

# LOWELL LIBRARY LINES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER 1990



## INDIANA HONORS TUTOR

In the summer of 1989, the Lowell Public Library began its Literacy Program to the migrant workers of the area. Every Sunday afternoon, the only day the migrants weren't working in the fields, a dedicated group of tutors came to the library to meet with their students.

Dorothy Tortorici was one of those tutors. Because the students represented a wide range in both their previous formal education and their ability to speak English, tutors had to adapt their techniques for each student. As the weeks went by it became apparent that Dorothy was spending many additional hours preparing learning materials for the various levels of students. Because of her sensitivity, adaptability, and warm sense of humor, she worked equally well with beginning students as well as those who had completed high school and spoke English well.

When summer came to an end and most of the workers left the area, Dorothy began to travel to the farm near Schneider to help the wives and children of two workers who remained on the farm year round.

As the weather grew colder, Dorothy appealed to the community through the library for donations of warm clothing and toys for the families. Many items of food as well as clothing were donated. Even a small Christmas tree with lights and ornaments came in from our generous community.

Throughout the winter, Dorothy continued her weekly visits to the farm, no matter what the weather. In addition to tutoring and providing clothing, she assisted her students in complying with sometimes confusing official procedures, and when no other transportation was available, would even take her students to the grocery store.

Literacy tutors are a special breed of people, giving of their time without expectation of recognition. It was, therefore, even more of a wonderful surprise when, at a reception at the Governor's Mansion on September 7, Dorothy Tortorici was named by the Governor's Voluntary Action Council as their Literacy Volunteer of the year for the State of Indiana.

Well done, Dorothy!

34%  
& RISING

# Wow

Higher than ever before. With more than three months to go, the Lowell Public Library is already seeing a major jump in circulation of materials from the previous year.

As of August, patrons have borrowed 91,768 items from Lowell, 4,622 from the Schneider Branch and 10,550 from the Shelby Branch, 106,940 since January of 1990, for an increase of 34% over the preceeding year.

Last year, 655 area residents applied for library cards during the first 8 months of the year. From January through August of this year, the libraries added another 689 patrons, including 34 from the newest part of the district, Eagle Creek Township.

The 676 young members of Summer Reading Club accounted for 24,275 books checked out from June 11 to August 6.

The new addition of compact discs and a wide variety of videos to choose from have added to the library's appeal.

This year the library purchased approximately 1,900 new children's and adult, fiction and non-fiction books, 50 compact discs, 95 videos, 383 items for the pamphlet file, 10 cassettes, 30 learning material sets.

A pocket book parade bookcase was added, stocked with the types of paperback books most popular with library patrons.

continued on page 2



New medical news from Surgery on File, World News from Facts on File and Newsbank, up-to-date news articles from 450 United States newspapers, also keeps the library user informed and increases circulation.

As the service area's population continues to grow, the library will continue striving to provide the services, materials, programs to meet the needs the community has and plan for its future growth.



### SPELLING FOR LITERACY

Like a bear bravely snatching honey from the the bee hive, volunteer spellers representing the Lowell Public Library Literacy program showed an indomitable spirit as they entered the swarms of competitors at the third annual Executive Spelling Bee held on September 8 at the Merrillville High School Reinhart Auditorium.

The purpose of the event, held during National Literacy Month, was to raise funds to support literacy programs in the area and was sponsored by the Post-Tribune and the Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition.

Host Harry Porterfield of Chicago's WLS-TV presented words to each team of the spellers and then coaches, all executives and professionals from the Lake County and Porter area.

Supporting literacy for Lowell were Diane Hall of Globe Industries, Sister Ann Doherty of St. Edward's Parrish and Century 21's Denise Henderson. They were coached by Lowell Library Director Virginia Maravilla.

After surviving several rounds, the plucky team from Lowell felt the bee's sting signaling a misspell.



The word deciding the final winner was "soliloquy" and the team of the accounting firm of Swartz, Retson & Co., P. C. took home the prize.

A moment was taken during the competition to recognize Lowell Literacy Tutor Dorothy Tortorici who was recently honored as the 1990 Indiana Literacy Volunteer of the Year by the Governor's Voluntary Action Program.

