,033; the biggest year ever registered for book circulation in Duplin; and in 1955, a decrease was shown with 32,471 volumes circulated. Miss Wightman said bad weather conditions and an overlapping, more than usual of crops was responsible for the decrease.

The county library is financed through the county and state. From the county each year, \$1,800 is

appropriated and from the state, the library receives \$3,600.

For several years, the county library was housed in a very small building which was badly in need of repairs. When Hampton Williams sold the property to the county for construction of Duplin General Hospital, he gave his old office building to the county with the understanding that it was to be used for a county library building. This new structure was moved from the original site to behind the agricultural building in Kenansville and occupied in July, 1953.

The Trustees of the Library are interested in the growth of its facility. Mrs. Lawrence Southerland of Kenansville is chairman; Mrs. Hugh Morrison, Wallace, secretary; with other trustees of Mrs. N.B. Boney, Kenansville; Mrs. Louise Fussell, Rose Hill; Mrs. W.R. Clifton, Faison; Mrs. Paul Potter, Warsaw; and Mrs. Alvin Kornegay, Albertson.

A.C. Hall, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; and F.W. McGowan, county auditor, are ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees.

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### Announce Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bell of Route 2, Mount Olive, announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth, on May 12, 1985, at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro.

Mrs. Bell is the former Robin Stroud, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claro Stroud of Kenansville. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Delmas Bell of Route 2, Mount Olive.

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