Money raised through donations sent in advance of the spelling bee will be increased by the pledges made based on the number of words teams spelled correctly. The winning team will compete in the state spelling bee, sponsored by the Indiana Adult Literacy Coalition in Indianapolis on September 27.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 9 - 1:00 PM - Lowell  
Pine Cone Wreath Making

Barbara Metz will demonstrate how to make a pine cone wreath and dried flower arranging.

Thursday, October 11 - Lowell and Shelby  
Blood Pressure/Diabetes Testing

Shelby Branch Library - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Lowell Public Library - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Participants taking diabetes test should fast 2 hours before test. First come, first served basis.

Thursday, October 11 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM - Lowell  
Vision Screening

Glaucoma and cataract screening Opticare 2000 technicians will test on a first come, first served basis.

Saturday, October 13 - 1:30 PM - Lowell  
Karate

Joe Walker, black belt instructor for Tae Kwon Do School of Karate will demonstrate karate.

Tuesday, October 16 - 7:00 PM - Lowell  
Art of Origami

Paper folding art taught by Yoshiko Estes

Tuesday, October 23 - 7:00 PM - Lowell  
Raising your Child's Self Esteem

Self-esteem is the foundation upon which is built all of a child's intellectual, emotional, psychological and social development. Barbara Gustin, BA, community education specialist with Southlake Center for Mental Health, will discuss ways parents can foster their child's development of a positive self-esteem.



To pre-register for programs call:  
Lowell Library - 696-7704  
Shelby Branch - 552-0809  
Schneider Branch - 552-1000

# Halloooooooween!

## CRAFT CORNER

Halloween fun is about to begin at the Lowell Public Library and its Shelby and Schneider Branches.

At Craft Corner, youngsters can prepare for the holiday by making some of Halloween's favorite symbols.

Pre-schoolers will construct scrap Jack-O-Lanterns. School age children can make scary skeletons.

Craft hour at the Lowell Public Library is Thursday, October 4 at 10:00 AM for pre-school children and 3:30 PM for school age children.

Both craft programs at the Schneider Branch will be held Thursday, October 11 at 3:30 PM.

Shelby Branch will hold Craft Corner on Thursday, October 18 at 4:00 PM for pre-school children and Thursday, October 25 at 4:00 PM for school age children.



## STORY TIME CONTINUES

### LOWELL

October 2 - October 23 Every Tuesday 10 AM  
October 3 - October 24 Every Wednesday 10 AM  
and 1:30 PM

### SHELBY BRANCH

October 1 - October 22 Every Monday 10 AM

### SCHNEIDER BRANCH

October 1 - October 22 Every Monday 1 PM

## SAFE PLACE



The Lowell Public Library Board of Trustees recently voted to designate the Lowell Library and its Shelby and Schneider Branches as "Safe Places" for teenagers seeking help because of personal or family problems.

Safe Place, the outreach program of the Crisis Center's Alternative House is helping these kids and their families, giving communities an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of troubled teens, runaways, neglected, abused or homeless kids.

Seen with increasing frequency in businesses and community centers in Lake County, the Safe Place sign, identified by its bright yellow logo, will now be placed at the Lowell Library and its branches. Young adults entering the library for help may talk with a library staff member in an area that is private and the staff member will then contact the Crisis Center. Within 15 minutes, a trained volunteer will respond. Should the youth need shelter and/or counseling, he/she is transported to Alternative House at the Crisis Center where the youngster can eat, sleep, and receive individual or group counseling by the house staff.

The Lowell Public Library welcomes the opportunity to provide this service to the community through Project Safe Place.

## LIBRARY BOARD TO MEET

The regular meeting of the Lowell Public Library Board of Trustees will be held Monday, October 22, 7:30 PM at the Shelby Branch Library, located at St. Theresa's Church, 23311 Shelby Road, Shelby, Indiana.

## FRIENDS TO MEET



Wednesday, October 24, the Friends of the Lowell Public Library will meet to plan library book sale.



*Happy  
Halloween*

